

# The Loop

December  
2019/  
January  
2020

## Dismay for hundreds of objectors as larger Gold Lane development is appealed and approved

You may remember that the Lioncourt application to build 249 houses west of Gold Lane was turned down by the Borough Planners but a subsequent application to build 160 houses was approved, in spite of hundreds of objections being received.

Lioncourt have now successfully appealed the decision on 249 houses which means that the larger development is cleared to go ahead.

You can read more on this in the reports from the Biddenham Society and Biddenham Parish Council inside.

## Jayne Beard remembered at the Christmas Tree Festival

This year's Christmas Tree Festival, from Wednesday 4th - Sunday 8th December at St Paul's church in Bedford is in memory of Jayne Beard who died in 2016.

The Biddenham Handbell Ringers will be playing there on the Sunday afternoon at 3.00pm.

For more details see page 5.

## 2020 Loop subscriptions now due Form enclosed

Your annual subscription to The Loop is now due. The price for the ten issues in 2020 will be £10 (minimum). Any profits go to the church funds so if you can manage to donate more, please do.

Please make cheques payable to Biddenham PCC.

Subscriptions should be delivered to Richard Harris, 6 Noddors Way or Jacqui Piper, 27 St Mellion Drive by 31st January please.

*Once again, we are grateful to the children of St James' Primary School for their Christmas pictures.*

*This one is by Amelie. You will find more inside.*



*Biddenham Cricket Club have achieved ECB Clubmark re-accreditation. Read more about this important award on page 17.*

**‘The Loop’ is published by the Parish Church of St James as a service to the communities of Biddenham and Great Denham**  
The editor welcomes contributions from residents and friends via email to [loopeditor@gmail.com](mailto:loopeditor@gmail.com)

# Letter from the Vicar

Dear Friends

The William Holman Hunt painting, *The Light of the World* (1853), shows Jesus, holding a lantern, knocking on a door. There is no handle on his side of the door, suggesting that it is up to you to let him in. He will not force himself in, but, instead, waits for permission. It is your choice. It is based on the Bible reading in Revelation 3:20; 'I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.'



I do not want to present you with a cliché, so let us move the elements around a little. Instead of asking Jesus to come through the door, and into your life, think of him calling you out into his light and his freedom. Let me explain.

It is easy to be offended by the title of the Channel 4 dark comedy; 'The end of the \*\*\*\*\* world,' (slightly altered title, for religious sensibilities!), but the series is a beautifully constructed narrative about two troubled young people on the run from themselves. In the first series, one of the main characters, Alyssa, is nearly raped, and James, her companion, kills the assailant, in order to save her. Later, Alyssa describes her feeling of guilt at this death; 'I cannot forget it. I visit that room every day. As much as I try, I cannot get out of there.' She is describing a prison, the kind of prison we all find ourselves in. Bound to the past by guilt and hurt.

The last time I saw my father was January 2016. He was dying of cancer at my sister's house in Tipton, West Midlands. At the same time I was preparing to move to Kempston and Biddenham, to start work in these parishes. It broke my heart to see this man, who had always been so strong, then completely vulnerable and fragile. As I left, I said to him; 'I love you dad.'

I so wanted him to say the same back, but instead, he said, 'We all love each other.' Not quite what I wanted to hear. They were the last words he spoke to me, and a week later, he died.

Like the character Alyssa, I would visit that room constantly. I could not, as much as I wanted to, get out of there. One of the many prisons I have found myself in. A mark of being human, I am afraid.

I used to spend a lot of time visiting the prison in Durham, and I particularly found the category-A women's prison a heart-breaking place to visit. Lots of women were

there serving a mandatory life sentence for murder. Talking to many of them, I could feel the weight of guilt that so many of them experienced. There seemed to me to be so little that was liberating or redemptive about a legal system based on the principles of retribution. The cages of the prison were, more often than not, reinforced by the cages that these people imposed upon themselves. Guilt is the most terrible of prisons.

We cling to the past, like a child clings to the side of the swimming pool. The past so often cripples us and prevents us moving forward for a creative future. Guilt, regret, hurt and negative memories can often be the most destructive things we experience.

At Christmas, we celebrate the coming of the Christ child. I guess God got fed up of waiting on the other side of the door. He broke into our world, and His mother held in her arms a tiny, fragile bundle of freedom, and forgiveness. From birth, until the cross, His proclamation was the possibility of something different, a future, God's future, in which the prison of the past can be dismantled. Forgiveness, even self-forgiveness, hope and healing are now possible. He is more than the party rush of Christmas, He is the hope of a new beginning.

Have a lovely Christmas.

God bless.

Eric



## The Parish Church of St James, serving Biddenham & Great Denham

Vicar	Rev Eric Lomax rev.ejlomax@gmail.com	Tel: 852241
Readers	Christopher Dawe Paul Fricker	Tel 363890 Tel 342843
Churchwardens	Laurie Hurn David Dunford	Tel 364251 Tel 07554 151415
Vergers	Hilary Hurn	Tel 364251
Secretary	Jacqui Piper	Tel 356993
Treasurer	Michael Hurford	Tel 271746
Organist/Choirmaster	Graham Weeks	Tel 07552 052840
<a href="http://www.stjamesbiddenham.com">www.stjamesbiddenham.com</a>		

## Audio visual system for St James's

An audio-visual system is not currently in use at the church but it would be helpful to use media such as video clips and the words of hymns during some services e.g. on special occasions or services involving children. In addition, the church would like to have the facility to make presentations and hold film evenings. The PCC have therefore agreed in principle to the installation of a new audio-visual system, integrated with the existing audio system, that will give the church and the village a high quality, professionally designed product to meet our needs. The system will also be capable of further expansion.

St James's is a beautiful, Grade A listed building and the system will need, of course, to be discreet and sympathetic to the fabric of the building. Our preferred solution is designed around a single projection screen mounted behind the Chancel Arch where the screen casing and cabling will be out of sight from the congregation and the integrity of the face of the Norman Arch and the wooden cross above the Arch will be preserved.

The size of the projection screen will be limited to 2 metres in width to fit within the Chancel Arch opening when the screen is down but this will be wide enough for those seated at the rear of the church to view the projected content. There will be separate foldback monitors for the choir and those seated in the Northern Aisle to ensure that everyone in the church can see the projected content even when the church is full. A foldback monitor will also be available for the person leading the service.

Finally, the system will require minimal set up time and be simple and easy to use for users of varying abilities and multiple user groups. Once installed, the church and the village will have a flexible system that uses the latest technology to enable users to provide a range of excellent audio-visual material. St James's will have a media system fit for the 21st Century!

David Dunford  
Churchwarden



*Faith*

## Bedford National Trust Association

Tuesday 21st January 2020  
Addison Centre, Kempston, MK42 8PN  
2.30pm

Everyone welcome. No need to book.

Small admission charge

Speaker: Nick Cooke on  
"The Great Train Robbery"

For further information contact Betty Thomas on  
01480 860 421

**St James's Church**  
**Christmas Sale**  
**St James's Church Barn**  
**Church End, Biddenham**  
**1 December**  
**10am – 12noon**  
Free entry



Christmas Cards  
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Christmas Cakes & Produce  
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# Remembrance Sunday in Biddenham

We were blessed with a bright morning for the 2019 Remembrance Service. Paul Fricker led the service, Bob Hutchinson and Craig McEwan laid the wreaths, Joseph Mummery played the Last Post and Reveille, Jon Gambold lowered the flag. A new order of service was produced including some stunning

artwork by Val Fitzhugh.

A wreath was also laid by the Year 2 children of Ouse Valley Academy on Friday 8th November.



You may remember that the Art Group did a series of pictures for an exhibition last year. They were on show for Remembrance Sunday at the War Memorial.

This is what Val has to say about this particular picture, that featured in the order of service:

‘I worked from a photograph of a poppy, taken by Marysia Kratimenos, and the poppy had a drop of dew on it which made me think of all the tears that had been shed for the loved ones who had been lost. The tears dropped off the petal, like blood, and merged into the poppies in the field.

‘The black stamens became the crosses for the fallen and the men emerging from the trenches.

‘On the horizon the sun was going down. A reference to the words in Laurence Binyon's poem: ‘At the going down of the sun and in the morning. We will remember them.’

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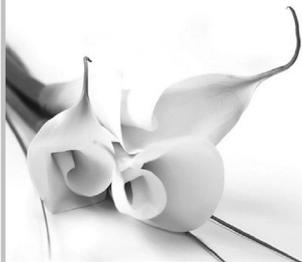
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# Café B...



*Tuesday 17th December*

*Biddenham Village Hall*

*10.30 am - 12.00 noon*

*Selection of teas, coffees,  
hot chocolate and juice*

*Home baked cakes*

*Book Swap*

*Next cafés 21st January, 18th  
February*



Please can you help us mow?

On Saturday 2nd November six volunteers worked very hard to remove about a quarter of the reeds that have been encroaching into the pond. A further work party will be arranged to carry on this work, hopefully before Christmas.

In addition, our Autumn work morning took place on Saturday 9th November with eleven people attending and enjoying a beautiful morning. We managed to cut/tidy around part of the pond edge, trimmed the hedge, and trimmed the brambles along the footpath. We made excellent use of our new generator and power tools, which speeded up our activity immensely. A big thank you to all who attended and to those who provided hot drinks and biscuits/cake.

With all the recent wet weather the pond at long last is beginning to look like a pond again and we hope that this continues. We believe that we are making progress with solving the flow of water from one of the hospital roofs into the pond, but we are still looking for longer term solutions to the periodic lack of water.

Behind the scene we are now looking at ways to improve our equipment storage and to find some financial help to replace the wooden gate at one entrance to the pond.

We mentioned last month that we need to increase the number of our volunteers who cut the grass around the pond during the growing season (March to September), making the whole area a delightful place to spend some time. Unfortunately, no one came forward, so we appeal again. It takes about 2 hours to mow, and each volunteer picks a window of two weeks from a rota (some pick more than one) and during that period you can mow on any day that suits you. We provide the mower (it is a medium sized petrol mower), all safety equipment and instruction. If you can help us at all next year, please contact Paul Godden, whose details are below.

We welcome all support from our community and if you would like to join us as a Friend, please email Jane Knight (details below) for a membership form.

The Pond Team

#### Contact Details

Chris Jones	chrishj49@gmail.com
Paul Godden	pgodden@btinternet.com
Jane Knight	jane@80k ltd.co.uk
Cathy Eckett-Brown	ceckett@gmail.com
Kit Ram	kitram01@gmail.com
Sophie Applewhite-Rees	dansopl@googlemail.com

[www.biddenhamvillagepond.wordpress.com](http://www.biddenhamvillagepond.wordpress.com)

[www.facebook.com/biddenhamvillagepond](http://www.facebook.com/biddenhamvillagepond)



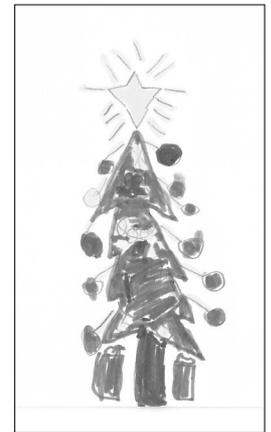
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## The new church yard

Following last month's article about dog fouling, there has been some discussion. This is a statement from the vicar:

'There was never a decision to lock the churchyard. It was only a suggestion. It is accepted that this would not be an option, because it is important that people who visit the graves of their friends and relatives, are able to do so.'



Chris

**Nick Sleep**  
Proprietor

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# CHRISTMAS TREE Festival 2019



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In Memory of Jayne Beard

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**and SUNDAY 8th DECEMBER** 12noon - 4.00pm



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Friday 6th December at 7.30pm

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[www.stpaulschurchbedford.org.uk](http://www.stpaulschurchbedford.org.uk)

Like us on  Bedford Christmas Tree Festival



Oliver

# Biddenham Village Hall



Here is an update from our Annual General Meeting that was held in November. As in previous years, I'm pleased to be able to report that the Village Hall continues to be well utilised, well maintained and is on a sound financial footing.

As a reminder, the Village Hall is run by unpaid volunteers who either take on specific jobs, for example the Booking Officer, or represent a group of regular users, like the Gardeners Association.

This year we had a couple of changes to the Committee, Liz Hurford has taken on a second role of representing the Gardeners Association after George Metcalf stood down at the beginning of the year. We'd like to thank George for his contributions and commitment during his twelve years as a committee member. Brian Johnson joined us in March as the representative for St. James' School.

Over the year, we held six meetings when an average of 10 members attended. Our aim is to maintain the Village Hall as a first-rate place for the use of Biddenham residents and the surrounding community. In addition to individuals doing their regular jobs to support the continuous smooth running of the Village Hall, we all carry out regular inspections and take part in an annual maintenance morning, when the volunteers blitz some of the routine maintenance jobs.

The Village Hall users are our customers and much of the week is taken up with regular, long-standing bookings. If you are interested in booking please check availability on the Village Hall website. Last year we had slightly fewer bookings and this resulted in a reduced income, down 7% on the previous year. At this level we were a few hundred pounds from break-even and we continue to keep sufficient funds in reserve to cover our planned works with a contingency for unforeseen events.

Every year we make repairs and improvements and in 2019 we acted on some of the recommendations from the recent environmental review including new sensor taps, replacing misted windows and a new solar powered porch light. Other improvements included fireproofing the storeroom and resurfacing the hall floor. As usual, there was a range of other smaller repairs and replacements necessary to keep the Hall and its equipment in good working order.

Health and Safety is always on our agenda and for the first time in a long time an accident was reported when one of our hirers caught their arm on a handle. It was decided that no further action was appropriate. The programme of regular monthly inspections continued and all the necessary repairs were completed.

The Village Hall is in great condition and whilst we have no major works planned for the next 12 months, we will of course continue with the regular maintenance regime to keep everything in top condition.

Thanks to the hard work of the organisers the annual quiz was a success and a good night for all involved. As was the case in previous years, it was decided that any proceeds from the night would be donated to charity. Two charities shared £1,091, The Daycare Hospice and VHL cancer charity.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Village Hall users, committee members and the people of the village for their support during the past twelve months.

Philip Inness  
Chairman

Biddenham Village Hall Management Committee

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# St Joseph and St Gregory's Primary School

Month of Remembrance (November 2019)

This is a month when we especially remember and pray for those who have died. Some children made their own remembrance poppies and wrote prayers for display in school. All the children in school used recycled bottles to create an outdoor poppy installation on the school path. We had two Remembrance Books on display, featuring the names of people who have died that the children, staff and their families wanted to be remembered.



## Octavia The Octopus

Octavia has arrived at our Upper Primary Site. This sculpture was made by a local artist with the help of children from local schools including our Year 5s. (They did some legs.)

Octavia is made of entirely recycled materials and stands over 6 feet tall excluding the legs.

She was at the front of the Queen's Park Community Orchard Parade last summer.

## Vue Cinema visits

The whole school received tickets to go to the Vue cinema in Bedford recently. Years 1 & 2 went to watch 'Peter Rabbit'. Years 3 & 4 went to watch 'Horrible Histories: The Movie – Rotten Romans' and Years 5 & 6 saw 'Abominable'. A great time was had by all!

## Still uncertainty at the Three Tuns but the golf goes on

As we go to press, there is still much uncertainty surrounding the future of the Three Tuns. Temporary managers are in place and the pub is opening every day at 12noon. There is currently no food on offer.

On a brighter note, we hear from Mark Salisbury, the residents of Biddenham have no reason to doubt the security of the annual Three Tuns Invitational Golf Day. Due to a spirited effort by locals, the tournament went ahead at The Bedford Golf Club on Friday 18th October raising £500 for a local cancer charity and more than a few laughs!

## Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

22 December  
6.30pm

St James's Church  
Biddenham

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# barn@2 Vintage Clothes

The impressive knowledge of another of our talented local residents was on display, along with all her vintage items, at the November meeting of our barn@2 group.

Sue Keane, whom many of you may know, was a teacher in Bedford. She impressed us with her passion for all things vintage.

This love of clothes, she informed us, came from visiting her 'rather posh'

Aunt Daphne in Surrey, who had many friends in the music industry. The many fabrics and fashions she saw there held a fascination for Sue and we could see, from the rail of clothes and the wonderful array of items on show, that we were probably going to take a trip down 'memory lane' ourselves.

The first garment we looked at was a plain white apron, which would have been worn by a domestic servant, and then a wrap-around pinafore in a small floral print (worn by our grannies and mothers), followed by a very brightly coloured pinny from the 50s.

With the war years, the roles of women changed and some became employed as secretaries and school teachers and this affected the way they dressed. In the twenties fashion tended to follow royalty. Queen Victoria wore mourning dress so black became de rigueur.

Coco Chanel, who had a very interesting life, created beautiful day-wear in Jersey fabric which made a great change. Lots of pearls were worn and showed up well against a dark background.

Clothes were handmade so seamstresses were invaluable. Sue talked about fastenings at this point and showed us examples of what you should look for in vintage garments. An American, called Whitcomb Judson, came up with the idea of a slide fastener but Gideon Sundback brought the modern zipper into production. Zips first appeared on tobacco pouches and Wellington boots, and got their name from the sound they made as they were being pulled up. Some garments may have had fastenings replaced with zips at a later date so a knowledge of seams, fabrics and styles would be essential for classifying these clothes as vintage.

A precious dress, wrapped in acid-free tissue paper, was taken from a case. It was Sue's grandmother's black lace Flapper dress. She also showed us the small feather boa, with silk tassels, that would have been worn with it, and the jet beads and the black silk shoes with a bar. Clothes then had become much looser in style.

We were introduced to a fashion designer who was not very familiar to us, Madeleine Vionnet. She trained in London before returning to France to set up her fashion house. Corsetry and buttons were rejected in favour of bias-cut clothes and handkerchief hemlines became fashionable.

Next, we saw some colourful silk shawls with very long fringes which contained metallic threads. The longer fringes indicating that these were older shawls. We then moved into the period of Hollywood glamour of the 30s; garments with low backs, cross-cut fabrics, crushed velvets and fur stoles and then on to the late 40s with its military styling and clothing rationing. Seams at this time could only be a certain width and any pleats had to be very narrow to save on fabric. The 'dinner plate label' was used at this time to indicate that it was a utility garment.



Audrey Hepburn's 'little black dress' became iconic with its tiny covered buttons and metal zip. American dresses then generally had more material in them than ours, illustrated by the clothes Sue showed us.

Christian Dior, influenced by the flowers in his mother's garden, was the designer of The New Look of 1947. By 1949, with the end of rationing, we see the development of Haute Couture.

Tea dresses of the 40s and 50s were next to be displayed and we also saw how travel influenced design and pattern. In the 50s and 60s most of us remembered wearing full dirndl skirts, with their many petticoats, swagger coats and the advent of nylon (poor man's silk), which made beautiful ball gowns. Sue showed us a lovely blue one which her daughter had once worn.

Carnaby Street and the King's Road were the places to visit as London became the centre of the fashion industry. Mary Quant was an influential designer of the 60s with her clothes being marketed for modern youth. Our 'whistle-stop tour' of vintage fashion then took us from Valentino's iconic red dresses, the mini-skirt, Flower Power, crimplene, midi-skirts, men's shirts with long pointed collars, Laura Ashley's peasant dresses, kitsch prints, glam rock, bell-bottomed trousers, sequined butterflies, big belts and bathing costumes – all examples displayed from Sue's collection of garments.

Sue very kindly donated her fee to the Sue Ryder Foundation. The next time you pass the charity shop, take a minute to admire the window display. Guess who did it?

Our next meeting is a Christmas social function in aid of MAGPAS.

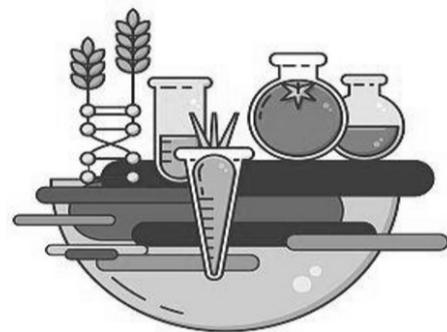
We meet again on 14th January, when our 2020 programme is available and Claire Slaney will be talking about Food Additives.

Val Fitzhugh

barn@2

TUESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2020

CHURCH BARN @ 2PM



FOOD ADDITIVES

By Claire Slaney

ALL WELCOME

MEMBERS £3 NON MEMBERS £5

# Biddenham History Society

We had a most enjoyable evening with the Biddenham Handbell Ringers on Wednesday 20th November. Anthea Slark, the leader of the ringers, spoke to us about the history of handbell ringing both nationally and in Biddenham.

She explained that handbell ringing became popular from about 1800 onwards, especially in the North of England, as an alternative to tower bellringing: it enabled ringers to practise easily and avoid disturbing the neighbourhood. Most of the early ringers were men, whereas the present day Biddenham team are all women!

The tower bell ringing team in Biddenham acquired a set of handbells in 1896 and the ringers still have those bells. We were able to hear them played and pick them up. They are heavier than the modern handbells and the sound is not as clear. Handbell ringing declined in popularity during the First World War as the men were called up into the army. However, it became popular again by the 1960s and in 1967, the Handbell Ringers Association of Great Britain was founded.

In 1991, a Biddenham team was started by Ralph West and Anthea Slark and is based at St James's Church, Biddenham. One of their first tasks was to fundraise to buy the splendid set of bells that they now possess. The bells are Malmark Handbells, made in Philadelphia, USA and are a 3.5 octave set. Their sound is pure and magical.

The handbell group has gone from strength to strength. There are now 11 regular members and a Musical Director, Paul Fricker. One of the members, Ros Willis, directs a training band, the Barn Ringers. As well as meeting every week for practice, the Biddenham Handbell Ringers give performances all over the county at churches, WIs, care homes and with other musical groups. They were invited to represent the Eastern Region for the 50th anniversary concert of the Handbell Ringers Association of Great Britain at Exeter University in 2017, which was a great honour. Five members of the Biddenham team are in the East Anglia Regional team and members of the Biddenham team attend International Symposiums: two went to Australia last year. The ringers have put Biddenham on the national and international map!

As well as explaining the history of handbell ringing, the ringers demonstrated different techniques of ringing such as the use of chimes and damping the bells. They explained that they have to wear gloves to protect their hands and the bells. They played a selection of contrasting pieces. They started with the rousing Great Gate of Kiev from Mussorgsky's Pictures from an Exhibition. They included a couple of magical pieces by their favourite American composer Cynthia Dobrinski – Nocturne in E minor and Gift of Peace – and ended with My Song is Love Unknown by Paul Fricker and dedicated to Biddenham Handbell Ringers.

If you would like to hear the ringers perform, I would recommend a visit to the Christmas Tree Festival at St Paul's Church, where they will be playing at 3.00pm on Sunday 8th December. This will make a most enjoyable start to the Christmas season.

The next meeting of the Biddenham History Society will be on Monday 13th January 2020 at 8.00pm in the Church Barn. Susan Claremont will talk about Moggerhanger House, where she is a volunteer guide.

Moggerhanger House has a close link to Biddenham, as Dorothy Richards, who was a Biddenham resident, worked hard to preserve the house. She also wrote 'Biddenham: A Parish History and Guide' and helped to save the village pond. I hope you will be able to come to the talk in January and in the meantime have a very happy Christmas.

Kathy Fricker



Millie



## Wrest Park Volunteer Open Day

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Are you looking for a new opportunity in 2020?  
Would you like to spend time in one of England's most prestigious and fascinating Gardens with a story that spans over 600 years?

Would you like to share your enthusiasm and love of history?

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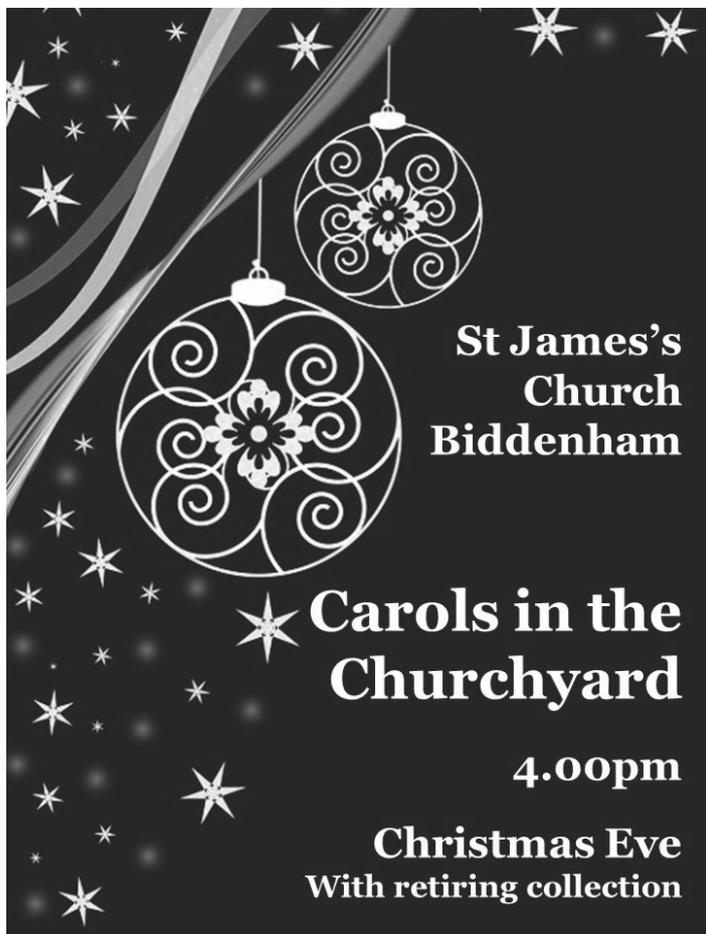
Then why not come and volunteer for English Heritage at Wrest Park.

Whether it is welcoming and chatting to visitors or telling the stories of our unique house and garden, there are plenty of ways to get involved here at Wrest Park.

Come along to our open day and find out more about what's involved and how you can help our visitors 'Step into England's Story'.

If you would like to get involved come along to our volunteering drop in session on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2020 from 1-3pm to find out more.

The session will be held in the Ante-library of the Mansion house. There is no need to book, just come along.



**St James's  
Church  
Biddenham**

**Carols in the  
Churchyard**

**4.00pm**

**Christmas Eve**  
With retiring collection

**Are you Struggling? Help is at Hand - Just Ask!**

Our Village Agent is here to help older people to access the services and support they might need. Her services are free of charge, and she will phone or visit you at home. Just call 0800 039 1234.



**Are You Caring for Someone Who Can't Manage Without Your Help?** If you are over pension age, you should be able to claim Attendance Allowance of £58.70 or more per week. This is not means tested. If you are paying care home fees you are also eligible to claim, including the Higher Level for night-time care (£87.65.). If you are below pension age and are caring for 35 hours a week you might be able to claim Carers' Allowance of £64.60. Contact your Village Agent to help you apply.

**Who Will Be Eligible for Free TV Licences?** In June 2020 free TV Licences for over 75's will end. If you are receiving Pension Credit you will automatically get a letter from the BBC telling you how to claim your free licence. If your weekly income is below £167.25 (single person) or £255.25 (couple) then contact your Village Agent and she will help you to apply for Pension Credit.

**The Blue Badge Scheme is being Extended for Hidden Disabilities.** Drivers and passengers with conditions such as dementia, autism or anxiety disorders are now included - although eligibility will be decided by Bedford Borough Council. If you think you might be eligible, contact your Village Agent.

**Worried about Home Security?** The Bobby Van will visit you to give you advice, and will also fit door chains, smoke alarms and Key Safes for people over 65.

**Need Help to Fill in a Form?** If you are struggling with paperwork, such as Blue Badge, Bus Pass, Council Tax Reduction, Housing Benefit and Attendance Allowance applications, our Village Agent can come and help you.

**Any queries or worries – JUST ASK!**

**Contact your Village Agent on Freephone 0800 039 1234**

*(This is an answerphone service, so please be ready to leave your name, address & telephone number, & we will aim to call you back within 48 hours.)*



## Last view from an allotment

In 2019 we have witnessed the end of allotmenting in Biddenham. The Italian holder of the last allotment plot along the Bromham Road has been pensioned off and the site cleared for housing.

My plot beside the coffin path as the last relic of the Church End allotments reverted back to farming from Michaelmas last year, the traditional day for Autumn land changes.

So vegetables and flowers are now a memory.

These Church End plots once ran all the way down the back of the churchyard.

What now?

My own plot has now moved to a Church End garden too big to be worked by the present owner.

There are places in the village where allotments might still rise but it needs much effort on the part of gardeners to identify these parts of underused fields and negotiate with land owners.

I still visit the plot looking for plants I have forgotten which might struggle into life and a few have ended up growing in sunny spots by the churchyard extension wall where they might get a new lease of life and provide some sustenance for future churchyard visitors.

May your onions flourish.

Chris Haydn Jones



*The Bromham Road plot in full use, now for sale for building development.*



*My Church End plot in its last summer, with grandchildren.*

# Peter's Picturehouse December and January

After our bumper audience for the showing of the delightful film 'Fisherman's Friends' we are looking forward to welcoming you to the classic Christmas film 'The Holiday', certificate 12A.

From 2006, this film has humour, Hollywood, snow and a bit of romance; yes, it is a rom-com, but with each character in the film bringing something a bit special, it is known to appeal to men and women alike. The film stars Cameron Diaz, Kate Winslet, Jude Law and Jack Black in a house-swap over the Christmas (or holiday) period.

We are showing this film by special request from our regular audience, so do join us all to see it in a friendly village atmosphere, perhaps with a warming glass of something in your hand! Here's hoping it gets you in the festive mood before we get too far into the Christmas rush.

The date: Tuesday 3rd December 2019

The time: Doors open 7:00pm for 7:30pm showing

The location: Biddenham Village Hall

In January Peter's Picturehouse will be showing 'Kursk - The Last Mission,' certificate 12A. Our village has a very important link to the true story of this film. Some of you may know David Russell who lives in Church End. David was well known as the Chief Executive of the Harpur Trust, a job from which he retired only a few months ago. Before that he was a senior naval officer and submariner.

David will be attending the screening at the Village Hall on 7th January and will be saying a few words about the film and the incident. Come along, doors open at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start.

Below is the press release issued by the film makers.

Based on the gripping true story of the Kursk submarine tragedy of 2000 in which 118 men lost their lives, Kursk: The Last Mission is a tense submarine thriller from critically acclaimed director Thomas Vinterberg (The Hunt, Far From the Madding Crowd).

When a Russian naval exercise goes horribly wrong, the Kursk submarine erupts in flames killing most of the men onboard and sending the trapped survivors to the bottom of the sea. Time is running out for Russian Captain Mikhail Averin (Matthias Schoenaerts) and his crew, as fire engulfs the vessel starving them of oxygen.

Ignoring the advice of their own people, the Russian government refuses the help of the UK Navy operation headed by David Russell (Colin Firth). When they finally give way to mounting domestic pressure, it's too little too late. This is the story of the doomed operation to recover the Kursk.

Future Showings at Peter's Picturehouse:

Tues 4th February The Zookeeper's Wife (12A)

Rose Houghton



Emma



**Peter's Picturehouse**  
*proudly presents*

Date: **Tuesday 3rd December 2019** Ticket price: **£5**

Bar Open: 7:00pm  
Film Showing Starts: 7:30pm

Location: **Biddenham Village Hall.**





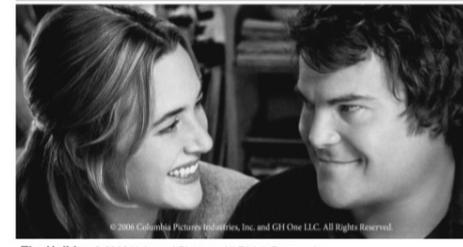
Certificate: 12A

Cameron Diaz · Kate Winslet · Jude Law · Jack Black

*a film by Nancy Meyers*

## the Holiday

from the Director of What Women Want and Something's Gotta Give



© 2006 Columbia Pictures Industries, Inc. and GH One LLC. All Rights Reserved.

The Holiday © 2006 Universal Pictures All Rights Reserved

**Coming soon to Peter's Picturehouse**

Tues 7th Jan: **Kursk: The Last Mission**, with introduction from Commodore David Russell, played by Colin Firth in the film.  
Tues 4th Feb: **The Zookeeper's Wife**

If you need a lift to the Village Hall in order to see the film, please phone Marihelen on 07710288933



**Peter's Picturehouse**  
*proudly presents*

Date: **Tuesday 7th January 2020** Ticket price: **£5**

Bar Open: 7:00pm  
Film Showing Starts: 7:30pm

Location: **Biddenham Village Hall.**





Certificate: 12A

MATTHIAS SCHOENAERTS · LÉA SEYDOUX · COLIN FIRTH

## KURSK

### THE LAST MISSION

A TRUE STORY

Kursk: The Last Mission © Signature Entertainment 2019 All Rights Reserved

**Coming soon to Peter's Picturehouse**

Tues 4th Feb: **The Zookeeper's Wife**  
Tues 3rd March: TBC

If you need a lift to the Village Hall in order to see the film, please phone Marihelen on 07710288933



## Biddenham Show Donations 2019

Following a glorious Show in September, the Committee members are delighted to be able to make donations totalling £1,900 to the following projects in Biddenham:

- Biddenham Gardeners Association £250 to help with speaker expenses
- Biddenham Tennis Club £100 to help with maintenance costs
- Friends of the Biddenham Pond £500 contribution towards new equipment, in particular a strimmer and hedge trimmer
- Peter's Picturehouse £350 contribution towards a larger screen and projector for the Village Hall
- St James's Church Flower fund £100
- St James's Church Barn £300 contribution towards a new digital projector
- St James' Primary School £300 for gardening equipment, a project in collaboration with the Biddenham Gardeners Association



The Children of St James's Church will present their Nativity play during the 9.00am service on Sunday 15 December  
Please do join us!

## God and Evil

I was discussing with somebody for whom I have enormous respect whether one can believe in a god who does not intervene when a Rohingya baby is thrown into a fire, but just allows it to happen. This is a perfectly relevant question. If God is almighty why doesn't he stop these sorts of things happening?

I have been thinking of this over several days and I think that there are certain issues.

1. If God intervenes and stops it, it does nothing about the evil in the heart of the person doing this act.
2. It does nothing about the corruption of a system that puts such a person in a position of power where they can do this and not be stopped and punished, but be commended for their acts.
3. It does nothing about the evil which led to the Rohingya Muslims having to flee their home country of Bangladesh in the first place.
4. If God did intervene in this situation, He would also have to intervene in 100s of thousands of similar cruel and horrible situations all over the world every day. He would become an angry policeman who went around stopping bad things happening but this would not change the causes of this happening in the first place. He would be very busy and the unchanged people would continue to do whatever god had seen fit to reverse.
5. The answer of God according to the Christian faith is to change people so that they are not willing to do these horrible things.
6. Jesus came to earth to take on Himself the consequences of all this evil and to change those people who will accept His help so that the primary cause of this cruelty is dealt with. This is what Christmas is all about.
7. So why aren't things different? In my view this is due to the lack of willingness of people who know Jesus to go out and invite others who do not know Him to be changed by Him.
8. This might sound like pie in the sky, but it worked in Columbia. This country, and particularly Medellin, was a centre of civil violence and war largely based around drugs. A group of Columbian Christians decided to go into the prisons and talk to the violent inmates and drug barons about Jesus. Several of these people were killed for doing this. A large number of the inmates became Christians. Several decided that they would become pastors when they came out of prison and a pastor training school was set up in the prison. These people went back to the people who they had worked with to tell them what had happened to them in prison and to set up churches. About a third of these people were killed, many of them just after leaving prison. However, the ministry of those who survived was successful and many people who had been violent killers became true Christians. They changed and their communities changed. It was this among other factors that led to an acceptance of peace by this troubled country. If my friend who worked in Medellin went back now, he would not need an armed guard 24 hours a day to guard him. People had been changed from within and no longer did cruel things.

Edwin Martin

### Don't forget the Foodbank



Please continue to bring in-date non-perishable food. The container is at the back of the church.

You can find the latest list of items needed by Bedford food bank at [https:// bedford.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/](https://bedford.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/)

# St James' Primary School



We've been busy this term....

Year 5 enjoyed a story telling workshop, where they learnt to tell an African tale all about Fanta.



Year 3 went on a trip to learn all about life in the Stone Age, while



Year 4 spent the day at Sutton Hoo learning all about the Anglo Saxons.

We've also been cooking. Year 4 made Anglo Saxon soup, and Year 5 made their own Bedfordshire Clangers.

Year 3 have been learning how to play the steel pans, Year 5 have been learning how to speak Mandarin, and have also been learning the Ukulele, and Year 2 are getting ready for their Winter Wonderland concert in Bedford.

Some of our classrooms were repainted, thanks to volunteers from B&Q. We've also had some of our art work displayed at Sainsbury's.



We've supported lots of charities already this year. We organised a coffee morning for Macmillan Cancer, and then joined in with Joe Wicks' Big Move for Children in Need. Currently, we're trying to plant a forest for Just One Tree: <https://www.goldengiving.com/fundraising/StJames> if you'd like to help!

Some of our children researched our school's history and shared their findings with the whole school in an assembly. We've now got a display in our library. If you have any information, photographs, stories or artefacts about our school, we'd love to see them!



## APRES SKI CHRISTMAS PARTY

Moggerhanger Park  
Fri 20th & Sat 21st December  
£18.00 - 7.00pm 'till late  
(Snow Not Guaranteed!)

[www.moggerhangerpark.com](http://www.moggerhangerpark.com) - Events



Katie



A very big thank you to all the Society's box holders. This year the sum of £681.43 was raised, from 29 box holders, for this very good cause; a significant increase on last year's collection.

Please continue to give your support. If anyone else would like to help, by becoming a box holder, please ring me on 356497.

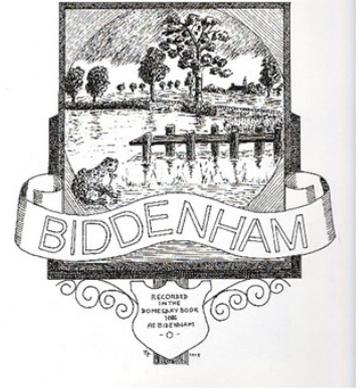
Many thanks again.

Eloise Carter

# The Biddenham Society

## 2019 AGM and Lunch

The 2019 AGM and Lunch on 3rd November was attended by 56 residents and guests. Secretary Mark Philips summarised the minutes of the 2018 AGM, and treasurer Garry Fitzhugh presented the accounts. Both were approved.



In presenting his annual report, the chairman (Tony Wood) first reported that the application the previous year to build 8 dwellings in the garden of Biddenham House had been turned down following vigorous local opposition, and the property had since been sold. He then referred to the 25 planning applications submitted for the village over the last twelve months, of which the society had objected to 7. These included the proposal to build a property on the plot of land behind the war memorial (refused but overturned on appeal), and an application to construct 15 dwellings on the paddock between Church End and the golf course (application withdrawn).

However, the most significant proposals by far were those relating to the agricultural land west of Gold Lane. The first – reviewed at the 2018 AGM – was to build up to 249 properties on the land. This was widely opposed by the village and permission was eventually refused. Subsequently, a revised application to construct 160 houses on the north-east portion of the site (in accordance with the draft of a new local plan) was approved by the council despite over a thousand local objections. Flushed with this success, the developer decided to appeal the earlier decision which had refused permission for the larger development. Councillor Jon Gambold then explained the considerable efforts which had taken place behind the scenes to find ways of ensuring the appeal would be unsuccessful, which included the involvement of our MP, but despite these it now seems likely that the developer will succeed, and the 249 properties will be built.

The presentations resulted in several questions from the floor. These included provision for social housing, the potential adverse effects on traffic to and from the village, and the erosion of the character of Biddenham as we currently know it. Unfortunately, few words of comfort could be given. In winding up the discussion, the chairman thanked both Councillor Gambold and Peter Chase (Chairman of the Parish Council) for the valiant efforts they had made to stop this development.

The present committee (Tony Wood, Will Jenkin, Mark Phillips, Garry Fitzhugh, Monica Knight, Peter Leverkus, Jeremy Reynolds and Chris Hayden-Jones) were re-elected for 2019-2020. In closing the meeting, the chairman thanked the committee and other helpers for their hard preparatory work for the AGM, and in particular Will Jenkin and Jeremy Reynolds for masterminding the lunch.

The next AGM will be held on Sunday 1st November 2020. Don't miss it!

Tony Wood  
Chairman

*Founded in 1965 by a group of concerned residents, The Biddenham Society remains committed to the continued preservation of the beauty, history, character and heritage of the village.*

# Andrew Charles

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In the heart of Bedford

*Andrew Charles offers a high level of hair expertise and creativity.*

*Apart from our cutting expertise, the salon enjoys a long standing, strong reputation for colouring, which is something we are proud of.*

*Why not drop in and give yourself a boost, a different cut or a new colour.*

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# This month in the garden

Over the next couple of months there are likely to be quite a few days when the weather won't be conducive to working out of doors. There are, however, plenty of jobs to keep you busy if you can get outside. That means it is a good idea to keep in mind, and have a list, of the things that you can do under cover or indoors as well as planning what you will do in the garden. There is also Christmas and the New Year to celebrate so gardening may not be a high priority, especially in December.

If you have a greenhouse the glass should be cleaned to let in as much light as possible. There may also be some tidying and sorting to be done. Seed sowing is best done in fresh compost so, if you have got any old stock, buy a fresh supply when you want to start sowing and use the old stuff as general compost. Tidying the shed and seeing that tools are cleaned is another job for when you don't want to be outside. Then, of course, there is always the dreaded pot and seed tray washing to be done. Although many of us are worried by the excessive use of plastic it is difficult to manage without plastic pots and seed trays but we can keep using them for as long as possible rather than sending them to the tip. Alternatives or recyclable plastics are coming on to the market so it is worth looking out for advice on the subject.

If you are a vegetable gardener or you like to grow flowers from seed there is one important job you can do from the comfort of an armchair and when it is dark outside. That is to order your seeds for next year. You can, of course, buy seeds from garden centres and hardware stores but the varieties and colours available are never as great as buying by mail order on-line or from a specialist catalogue. You may well have seeds not used from previous years and many of these will still be usable. Most seed packets have a 'use by' date as a guide. Tomato and brassica seeds are particularly long lived while other varieties need to be obtained fresh every year. Parsnips are a notable example. It is a good idea to keep your seeds in a cool dry place in a shoe box or some other container and sort them in date order, divided with a heading card according to the month of sowing.

Lawns might need cutting at any time if it is dry enough but there will be times when your mower is not needed and it will be worth arranging for it to be serviced when things are not too busy. Blunt mowing blades can do more harm than good. Tools like shears, loppers, secateurs and knives are best kept sharp by frequent attention all the time they are in use but, if they have become blunt, a mower firm will probably provide a sharpening service. There are a variety of gadgets that you can use to do your own frequent sharpening but I have found that the simplest and best is a sharpening whetstone, lubricated with water. They are available in a wide range of prices and would make a good Christmas present.

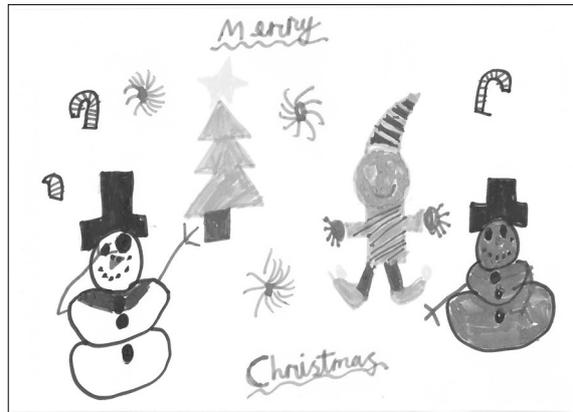
You might be able to find another opportunity for spending money on the garden; with reduced price spring bulbs in a garden centre. Most varieties can still be planted

in time for spring flowering and you can justify the purchase by calling it saving rather than spending.

Turning our attention at last to the garden itself, there are a number of jobs you can do at this time of year. We have already had some frosts in November and we can expect the weather to get colder. Plants which are susceptible to low temperatures can be wrapped in horticultural fleece or have fleece ready if a really cold spell is expected. Snow is increasingly rare but it is still a possibility so remove top netting from fruit cages or knock snow off as soon as possible to prevent damage to the net or frame. When it is not frosty continue pruning dormant trees and shrubs; particularly apple and pear trees. Don't prune plum trees now, wait for late summer after fruiting. Flower beds can be tidied up and dead growth cut down as spring approaches. A period of dry weather in winter is a good time for treating sheds and fences with wood preservative.

Over the next couple of months have a walk round the garden now and again looking for opportunities for alterations or improvement and make plans accordingly.

Jeremy Arthern



Thomas

## W&H PEACOCK AUCTIONEERS & VALUERS



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Visit the Bedford Auction Centre to enjoy the excitement of a live auction.

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Ceramics & Glassware • Pictures & Prints  
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# Biddenham Parish Council

The most recent Parish Council Meeting was held on Wednesday 13th October 2019 in the upstairs room of the pavilion. Present were Parish Councillors Graham Bates, Stewart Briggs, Peter Chase (Chairman), Harry Fowler, Chris Gee, Alan Jacobs, Krys Osuch, Francia Slade and Joe Warren. Borough Councillor Jon Gambold, Clerk Lyn Lyman and 10 members of the public were also present. Borough Councillor Roger Rigby sent his apologies.



## Land west of Gold Lane

In recent years, housing developments have increased dramatically across the land, particularly southern England, with Bedfordshire being no exception. Far from it, indeed, with areas surrounding Bedford town allocated to huge new developments such as the Wixams, Great Denham and now the industrial and housing developments around Wootton. Most outlying villages have – as far as possible – been spared anything too significant.

Biddenham not only has Great Denham to its south, but also the new estates north of Bromham Road which will, once the old golf course is built on, add a total of 1300 more dwellings to our original village of just over 800. Virtually every parcel of land in Biddenham has been built on.

Only one significant plot remains, west of Gold Lane. This is protected by a Borough Council policy designed to prevent coalescence of our village with Bromham, to maintain the identity of the village and to provide amenity to us, as residents.

This, I'm afraid to say, is now to be built on too. The Borough's protection has been no match for the apparent "public benefit" of providing housing for yet more people and jobs for the construction industry. Originally, the developer – on behalf of the land-owner – sought to build 249 houses. Borough refused their application for this, and said 160 would be a better, more reasonable balance of need versus the protections on the land. The developer, seeming to be content with this, put forward a plan accordingly, which was approved in May this year.

We on the Parish Council knew all along that approval of any housing on this land would be likely to lead to more in the future. However, we were not expecting the developer to lodge an appeal to overturn the Borough's original refusal of the 249 houses. That appeal was heard last month, and upheld: the full 249 houses will now be built, over-turning Borough's initial refusal. It is hard to see how anything can stop that. The appeal is the final word on the matter, made by the UK Planning Inspectorate,

an independent body reporting to the Secretary of State.

This sorry saga, which has now saddled our village with houses neither we nor the Borough Council want, is an excruciating example of how a local authority can get things very wrong. Sadly, the planning department – who play with people's lives every day of the week, and upon whom we rely to care for the broad substance of our environment – is populated by people who roll the dice and often lose. Up against seasoned professionals who have more skill and experience than them, and with elected, compliant councillors who do as they're told as long as it's not politically inconvenient, Borough planners, the chief executive and, indeed, the Mayor have all failed us miserably.

Clearly, and most depressingly, a policy protecting any piece of land can be overridden on a whim, with few words of explanation. Having done so for 160 houses, Borough had little to counter the argument that 249 wasn't much different.

They also originally argued that there weren't enough school places for the children of 249 dwellings, but that 160 would be fine. This stance looked equally flimsy, especially as no explanation was provided for either point of view. At the appeal, Borough lamely rescinded their earlier comment that there weren't enough school places, and further tanked their credibility in the process.

Other arguments against the development, or ones seeking to soften its impact, were also thrown away by Borough. The worst of these is that access for the cars and pedestrians of this estate will have only one place to enter and exit, right next to the twisty, narrow junction of Gold Lane with Deep Spinney. As your Parish Council, we commissioned a London firm of consulting engineers to document the inherent dangers and traffic chaos likely to be caused. But again, without any clear reasoning, Borough simply waved this away. Their own engineers decided it was all fine, conveniently handing Borough and the developer approval to proceed.

When I complained on your behalf that the overall process was being paid lip-service to, and that recommendations to proceed flew in the face of objections and reasoned argument, the Chief Executive delegated a review to one of his officers. I've never seen a more deplorable white-wash of what were perfectly valid concerns.

In summary, Borough have failed to prevent development of land they themselves decided to protect, and in the process have let down Biddenham's residents.

Residents attending this month's Parish Council voiced their concerns and frustrations regarding this tale of woe. I thank them for pressing us to keep up the fight. We will continue to look for opportunities to influence events, mitigate the worst excesses and fight for your interests.

This country currently faces a massive choice, whether to press ahead and carry out the result of the 2016 European referendum, or not. Whatever form of governance we choose in the future, however tough the decisions our elected representatives and their civil servants face, as ordinary citizens we must continue to try to influence events. Use your vote on 12th December – it is a precious thing. More than that, listen to what's going on around you, use your freedom of speech and influence those who you can.

## Our next meeting

We meet every second Wednesday of most months at the Pavilion in Deep Spinney (but not December). We very much welcome hearing from residents, there being a public "open session" near the start for anyone wanting to say something. Please come along and let us know anything concerning you about our village, or just come and listen. The next meeting is on Wednesday 8th January (2020!).

Peter Chase  
Chairman



Ariana

# Biddenham Cricket Club achieves ECB Clubmark re-accreditation



ECB Clubmark is an accreditation scheme for cricket clubs and is licensed from Sport England as part of their wider Clubmark scheme.

ECB Clubmark shows that a club is sustainable, well run and provides the right environment for its members. Clubmark accreditation also means your club is recognised as a safe, rewarding and fulfilling place for participants of all ages, as well as assuring parents and carers that they are choosing the right option for their young people.

To obtain accreditation, clubs are asked to provide evidence that they meet a series of criteria. This is done by loading evidence onto an online portal and by demonstrating good practice at a site visit conducted by an allocated club support officer. Biddenham's assigned club support officer from Cricket East was Will Sneath who assisted greatly in the re-accreditation process.

Accreditation lasts for 3 years at which point the club will complete a re-accreditation exercise. In the intervening 2 years there is a requirement to complete an annual health check to maintain accreditation. There are currently over 1,750 accredited cricket clubs across England & Wales

Biddenham CC's re-accreditation was achieved on 1st November and we received the following message from the England and Wales Cricket Board plus a certificate:

"We are delighted to write and confirm that following a review of your ECB Clubmark online file, your accreditation has been confirmed. Congratulations to all those involved at your club for this achievement and for all that they do to promote cricket locally. Having a network of safe, family friendly and well organised clubs is vital for the future of the game and achieving Clubmark status shows that your club and its volunteers are at the forefront of this."

A reminder that club news, fixtures and results appear on the website at: <http://biddenham.play-cricket.com/home>

If you would like to join the cricket club, you will also gain automatic entry into the 100 club draw, which is held each month. Details are available from Judith O'Quinn.

#### Contact numbers:

Chairman	Glenn Taylor	07778 479479
Cricket Secretary	Richard Fone	07818 678697
Junior Chairman	Chris Spurgeon	07707 771606
Club Welfare Officer	Maija Bissett	589473
100 Club	Judith O'Quinn	363489

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
**FROM ALL AT**  
**BIDDENHAM CRICKET**  
**CLUB**

## Christingle Service

St James's Church  
Biddenham

Sunday 1 December  
9.00am



A short informal  
service for all ages!

Supporting The Children's Society

## Christmas Day Family Service



Short informal service at 9.30am  
followed by communion for those  
who wish to stay

St James's Church, Biddenham

# Biddenham Gardeners Association

## From Field to Floribunda

At our November meeting we welcomed Alison Green. Alison, a garden designer, took us on a journey of how she created her beautiful garden in North Enfield. Her talk was interspersed by some very useful gardening and landscaping tips. I particularly liked her idea of planting pots within pots for a quick and easy turnaround each season.

Theobalds Farmhouse is a Grade 2 listed building with two acres of land. When Alison moved there in 1999 the garden was mainly grass with an old drainage pond and a strip of ancient dense woodland. Since then Alison has created gardens within a garden in the Arts and Crafts style and has included several large borders with different plant styles and themes. Much of the garden was laid out by simply painting outlines on the ground and then cutting out the turf. Yew hedges were planted to define areas. On boundaries, fences were erected first, with yews planted in front with the fences removed when the hedges had grown. In places, arches have been cut in the hedges to provide vistas of the borrowed landscape. Colour is central to the design and each garden room and border has its own specific colour theme. Alison suggested threading a key plant through the borders for each season, giving examples of white alliums and later in the season hemerocallis for emphasis and definition.

In front of the house is a gold award winning knot garden that reflects the house's 17th century origins. The two Celtic knots on either side of the front path provide a mirror image made up of a continuous line of curved box. As well as the knot garden, Alison has designed a gravel garden, an ornamental garden, a courtyard garden, and a fountain garden. But perhaps the most striking design is to be found in the spiral garden. Here the design is based on the principles of the golden section, a spiral turf covered

earth work based on the mathematical ratio of harmony and balance. The resulting grassy spiral mound is surrounded by a stunning curve of silver birch trees, enhanced in the spring by underplanting of white narcissus.

In addition to the garden rooms Alison has created large, wide borders with differing colour schemes. A blue border with hints of white and lemon; a mauve border; an exotic border with hot oranges, purples, reds, maroons and the mahogany coloured bark of *Prunus serrula* - the impact enhanced by splashes of blue flowers. There is a spring walk with a double avenue of fruit trees and spring bulbs and a woodland walk planted with specimen trees including tulip tree, foxglove tree, whitebeam and copper beeches. The trees are underplanted with woodland flowers - Cyclamen coum, hellebores, snowdrops and English bluebells.

There is a wildlife pond and stream created from the old drainage ditch, a swim pond, a pebble mosaic garden, greenhouses, bee hives, areas for growing fruits and vegetables and a tea room. This is a garden with everything! But best of all it is a haven for wildlife, organically managed so that the balance of nature is maintained. The audience were captivated, as evidenced by the many questions following Alison's talk. How we long to visit this garden - maybe we will next year.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 17th December when we will be enjoying our Christmas Party, to which visitors are very welcome. Our new season of speakers begins on Tuesday 21st January when some members of the BGA will be speaking about their own gardens in Biddenham. At this meeting members will receive their new programme cards for 2020. If you would like to come to this meeting as a non member we begin at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall; you will be made very welcome.

Linda Truscott

New members and visitors are always welcome. For more information contact Linda Truscott on 01234 270747. [www.biddenhamgardenersassociation.org.uk](http://www.biddenhamgardenersassociation.org.uk)



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## Ruth Laing

We are sorry to report that Ruth Laing died on 4th November; she would have been 102 next February. She managed to stay in her own home until the very end, with care in the last 18 months. The Laings lived in Vicars Close for many years but when Anthony, Ruth's husband, became ill they moved to Oxford to be near their son Ian and his family.

We hope to publish a eulogy in our February edition.



## Great Denham Events

### Parish Council Meetings

Mondays 2nd December, 6th January and 3rd February.

All meetings start at 7.30pm and are held at Great Denham Community Hall; there is 15 minutes for public questions at the start of each meeting.

### Events at Great Denham Community Hall

For further details and information please email: [events@greatdenhamcommunityhall.co.uk](mailto:events@greatdenhamcommunityhall.co.uk)  
Saturday 7th December Winter Wonderland

To keep up to date with developments at Great Denham log on to <http://www.greatdenham.bedsparishes.gov.uk/>

# First Friday Lunch



Soup, sandwich or baked potato, pudding and a drink, on the first Friday of every month in Biddenham Village Hall from 12.30pm  
**£7.00**

Draw for 2 free lunch tickets every month  
*Book swap*  
**Friday, 6th December, 3rd January, 7th February**

To book: email [firstfridaylunch@outlook.com](mailto:firstfridaylunch@outlook.com)

# 100 CLUB



## October draw

- |    |              |     |
|----|--------------|-----|
| 1. | Mr Latif     | 108 |
| 2. | Alan Clarke  | 292 |
| 3. | David Watson | 229 |

Drawn by Edwin Martin



**The Friends of St James**  
*- the charity which helps conserve the church, churchyard and barn for future generations*

Membership	Peter Leverkus	Tel: 353662
Treasurer	Paul Fricker	Tel: 342843

# Hall Booking Details

## Biddenham Village Hall

From the Village Hall website you can check availability on the diary, look at the facilities and fill in a booking form. Contact details for regular events are also there.  
[www.biddenhamvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.biddenhamvillagehall.org.uk)

## Church Barn

Contact the Booking Officer, Jan Burns on 344019 or [janburns@gmx.com](mailto:janburns@gmx.com) if you would like to hire the barn. Smaller than the Village Hall, it is ideal for a small party or meeting.

## Pavilion

The hall is available for children's parties, anniversary lunches, christening receptions, meetings etc. We can also hire the small upstairs meeting room which has tea and coffee making facilities.  
Booking enquiries to [biddenhampavilion@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:biddenhampavilion@hotmail.co.uk) or Debs Slade on 07808 579330.

## Great Denham Community Hall

[www.greatdenhamcommunityhall.co.uk](http://www.greatdenhamcommunityhall.co.uk)

# Regular Events in Biddenham

## Monday

10.00am	Cha Char Chimps	Village Hall
10.00am	Yoga	Pavilion
2.30pm	Cardiac Rehab exercise	Pavilion
6.30pm	Pilates	Pavilion
6.30pm	Mat Pilates	Church Barn
7.15pm	Guides (term-time)	Village Hall
7.45pm	Martial Arts	Pavilion

## Tuesday

10.00am	Art	Church Barn
10.00am	Personal Fitness	Pavilion
1.00pm	Mother & Baby Yoga	Village Hall
7.00pm	Personal Fitness/Circuits	Pavilion
8.00pm	Country Dancing (2nd & 4th in month)	Village Hall

## Wednesday

9.45am	Hopping Bunnies (music for toddlers)	Pavilion
10.00am	Tai Chi	Church Barn
10.00, 11.00 & 12.00	Baby College (term-time)	Village Hall
2.00pm	Table Tennis	Pavilion
2.30pm	Art	Church Barn
6.30pm	Aerobics	Pavilion
6.30pm	Handbell Ringing Practice	Church Barn
7.30pm	Ballroom Dancing (term-time)	Village Hall

## Thursday

9.45am	Hopping Bunnies (music for toddlers)	Pavilion
9.30-11.30am	Under 5's (term-time)	Village Hall
2.00pm	U3A Handbells	Church Barn
2.00pm	Love to Dance	Pavilion
7.00pm	Fit-Steps	Pavilion
7.30pm	Whist (2nd & 4th in month)	Village Hall

## Friday

8.30 & 9.30am	Pilates	Village Hall
9.30am	Jo Jingles (Children's musical group)	Pavilion
3.30-7.30pm	Ballet classes (term-time)	Village Hall
1.45-4.45pm	Duplicate Bridge	Church Barn
7.00pm	Martial Arts	Pavilion
7.00pm	Choir Practice	Church Barn
8.00pm	Tango	Village Hall

## Saturday

9.30am	Pregnancy Yoga	Village Hall
9.30am	Zumba	Pavilion
10.45am	Zumbini	Pavilion

## Sunday

9.00-10.00am	Explorers	Church Barn
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For regular events at Great Denham Community Hall, go to [www.greatdenhamcommunityhall.co.uk/](http://www.greatdenhamcommunityhall.co.uk/)



**Welcome Packs for New Biddenham Residents**  
Contact Richard Church Tel: 214805

## Mobile Library



### Great Denham Community Centre

Saturdays, 14th, 28th December  
2.20pm-2.40pm

### Biddenham

Thursdays, 5th, 19th December  
Three Tuns 10.45am-11.00am  
Church End 11.05am-11.25am

*Sorry, January dates were not published as we went to print.*

## December

- Sun 1 Dec** All Age Christingle Service, St James's, **9.00am**, see p17  
 Holy Communion, St James's, **6.00pm**
- Sun 1 Dec Christmas Sale, Church Barn, 10.00am, see p3
- Mon 2 Dec Great Denham Parish Council meeting, GD Community Hall, 7.30pm, see p18
- Tue 3 Dec Peter's Picturehouse, Biddenham Village Hall, 7.00pm, see p11
- 4-8 Dec Christmas Tree Festival, St Paul's church, see pp1&5
- Thu 5 Dec Mobile Library, Biddenham, see p19
- Fri 6 Dec First Friday Lunch, Biddenham Village Hall, 12.30pm, see p19
- Sat 7 Dec Winter Wonderland, Great Denham Community Hall, see p18
- Sun 8 Dec** Parish Communion, St James's, **9.00am**  
 Evening Prayer, All Saints, **6.00pm**
- Tue 10 Dec Messy Church, St James's Church Barn, 4.30-6.00pm
- Sat 14 Dec Mobile Library, Great Denham Community Centre, 2.20-2.40pm, see p19
- Sun 15 Dec** All Age Service with Nativity, St James's, **9.00am**, see p12  
 Evensong, St James's, **6.00pm**
- Tue 17 Dec Café B, Biddenham Village Hall, 10.30am-12.00noon, see p4
- Tue 17 Dec Biddenham Gardeners Association, Biddenham Village Hall, 7.30pm, see p18
- Wed 18 Dec Carols by Candlelight, Bedford School Chapel, 7.30pm, see p3
- Thu 19 Dec Mobile Library, Biddenham, see p19
- 20-21 Dec Apres Ski Christmas Party, Moggerhanger Park, 7.00pm, see p13
- Sun 22 Dec** Parish Communion, St James's, **9.00am**  
 Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, St James's, **6.30pm**, see p7
- Tue 24 Dec** Carols in the Churchyard, St James's, **4.00pm**, see p10  
 Midnight communion, St James's, **11.30pm**
- Wed 25 Dec** Family service followed by communion, St James's, **9.00am**, see p17
- Sat 28 Dec Mobile Library, Great Denham Community Centre, 2.20-2.40pm, see p19
- Sun 29 Dec** Parish Communion, St James's, **9.00am**  
 No evening service

## January

- Fri 3 Jan First Friday Lunch, Biddenham Village Hall, 12.30pm, see p19
- Sun 5 Jan** All Age Service, St James's, **9.00am**  
 Holy Communion, St James's, **6.00pm**
- Mon 6 Jan Great Denham Parish Council meeting, GD Community Hall, 7.30pm, see p18
- Tue 7 Jan Peter's Picturehouse, Biddenham Village Hall, 7.00pm, see p11
- Wed 8 Jan Biddenham Parish Council, Biddenham Pavilion, 7.30pm, see p16
- Sun 12 Jan** Parish Communion, St James's, **9.00am**  
 Evening Prayer, All Saints, **6.00pm**
- Mon 13 Jan Biddenham History Society, Church Barn, 8.00pm, see p9
- Tue 14 Jan barn@2, Church Barn, 2.00pm, see p8
- Sun 19 Jan** Parish Communion, St James's, **9.00am**,  
 Evensong, St James's, **6.00pm**
- Tue 21 Jan Café B, Biddenham Village Hall, 10.30am-12.00noon, see p4
- Tue 21 Jan Biddenham Gardeners Association, Biddenham Village Hall, 7.30pm, see p18
- Tue 21 Jan Bedford National Trust Association, Addison Centre, Kempston, 2.30pm, see p3
- Sat 25 Jan Wrest Park Volunteer Open Day, 1.00-3.00pm, see p9
- Sun 26 Jan** Parish Communion, St James's, **9.00am**  
 No evening service

## February

- Sun 2 Feb** All Age Service, St James's, **9.00am**  
 Holy Communion, St James's, **6.00pm**
- Mon 3 Feb Great Denham Parish Council meeting, GD Community Hall, 7.30pm, see p18
- Tue 4 Feb Peter's Picturehouse, Biddenham Village Hall, 7.00pm, see p11
- Fri 7 Feb First Friday Lunch, Biddenham Village Hall, 12.30pm, see p19

For regular events listings see page 19

## The Loop

Editor	Jean Gambold	Tel 349849
Proof Reader	Jacqui Piper	Tel 356993
Church correspondent	Peta Martin	Tel 348718
Advertising	Clare Sugars	Tel 355262
Subscriptions	Richard Harris	Tel 210434
Distribution	Richard Church	Tel 214805

All **February** articles, preferably by e-mail in Word format, to [loopeditor@gmail.com](mailto:loopeditor@gmail.com) or to 22 Day's Lane and adverts to 3 Queen's Close (cj.sugars@talktalk.net) by **Wednesday 22nd January please.**



*The views expressed in 'The Loop' by various community groups do not necessarily represent the views of St James's Church or the Parochial Church Council.*