

# The Loop

December/  
January  
2020/21

## Deliveries of The Loop

The second lockdown has meant that we have had to stand down our delivery volunteers again and revert to distributing The Loop by email where we can, even if you have not expressed a preference for emailed copies.

We are sorry for this and hope to resume normal service soon.

Jean Gambold

## Merry Christmas to all our readers and a happy New Year

We are missing the usual Christmas drawings from pupils of St James' School this year (Covid-19 has some strange consequences) so I thought I would find some from the Loop archives. I hope you enjoy them.

## Remembrance Day 2020



*The sound check*

The Remembrance Sunday service at the War Memorial in Main Road was a very different affair this year. Far from the usual crowd, a few socially distanced villagers came out to the service. Even the weather was sad, not like the crisp autumn days we have experienced in recent years.

However, thanks to the wonders of modern technology and sterling work by Kate and Jon Smith, the service, led by Eric Lomax and Paul Fricker was shared via Zoom, so no-one needed to miss it.

The wreaths were laid by John Daniels and Peter Chase with support from Graham Bates and Peter Culverwell. Jon Gambold managed the flag and the bugle calls and national



anthem came courtesy of the internet.



## 2021 Loop subscriptions now due See page 3 for details

It has been a challenging year in many ways and we have done our best to keep The Loop interesting and informative for you through the pandemic so far.

We know it is not ideal reading magazines on email and hope that you have not found it too disappointing.

We are finally able to offer subscription by bank transfer as well as by cheque or cash in the usual ways, see page 3 for details.

We value your support and hope that you will be happy to continue to subscribe.

Jean Gambold

'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 All

Did you know that in a world filled with colour, we are only capable of seeing one percent of the spectrum? The eyes contain three different types of photoreceptors (cones) with different ranges that are responsible for detecting wavelengths in the visible spectrum and we are capable of seeing approximately a million different colours. Some birds, however, can see 100 million different colours, far more than us. Then of course there is the range that is outside the visible spectrum, literally all the light we cannot comprehend.

Last year on one of my many trips to the mountains of Snowdonia, on a rainy day in the Shadow of Yrr Wydffa (Snowdon) it was raining and I met a family of Orthodox Jews. They were, given the weather, oddly dressed in traditional Jewish clothes, and simple shoes, not really suited to the terrain they were trying to negotiate. They asked me directions and we got into a conversation about the landscape around. I told them about my enthusiasm for landscape photography and how it would be nice if the rainy weather produced a rainbow over Snowdon.

‘Why do you want a rainbow?’ the man asked.

‘Because it is beautiful and also a sign of God’s covenant,’ I said.

‘It is!’ he responded, and from then on we talked about faith. We were all, Jews and Christians, in agreement that God is the one who brings light and colour in the midst of our storm. He lights up our dark places with his love. In addition to this, he is all the light that is not obvious in the world. Often in the darkest places you will find him there.

In this case, God’s covenant was the promise he gave to Noah that he would never again flood the earth, and this covenant was then sealed with a rainbow over the post-flood landscape.

We know from the studies performed by Isaac Newton with a glass prism that rainbows are the separation of white



light into its constituent colours, common after a storm because of the water molecules in the atmosphere but still I often see the garland of rainbow colours as a sign of hope. We gather a sense of pleasure from the light we are able to comprehend.

Many people struggle with the dark winter months and the reason for this is the lack of light. There is quite simply not much of it around.

My wife tells me that I am grumpy at this time of year. I guess it is the short days and the limited sunlight. Perhaps it is because of the lack of vitamin D that our bodies normally produce because of the interaction of UV light from the sun and our bodies. I know we need sunlight to maintain our circadian rhythms, in other words, how our brains use light to enable us to interpret the differential between the time to sleep and the time to wake. I understand that this function is why people suffer jet lag. If only, during this crisis we were able to fly somewhere.

There is also the possibility that some of us experience a condition known as SAD (Seasonal Adjustment Disorder). I used to teach A-level Psychology and I seem to remember a theory that this may be an evolutionary legacy from an age when people in the darkest part of the Northern Hemisphere would hibernate during the darkest winter days.

Of course, with the pandemic, there has been another layer of darkness and it is sad that so many of us feel we cannot celebrate our great festival of light, Christmas, as we normally do. Maybe we will not do the same level of shopping or attend the same family Christmas parties or that Christmas drink with all our friends. Our economy depends on Christmas and we and our families need that extra expression of light that we find when our little slice of the world seems to have turned its back on the light of the sun. I will miss the carol singing in the church yard, the nine lessons and carols, the midnight communion and our all age worship on Christmas morning. (We will be doing all these things online, so please check the info on page 7)

Please remember however that the Christmas the Bible talks about is really not the light of a commercial Christmas with Father Christmas and the naughty elf on the shelf. (I have nothing against Santa, he is actually a very good friend of mine.) To followers of Jesus, Christmas reminds us that God is the one who brings light and colour in the darkest or most inconsequential places.

Jesus was born not in a spectacular, high budget religious festival; rather he was born to an unimportant single mum in relative poverty, in a tiny town to escape murder at the hands of an oppressive regime. Yet in that darkness, God shone his light of peace, hope and love.

He lights up all our dark places with his love. These times may well be difficult for you but Jesus is there loving you, no matter how dark things may seem.

St. Paul said; ‘For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.’ (Romans 8:38-39). ‘The light shines in your darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it.’ (John 1:5)

Whatever happens this year, you are loved, so have a wonderful Christmas.

God bless.

Eric



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## CORONAVIRUS SUPPORT NETWORK

Need local help? Ring 01234 815393 or email [help@biddenham.org.uk](mailto:help@biddenham.org.uk).

## David Slark

We are sorry to report the death of David Slark of Day's Lane on 6th November, following a Covid diagnosis. Our thoughts are with Anthea at this sad time.

The funeral took place on 27th November via Zoom. We hope to carry an obituary in a forthcoming edition of The Loop.



## Services at St James's

Subject to the current lockdown in Bedford being lifted on 2nd December, services will be held at St James's on Sundays 13th and 27th December at 9.30am. Services at All Saints will be at 9.30am on Sundays 6th and 20th December.

'Live' services will continue into January with the 9.30am Sunday services alternating between the two churches.

Zoom services continue to be held at 11.00am every Sunday and 6.00pm every Wednesday.

Our traditional Christmas services will all be held via Zoom:

Sunday 20th December: Nine lessons and carols at 4.00pm

Christmas Eve: Christingle at 4.00pm

Midnight Communion at 11.30pm

Christmas Day: Family service at 10.30am

To join any of the Zoom services, go to Zoom and enter the meeting ID 9880746039.

Jacqui Piper



Wenxi, 2016

## 2021 Loop subscriptions now due

Your annual subscription to The Loop is now due. The price for the ten issues in 2021 will be £10 (minimum). Any profits go to the church funds so if you can manage to donate more, please do.

You can pay by bank transfer to:

Account Name Biddenham PCC

Sort Code: 60-02-13

Account Number: 51317745

Reference: 1st line of your address

Please also send an email to [loopsubs@gmail.com](mailto:loopsubs@gmail.com) headed 'Loop subscription paid by bank transfer' and including your name and full address. Please state whether you prefer to receive The Loop by email or have the magazine delivered through your letterbox (subject to lockdown restrictions).

You can also pay by cash or cheque, payable to Biddenham PCC. Please place your payment in an envelope with your name and address and whether you prefer email or hard copy of the magazine. If you want delivery by email please include your email address. Please deliver or post to Richard Harris, 6 Nodders Way, Biddenham MK40 4BJ or Jacqui Piper, 27 St Mellion Drive, Great Denham MK40 4BF.

**Please pay by 31st January.**

## Shine a light of hope!



## Christingle Celebration

4pm Christmas Eve (via Zoom)

Email [stjameschurchbiddenham@gmail.com](mailto:stjameschurchbiddenham@gmail.com), call/text 0778 6886 710 or message us on Social Media and we will deliver your Christingle to you.

Join us for our Christingle Celebration when we will make our Christingles and celebrate the light of Jesus together, or make them in your own time.

St James's Church, Biddenham

All Saints Church, Kempston

Raising funds for The Children's Society



We are very pleased to follow up on our article in last month's Loop to report that in the last week of October, and in spite of some heavy rain, The Conservation Volunteers donned their waders and removed a significant number of reeds from the pond, dramatically increasing the area of clear water and going a long way to restore the look of our lovely pond (please see the before and after photos). We wish to thank The Conservation Volunteers for their hard work.

The plan was to clear the reeds left on the banks of the pond on 7th November, having left sufficient time for all animal life to have made its way back into the water. This had to be cancelled due to the second lockdown Covid-19 restrictions, but we certainly hope to have this done by the time this edition of The Loop is published.

Although there was a cost to having these reeds removed, it had become increasingly obvious to the Committee that we did not have the volunteers or resources to do this work ourselves and all the time we waited, the reeds were increasing. We feared that soon all open water would disappear, so we hope that you like what has been done and we are tentatively planning to get The Conservation Volunteers back for a further 2 days next autumn if our funds allow.

In common with many organisations, our fund raising has been affected by the pandemic, and in particular the cancellation of this year's Biddenham Show, which has



*Before.....*



*.....After*

always been very supportive of our activities. Should you wish to become a Friend of the Pond or would just like to make a donation towards its upkeep, please contact Jane Knight at the email address below, who will be able to send you details.

Having had to cancel our second work morning of 2020, we have put Saturday 27th March 2021 in the diary as the date for our next spring work morning. We hope to be able to welcome all our volunteers back, but of course this will be subject to whatever Covid-19 restrictions, if any, are in place.

For 2021, we need more people to volunteer for the mowing rota, to help us keep the grassy area around the pond tidy. If you can spare a few hours, even for just one day in the year, that will be a great help to us. All equipment will be provided. If you feel able to help, please contact Paul Godden at the email address below.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and we hope you enjoy your winter walks by the pond.

The Pond Team

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Jane Knight	jane@80kltd.co.uk
Cathy Eckett-Brown	ceckett@gmail.com
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www.biddenhamvillagepond.wordpress.com  
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*Harrison, 2018*

# *Andrew Charles*

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## News from the AGM

As for everyone, the Village Hall has been dominated this year by what had to be done to get through the difficult time with Covid-19. Our financial year started in September and the first 6 months was business as usual. We had a good forward set of bookings, a new audio visual system fitted, extra roof cladding installed and everything was looking rosy. Then in March we had to close, cancel forward bookings, make refunds, operate remotely, and effectively put the Hall into a mini hibernation. As the restrictions were released we set about putting in place modifications and systems to allow some use during the summer months and this became the new normal for a while. As many of the people who use the Hall might be particularly vulnerable to the virus, government advice was followed to the letter. Then the new set of restrictions were announced in November, the Hall was locked down again (apart from very limited permitted uses), a remote AGM held, and at the time of writing, it is unknown when the phased re-opening will start.

The Village Hall is run and maintained by a committee of unpaid volunteers. We either take on specific jobs, for example the Booking Officer, or represent a group of regular users. We all carry out regular inspections and take part in an annual maintenance morning when the volunteers blitz some of the routine maintenance jobs. This year there were a couple of changes to the committee, Brian Johnson left as his tenure on the St. James' School governing body ended, thanks to Brian for his contributions and commitment. Also Pat Edmunds, our Booking Officer since 2016, left as she is moving out the area, Pat accepted a small gift in appreciation of her work and contribution to the running of the Hall, she will be much missed. Over the year, we held six meetings when an average of 10 members attended. Our aim is to maintain the Village Hall to be a first rate place for the use of Biddenham residents and the surrounding community.

Last year, due to the closure, our booking revenues were at about half normal levels. However Liz Watson did a great job in utilising government grants, and our finances remain in a strong position. There is sufficient in reserve to cover planned works with a contingency for continued closures. This year the finances were also supplemented with funding for the new roof cladding, thanks to Jon Gambold and Roger Rigby for their support in obtaining this and thanks to 'Peter's Picture House' for contributions to the new screen and projector.

Health and Safety procedures have been reviewed and amended in line with government advice on Covid-19 and no incidents reported. The programme of regular monthly inspections continued and all the necessary repairs were completed.

The Village Hall is in great condition and we continue to open and operate in line with government restrictions. 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. I would 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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Evie, 2017

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## Beware Bogus Callers

There have been many stories of bogus callers and scams during the pandemic, especially from our banks and large companies such as Amazon.

But last week, the scams came a lot closer to home. A lady in Biddenham received a telephone call from someone claiming to represent the 'Biddenham Quick Response Unit'. The caller offered to call at the lady's home and give her advice. This would cost £1 and as extra reassurance the visitor would wear full PPE.

Suspicious aroused, the lady asked under whose auspices was the caller was operating. The caller then put the phone down.

Luckily no harm was done but this is a timely warning to be on our guard. If you receive a similar call, advice from the Borough is to call the police on 101. If you can discover the caller's phone number through dialling 1471, so much the better.

Jean Gambold

## Church finances - update and thank you

Following the recent appeal for support by helping to meet the income shortfall suffered as a consequence of Covid-19 I wanted to provide a brief update and also to say thank you!

The shortfall, as recently advised (see November Loop), is very much in line with expectations; almost £12,000 net. The Church has suffered a loss of income across all headings; collections, church barn lettings and church fees in particular.

The appeal for additional financial support is an attempt to contain the 2020 deficit and also to provide some sort of foundation for 2021 as we hopefully emerge from the restrictions of Covid-19.

To all who have responded we send a huge THANK YOU! We are well aware of the demands and calls made upon us at this difficult time and truly we appreciate your support in all forms. Currently the total received in donations stands at almost 50% of the £6,000 target.

It's not too late to help by making a contribution to St James's Church. Should you wish to support in this way then please contribute by one of the following methods:

1. By bank transfer direct to the membership account:  
Biddenham Church Membership Fund  
Account Number: 51317710  
Sort Code: 60-02-13

Please quote as a reference your surname and postcode.

2. Cheque payment – please hand to a Church Warden or directly to the treasurer.
3. By way of the regular cash / yellow envelope church collection.

Thank you and if you do have any questions then please have a word with either the Church Wardens or PCC Treasurer.

Michael Hurford



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# Wrap up Biddenham

Kirsty Lister collected our unwanted coats on Wednesday 11th November. It took her three and a half hours to sort and count them all and Kirsty was delighted with the total of 275, completely smashing her target of 50.

Thank you to everyone who donated.



*Kirsty (left) collecting coats from Biddenham residents including this significant donation from St James' School.*

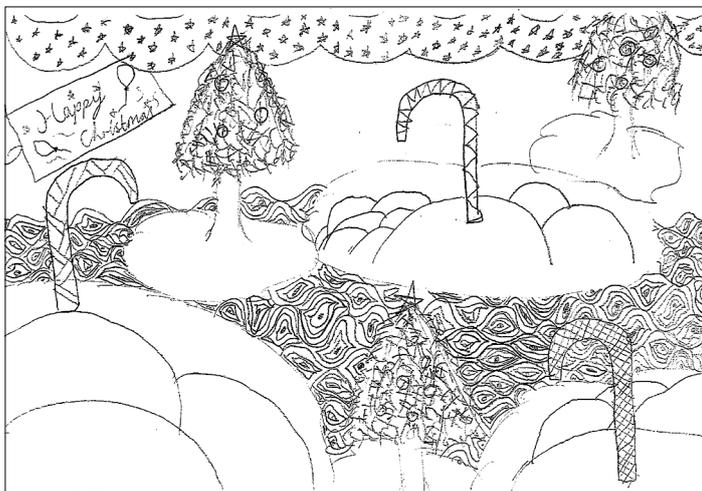
## Friends of St James

### How to spend a socially isolated evening for a good cause

Some time ago, back in the days of social gatherings, I used to go to a pub quiz and one of the rounds was called "Fast and Furious". Well, The Friends of St James online quiz held via Zoom on 24th October was every bit "F and F", as not only did we have a good run of teams and some exciting questions but the addition of a "fingers on the button" system known as Kahoot, which added considerably to the fun. Contestants were scored via multiple choice questions and also rewarded for the ability to think fast (so "don't panic!"), but even if the answer looks simple it's easy to press the wrong button! After a warm-up round, the five main sets of questions covered Literature, Movies, UK History, Places and Biddenham.

We are still recovering and would like to thank the Barkas family, supported by the Frickers, for a great if rather breathless night - once we got hold of the ropes! A goodly sum was raised for The Friends of St James, the charity which supports the maintenance and development of the church building, the barn and the churchyards.

Chris Haydn Jones



*Layla, 2015*



## Christmas with St James's Church

**Sunday 20 December**  
4.00pm Nine Lessons and Carols

**Christmas Eve**  
4.00pm Christingle  
11.30pm Midnight Communion

**Christmas Day**  
10.30am Family Service

All services will be held via Zoom  
To join, just go to Zoom and enter meeting ID 998 074 6039

*Unfortunately we will not be able to hold our usual events and services  
in church this year*

**Don't forget the Foodbank**

**IN THESE DIFFICULT TIMES THE  
NEED IS URGENT**

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# This month in the garden

The disillusioned philosopher Ecclesiastes writes in the Old Testament “Of making many books there is no end”. This is no less true of gardening than of any other subject and in the run-up to Christmas when there is likely to be less to do outside in the garden I am devoting my article to books on gardening. Maybe this will offer some ideas for Christmas presents or just improve your gardening knowledge.

To my wife’s great delight I have just started sorting and weeding out the books on my bookshelf and I have started with the gardening books. Sorting them in alphabetical order of authors didn’t seem to be very helpful so I have done it by putting the books into broad categories. The most obvious group covers advice on what to do and how and when to do it. These can be in general categories such as vegetables or flowers or container gardening or in single subjects with detailed information about particular plants or a particular activity like pruning or garden design. Fashions in gardening change over time and these are recorded in books on the history of gardening. Others concentrate on the beauty to be found in gardens and these offer striking photography, often in coffee table volumes and there are many well-illustrated books describing particular gardens; generally ones which are open to the public. Other books, often enhanced by stylish writing, just revel in the delights of gardens and gardening. If you take delight in sheer weight, encyclopaedias are the ones to go for and are very valuable for a quick reference.

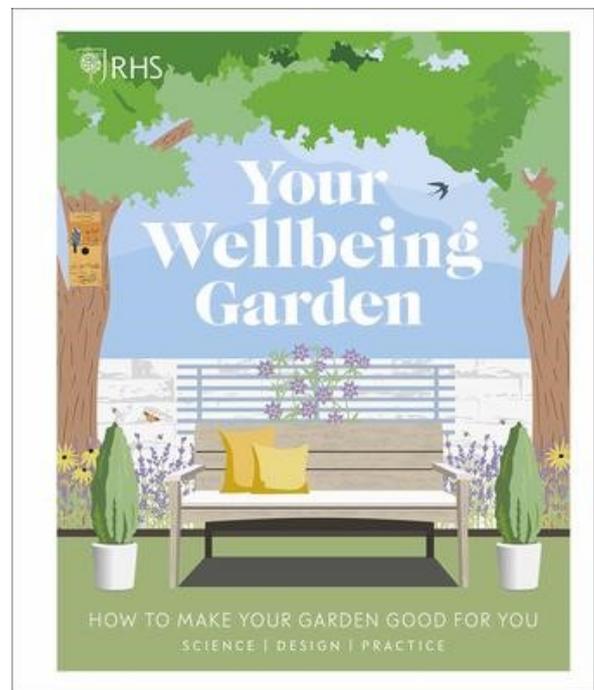
Book reviews in gardening magazines are a good place to go for guidance on choosing books but I offer a few books here which I have found helpful or enjoyable.

My ornamental gardening guru is Beth Chatto, who died last year. She publicised her style and philosophy with displays at the big garden shows like Chelsea and she has written several books. She was a great advocate of gardening with the right plant in the right place and she championed a naturalistic and free flowing style, emphasising the value of contrasting structure, size and shape in foliage as well as flowers. The results of her ideas can be seen in the beautiful Beth Chatto gardens near Colchester which have a superb nursery of often unusual plants attached (mail order available). Beth Chatto writes about her garden with detailed descriptions of the plants in three books; *The Shade Garden*, *The Green Tapestry* and *Beth Chatto’s Gravel Garden* (the ground breaking garden devoted to drought-proof plants which she created out of a car park).

There are a number of books which give you a month by month guide throughout the year of what to do and how to do it. These can be a useful reminder of jobs that might

be overlooked and the practical advice is often useful. The two examples I have are Alan Titchmarsh’s *The Gardener’s Year* and the RHS book *Gardening Through the Year*, by Ian Spence. A very attractive volume that combines superb large-scale photography with a substantial text on the history of the different styles of English gardens is Ursula Buchan’s *The English Garden*, with photographs by Andrew Lawson. Most of us need guidance on planting schemes, colour combinations and so on and a very practical and useful book that I have is *How to Plant a Garden* by Matt James.

My favourite gardening book is the *Morville Hours* by Katherine Swift. Katherine Swift was once a garden columnist writing in the *Times* and formerly rare book librarian at Trinity College Dublin. She combines a deep knowledge of gardening and the natural world with an academic knowledge of history and weaves all this together in a beautifully written account of how she created a garden in the dower house of a country house owned by the National Trust at Morville near Bridgnorth in Shropshire. The garden is laid out in a number of ‘rooms’, each reflecting the historical period of one of the owners of the big house. It also has a theme of the passing of time throughout the year based around the illustrated medieval prayer book or book of hours on which the seven daily services of monastic communities are based.



My final recommendation is *Your Wellbeing Garden* by Alistair Griffiths and Matt Keightley, based on research by the Royal Horticultural Society. This book was published early this year and coincided with the strong body of evidence produced during the Covid-19 pandemic of the many benefits of gardening in relation to mental and physical health. The book has four main sections; *The Protective Garden*, *The Healing Garden*, *The Nourishing Garden* and *The Sustainable Garden*. It is a combination of the benefits of gardening that research has revealed and practical guidance on how to achieve the benefits.

Jeremy Arthern



*Kitty, 2018*



## Blake's big adventure

Blake is back! Our beloved 10-year-old liver and white English Springer Spaniel has been on a very big adventure. Whilst you may not recognise the name, many of you will have seen our hound racing through the village dragging one or other of his reluctant owners.

Born in April 2010, Blake's mother Bella is a friend's dog. Blake's sire was Billy, a wonderful game dog, belonging to Wilden kennel owner Malcolm, with whom Blake has spent our holiday time in his 'home from home'.

You may have read about the Wilden raid on 13th September when eight dogs – five Springers, two Cocker and a Labrador, were grabbed in a lightning night time raid by three or four men who had scaled a 12' perimeter fence to gain access. A steel fire door was ripped out to steal Blake from his kennel.

An early morning telephone call alerted us. Ironically, Blake would have been coming home the next morning after just a week away.

Out of nowhere we were rudely thrust into an alien world of police crime numbers, microchip company alerts and stolen dog 'Wanted' posters.

Our priority was Blake. He does look like a serious gundog and indeed he has an impressive pedigree with a scattering of Field Trial Champions but he is really a family pet who sits on sofas! His recall is deeply suspect and, most worryingly, he has all the road sense of a hedgehog!

Blake's future looked bleak especially at 3/4/5am without any news. With age comes experience so his retired owners had the consolation of knowing that they had weathered challenging times in the past. Indeed, Blake himself is a symbol of survival – bought in bereavement after we had suffered the deaths of Mark's mother and my father within three weeks in 2009.

Our pet's sudden disappearance thrust us back to that dark time when we felt like puppets whose strings had been cut.

Initially we expected a call offering Blake back for cash. Another scenario was that he had been stolen to order to meet the underground market for trained gundogs. Silence reigned.

Two weeks into Blake's disappearance Sergeant Ted rang with the force's latest update. You promise yourself that you won't put pressure on busy officers, that you won't shout or cry, but it becomes increasingly hard as you become desperate for news.

Another apology this time to our Sergeant for ending this call with a plea "It isn't getting any better here" to which the reply was "I know", his tone quietly determined.

After several decades working with Greater Manchester and the Metropolitan Police as well as visiting Wormwood Scrubs and HMP Bedford combined with hours in Magistrates', Crown and Coroners' Courts you think you understand our criminal underworld.

Wrong – nothing prepares you for this paralysing sense of loss and the fear for an innocent life left completely defenceless. Blake, at 10, is 75 years in human terms but with the mind of a toddler.

Why would someone steal a family pet? What sort of

people occupy this criminal sub set? They are not just feral and feckless. They are creatures of the night, alien beings operating with a casual cruelty far removed from the everyday life we enjoy here. Dog theft is another form of trafficking, its practitioners equate to modern day slave traders exhibiting all the moral compass of sexual predators.

Why steal dogs? They are currency and, due to Covid, increasingly valuable when the average price of a puppy has reached £1,900. This black market conforms to the simple rules of supply and demand. It is fed by everyone's impatience – their "I want a dog and I won't wait" attitude.

Three weeks after the Wilden raid it became almost impossible to believe that Blake would come home.

Once more the world turned on its axis, with another early morning telephone call. A hundred miles from Biddenham Blake had been found, filthy and starving. Too weak to scale an embankment to escape his would-be rescuers, he was taken straight to their vets. Thank goodness for dog microchipping which revealed that Blake had been stolen and later the identity of his owners.

The extraordinary kindness of his rescuers balances the books. Blake had landed in doggy heaven – spending the night with two Labradors for company. It was the first step in a possibly long road to recovery. He has lost almost 5 kilos and would probably only have survived another three or four days.

He is covered from head to foot in small sores mostly dog bites. His ears are the worst and it may be that his captors found it amusing to get stolen dogs to fight for their food. Or perhaps traumatised hounds were trying to find space in severely cramped conditions. Blake limps – his back leg has lost muscle probably having lain on it, cramped up, for hours or days without exercise.

After being missing for only 23 days we have brought home an animal almost unrecognisable looking out through shell shocked eyes. Blake is wary, even of his owners, and unsure where to go in his own home. We expect recuperation to take a good six months. We will take it a day at a time.

Whatever the future holds we could not have got through without your support. Blake's 'Wanted' poster recorded more than 4 million hits. We do not "do" social media but gather that our lovely hound is something of an internet celebrity.

It has been wonderful to have Good News to pass round the village. We look forward to going back to our usual quiet obscurity punctuated by the inevitable bursts of frantic activity that are Blake's daily beating of the boundaries.

We realise that many of you have faced far greater challenges in these difficult times. 2020 will not be a year that people will recall with unalloyed joy. This too shall pass – stay safe!

*Our thanks to Blake's owner Sue for this account of their traumatic experience.*

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# Biddenham Parish Council

The most recent Parish Council Meeting was held on Wednesday 11th November 2020 using the Zoom conferencing facility.

Present were Parish Councillors Graham Bates, Stewart Briggs, Peter Chase (Chairman), Harry Fowler, Chris Gee, Krys Osuch and Francia Slade. Apologies were received from Councillors Alan Jacobs and Joe Warren. Borough Councillors Jon Gambold and Roger Rigby, Clerk Karen Cotton and two members of the public were also present.



## Speeding

Bryan Glasper, who has led efforts to establish our local Speedwatch group, reported his frustrations that a combination of lockdown and the local authority's own speed enforcement activities were curtailing the group's activities.

On reflection, however, it seems Biddenham is now getting some attention, from both the police and Borough. The worst offenders seem to use the stretch of Bromham Road down to Bromham Bridge, the main Bromham Road into town, and Biddenham Turn. The former two roads get consistent levels of speeding at all times of the day and night, whereas Biddenham Turn is different. There, the offences are at higher speeds, but much less frequent – mostly happening at anti-social hours like late evening and the night.

If you know anyone who puts their foot down a bit too heavily, take it from me it is only a matter of time before they get caught.

We agreed at the meeting to relocate the Speed Indication Device (SID to its mates) from Gold Lane to Biddenham Turn. Since having Speedwatch volunteers monitoring sporadic traffic in the dead of night is asking rather a lot, we are going to let the tech do the hard work. I will report what results we get in a future edition.

## Golf course land news

Despite a few intrepid golfers still using the now shut down Great Denham Golf Course, the land is now in transition to sheep grazing and hay production. A sad state of affairs indeed, which flies in the face of both local wishes and local government policy to retain sports facilities wherever they exist.

I reported to the Council that two meetings had taken place recently; one with the prospective new operators of a nursery at the golf course clubhouse, and the other with the landowner's agents, Bidwells.

At the first of these, Mr and Mrs Townson explained their background, experience and plans to open the "Little Putters" nursery. They certainly have a lot of experience, having run three successful nurseries near the A1 before then opening the existing nursery in Great Denham. This they sold four years ago to a national nursery chain, who are its current operator. They chose to retire at that time, but a combination of opportunity, lockdown boredom and the enjoyment of running a business has tempted them to propose the new nursery idea to the landowner.

They seemed sure there is a market, which one can understand given all the housebuilding that's taken place in our area. And they have agreed a prospective lease, which is only contingent on them successfully applying to the Borough Council for a "change of use" of the building. They hope to open in September next year.

Secondly, Bidwells informed us that the idea of possibly hosting a nine-hole golf course is still under consideration. The landowners are not very taken with the idea, and yet an outright rejection of it has not yet happened. We made it clear at the meeting that it would be much preferred if all parties could agree a constructive way forward that saw the nursery, a smaller golf course, grazing

and hay production all taking place on the land.

Borough passed a motion on 14th October to stand by its planning policies as regards the land; namely to keep it as green space and used for sport. I fervently hope the landowner directly or indirectly chooses to support both of those policies. We will see.

## Mr Zuckerburg and 'The Facebook'

I am reliably informed that there is something on the inter-web called "Facebook". It seems I am not the only one in Biddenham who has heard of it but either doesn't use it or doesn't like using it. However, Councillor Gee set up a Facebook page in March at the start of the pandemic as a way to allow community communication and support and it certainly now has a reasonable following. He informed us at the meeting that it really should be "moderated" by someone, as adverts are now starting to sprout up like online weeds, and the odd submission is really not right for a genteel village such as ours.

We are therefore looking for keen Facebook-using volunteers to become moderators of the Facebook page for Biddenham. If you know anyone who might be interested, please ask them to email the Clerk at [clerk@biddenham.org.uk](mailto:clerk@biddenham.org.uk). Or, I guess, say so on Facebook.

I suggested we put up notices on the village noticeboards to raise awareness of this need, mainly because I just like delicious irony.

## Christmas

Our meeting was the last one of the year and what a very strange year it has been. What will Christmas be like, you can't help wondering? Well one thing's for sure: we will have our Christmas tree on the village green and yes, it will be the proper size this year.

Indeed, our new clerk Karen Cotton is doing her very best to get Linden Homes at the new St. Mary's development to get a second one put up there, too. I am keeping everything crossed that she is successful, as time is short. Even if not, then we will have one there for next year and beyond.

Regardless of how Coronavirus inflicts its reckless toll on our lives between now and 25th December, we must uphold the spirit of Christmas, and each of us look to send love out in all directions as much as we can. We live in a communication age, where getting on the phone, quizzes and drinks over Zoom and yes, even "the Facebook", can play an important part.

The virus's days are numbered. Vaccine after vaccine will be arriving soon. Life will return to normal. Life is amazing, and sometimes rather hard, but we must remain positive and hopeful. With hard work and kindness, we will soon be able to be with our loved ones again, and to enjoy life fully once more.

Merry Christmas to you. Thanks for reading my words here during 2020. Here's to a happier, virus-free 2021.

## Our next meeting – IMPORTANT INFO

The Parish Council meets every second Wednesday of most months (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 call in and let us know anything concerning you about our village, or just listen. The date for the next meeting is **Wednesday 13th January 2021 at 7.30pm**.

To participate, please use a computer or tablet by accessing the Internet and carefully entering <https://zoom.us/j/524544164>

Alternatively, use a phone to ring **0208 080 6592** and then use its keypad to enter the code **524 544 164** followed by the # key. Calls are national rate, I'm afraid.

This information is provided on the village website at [biddenham.org.uk](http://biddenham.org.uk).

Peter Chase  
Chairman

# A different Christmas

Christmas 1915 saw the 68th (2nd Welsh) Division billeted in Bedford, including the 2/1st Battalion of the Herefordshire Regiment which had arrived in the town in July 1915 and eventually departed in November 1916. The Hereford Times told its readers how the Battalion had spent the Christmas period, their 'Christmas Doings at Bedford'.

'Christmas for the 2nd Herefords was' it said 'necessarily rather quiet. People living in the comparative security of the west fail to realise how dismal the streets of eastern towns are under the Lighting Orders.'

'It has been whispered in the Battalion that many people about Hereford are under the impression that all the "2nds" are in nice comfortable billets. If that idea is existing in the mind of Herefordians it is quite wrong; the greater part of the Battalion are in empty houses, which are not very conducive to great comfort. Only a small number of men were able to get leave for Christmas.'



The paper told how for several days before Christmas the Battalion postman had been kept very hard at work. His mails were so heavy that he had to have extra assistance to deal with the Christmas rush of letters, and especially parcels. One postman was heard to remark that he thought the Herefords had the heaviest mail in the Brigade. 'The serving out of the mails was a very animated scene, and many were the lucky ones carrying off parcels of every size to their billets.'



On Christmas Eve, which was a Friday, evergreens had been given to the mess orderlies in some companies to decorate the mess rooms, which gave them quite a festive appearance.

'On Christmas morning the climatic conditions were not of the best. At 8.45am, the Battalion fell in for church parade. Afterwards they were dismissed for the day: but had to remain under cover a good deal on account of the weather. Dinner was at one o'clock, when the Battalion sat down to a good, substantial meal of roast beef, potatoes and peas, and "Territorial pudding". Beer and cigarettes were issued after dinner. The mess rooms at this meal were inspected by the Colonel, who was anxious that every man had sufficient.'

In the evening there was entertainment at the Corn Exchange. There were numerous competitions, 'such as hat trimming, egg and spoon racing, etc,' and 'one was very pleased to notice that the Herefords were not unsuccessful. Hat trimming appeared to be their strong point, for they carried off several prizes, namely, the first, third and fourth. They also carried off several other prizes. After the competitions and pictures had finished, a little dancing brought a very pleasant and successful evening to a close.'

Over Christmas, tattoo was sounded at 9.30 am instead of 9 o'clock. On Sunday the Battalion had church parade. Monday was not observed as a holiday.

Different times and a different Christmas.

Peter Applewhite

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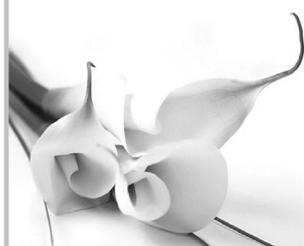
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# ST JAMES'S CHURCH



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Contact Jane: 359014

Village Christmas Cards  
Marmalade/Jam  
Jelly/Chutney  
Contact Sue: 342373

Christmas Handicrafts  
Contact Trissa: 950612

*There will be no Christmas Bazaar this year*

## Christmas Cards

Here are the second two of Tony Burton's cards, on a Christmas theme.

### A CHRISTMAS

In the UK we mark the birth of Jesus with a national holiday.

Some consider Christmas-time as the season of peace on Earth.

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, a great multitude of angels appeared to nearby shepherds, declaring:

*"Glory to God in the highest,  
And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"*  
Luke 2:14 (NKJV)

But it wasn't peace on Earth (world peace) that was being announced by the angels.

Through his life, death and resurrection, Jesus provided a way for there to be peace between God and men - for each individual person to have peace with God. (That's different from 'world peace').

In fact Jesus said He is the only way that anyone can have peace with God:

*"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."*  
John 14:6 (NKJV)

That's what the angels announced to the shepherds when Jesus was born.



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Proprietor

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### J Christmas visit

Have you thought about the visit of the wise men to Jesus?

What would make them travel perhaps more than 500 miles to visit a young boy born to very poor parents in a foreign country? They didn't know the family!

The journey must have taken weeks, or longer. They didn't even know where to go - they followed a star:-

*"...and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was."*  
Matthew 2:9 (NKJV)

They brought gifts - not like the gifts given to new parents today, but gifts with symbolic meaning about the future life and death of Jesus.

In their wisdom did they know that Jesus was in fact the Son of God and Saviour?

*"Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God."*  
1 John 4:15 (NKJV)

Was this what made them go to such lengths to find him?



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# Biddenham History Society

## Christmas in World War 2

Christmas 2020 will be very different from Christmas 2019. A year ago we were not social distancing, wearing masks in certain situations and having our lives regulated by restrictions on how many people we could see and where. Christmases from 1939 to 1945 were also very different from those that preceded them, but instead of social distancing, many Biddenham people took more people into their homes, the masks were to protect against gas attack and restrictions in the form of rationing applied to food, clothing and petrol.

Albert Church, who was a thatcher, and who wrote his recollections of his life in Biddenham, remembered that Biddenham families took in evacuees for the whole of the war period. He helped with the billeting when the evacuees first arrived. He commented 'some took them with open arms and love for them: others had to be forced to take them, and a few with larger houses, were sorting them out and looking for girls from 12 – 14 years old with a view to helping with the housework'.

Amongst the evacuees who spent Christmas in Biddenham in 1939 and then in 1940 and 1941, were 40 children from Mora Road Primary School, Cricklewood, London. They had arrived by coach on 3rd September 1939 along with their Headmaster, Mr Rattenbury, his wife and daughter. We know about their stay because Mr Rattenbury kept diaries from 1939 to 1942 and we were given permission to quote from them when we wrote our village history.

That first Christmas in Biddenham must have been very strange for the evacuated children. The younger children had attended the village school along with other evacuees and the village children. The older children went to school in the village hall, which had been commandeered by the Education Authority. At first there was hostility from the village children towards these newcomers from London, but fortunately it snowed a lot in the Christmas holidays in 1939. The children all took part in a large snowball fight between the villagers and the evacuees in the pig field in Church End. After half an hour, there was apparently no sign of a winner, but the children became friends.

This may well have made things easier for Mr Rattenbury and his fellow teachers. They were responsible for the children not just for the term time but also for the holidays. On 22nd December 1939, the schools closed for the Christmas holiday. Mr Rattenbury, helped by other adults, was still able on that day, to take 64 children to the Picturedrome in Bedford to see 'Treasure Island'. On 23rd December there was a Christmas party in the village hall. At 11.00am on Christmas Day, the children gathered in the hall to exchange cards and letters: some of them must have really missed their families at this point. Some might not have got a card or letter. There was no chance of a phone call and no way of seeing their family on screen as there would be today. The children did have a party from 3.30pm to 7.30pm in the village hall. Another party followed from 2.00pm to 6.00pm on Boxing Day and there was a dance for the 13 year olds in the evening. Mr Rattenbury and his fellow teachers organised games in the village hall for the children and visits to the cinema and pantomime. When term started again on 8th January 1940, they must have been exhausted, though many of the children might well have enjoyed the activities and the snow.

It was much harder for Mr Rattenbury to make Christmas enjoyable for the children and the teachers a year later, in December 1940. The villagers had already lost their distribution of beef on St Thomas's Day (21st December) a legacy from the will of Ursula Boteler. The outbreak of war stopped 'Bobby' Whitworth, a church warden, using the money to continue the tradition of distributing 3lbs of beef for each adult and 2lbs for each

child from his farm, Church Farm, on the morning of St Thomas's Day. These luscious joints of beef were looked back upon regretfully when the weekly meat ration became 1s 8d worth per head by 1942. On 8th January 1940 the rationing of bacon, butter and sugar had begun and this was extended to meat, milk, cheese, eggs and cooking fat by 1942. Life was tougher. On 24th December 1940, Mr Rattenbury wrote about trying to buy presents for his evacuees in Bedford. 'Well, a peculiar kind of Christmas Eve, shops poorly stocked, many lines unobtainable.' He did organise a Boxing Day party, but he wrote 'I think all the children enjoyed themselves. Got home feeling tired and needing a respite. Still, it was all worthwhile I think. Hope it will be the last Christmas at Biddenham.'

He was exhausted after being on duty every day of the week for over a year. He faced further problems as many local people had lost enthusiasm for taking in evacuees. It was enough to keep your own family going and as the children reached school leaving age (14 for those attending elementary schools), the foster parents could no longer draw an allowance for the young person's keep. The evacuees started to return home, even though there were still dangers and by May 1942 there were only 3 evacuees on the school roll at Biddenham out of the original 93.

Some Biddenham families still took in elderly people, and gave a home to friends and relatives from the danger zones for intensive bombing. At the Christmases of 1942, 1943 and 1944 residents had to do their best to create festive fare and entertainment from limited resources. They also worried about the safety of friends and family members serving overseas. The ladies busied themselves knitting for the troops, Christmas parcels were sent to the men serving in the forces and money was raised for prisoners of war. By Christmas 1942, the bombing attacks had tailed off and with them the nightly air-raid warnings as enemy aircraft flew over to targets in the industrial Midlands. By 1944, the total blackout was modified to 'dim-out' and other restrictions started to be lifted. The Vicar of Biddenham commented in December 1944 that 'the sound of the bells is cheering after so long a silence which the exigencies of war imposed on us'. Although the war against Germany ended in May 1945 and the war against Japan ended in August 1945, Christmas 1945 was not lavish. Rationing continued and many families mourned lost loved ones. It took time for life to return to normal and many could not forget their experiences and perhaps enjoy Christmas as they had done before 1939. We are not the first residents of Biddenham to have had our lives disrupted and to have experienced a very different sort of Christmas.

Kathy Fricker

### Sources:

Albert Church 'Recollections of my life in Biddenham.'  
Katherine Fricker, Mary McKeown and Diana Toyn, 'Biddenham Through the Ages.'  
Women's Institute History of Biddenham 1956.



Amelie, 2019

## From Our Biddenham Village Agent

Our Village Agent, Teresa Moon, is here to help older people in Bedford Borough villages to access the services and support they might need. Her services are free. Leave your contact details on Freephone 0800 039 1234 and she will return your call.



## Do you, or someone you know, need support following bereavement?

Bedford Daycare Hospice is providing a free counselling / bereavement support service, not just for Hospice patients, but available to all communities in Bedford and surrounding areas. Call 01234 352015 or email [linda.byer@bbc-hospice.org.uk](mailto:linda.byer@bbc-hospice.org.uk) to arrange confidential weekly sessions of up to an hour via phone or video link. Face to face support will be available once lockdown is lifted.

## Are you aware of the Herbert Protocol for people with dementia?

The Herbert Protocol encourages people with dementia to register their details with the police, along with a current photograph. Should that person get lost or go missing, the police can access that information instantly, mobilising their resources as quickly as possible to find the person and return them to safety. People can sign up to the protocol by calling Bedfordshire Police on 101 or email [dementia@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:dementia@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk)

## Are you interested in Befriending?

A new Bedford-based Befriending Service was launched in April this year by Project 41 and offers weekly contact in order to build friendship. During the Covid crisis the service is being run as a telephone service with trained volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering, or if you are lonely and would like to have someone visit you, contact Cath Cameron, Linking Lives Befriending Service, Woodside Church, Dover Crescent, Bedford, MK41 8QH or email [befriending@woodsidechurch.com](mailto:befriending@woodsidechurch.com)

## Would a helpful gadget make your life easier?

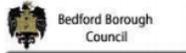
We have a range of handy gadgets to distribute to people who may be struggling to manage on their own during the Covid crisis, including a jar opener, button hook and zip puller, automatic night light, handy reacher, long-handled shoe horn; shoe remover, or seat belt helper. We can also offer washable fabric masks with adjustable ties. Our masks are made locally, in coloured floral fabrics and also black prints. They have an aluminium strip which shapes them over the nose - this does not affect the mask's washability. Just call our Freephone 0800 039 1234

## Need help with filling in forms?

If you are struggling with paperwork, such as Blue Badge, Bus Pass, Council Tax Reduction, Housing Benefit and Attendance Allowance applications, our Village Agent is happy to help you.

Contact our 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.)



# EHIC: An unhealthy future awaits travellers to Europe

Brexit threatens the loss of the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or E111 card. Without renegotiation of the EHIC, access to European medical care after the Brexit transition will be inefficient, more expensive and could cost lives. Buying travel insurance when suffering chronic health conditions or in older age can be unaffordable or even impossible and can fail to provide immediate access to local healthcare services. Many people will be denied safe travel after 31st December unless the current reciprocal EHIC agreements remain across Europe.

Other European, yet non-EU, countries such as Norway, Iceland and Switzerland are part of the scheme. So why not the UK after transition? Although it is expected that Spain will agree a continued scheme with the UK, there appears to be little action to negotiate and secure this essential service across Europe. Private travel health insurance is not a reliable substitute for the EHIC; just a valuable addition.

Many of us are intricately connected to Europe through marriages, families, work, friends and second homes. The resulting regular and often extended travel within Europe necessitates easy, instant access to local healthcare support both for UK citizens abroad and Europeans visiting us.

Delivering it without the EHIC will be wasteful, stressful and cumbersome with many insurmountable hurdles, such as rapidly obtaining reports from our overstretched GPs to enable insurers to authorise urgent private medical care. Any of us can be left traumatised or financially ruined when insurers find loopholes to avoid paying for healthcare. Without the EHIC the additional administration for national health services across Europe will be burdensome too. A lose-lose situation.

Many retired people (this may be you too!), have travelled further afield when younger and planned to explore Europe on their savings and pensions, relying on the security of the EHIC system. These long-term aspirations will be in tatters without the EHIC. How too will this affect the tourism industry and the property market for second homes? Especially now during the Covid-19 pandemic, how safe is it to book European travel from 2021 without the backup of the EHIC? The UK Government needs to act immediately to secure the EHIC – for the benefit of UK citizens, their European visitors and the travel and tourism industry.

We had submitted a petition to retain the EHIC in July, however, it has been brought to our attention that another petition to save the EHIC has already been successfully launched. This means that ours has not been approved so we have decided to get behind this other petition.

Please sign now at <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/331328>. We ask you to sign it and enlist the support of all your friends, family and other contacts. Please ask them to do the same and especially to promote it using social media such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, cascading it to as wide an audience as possible.

We have to reach 10,000 signatures!

Thank you for your support in saving the EHIC.

Carol Leverkus, Debbi Clifton and Peter Leverkus

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01234 266 366 [peacockauction.co.uk](http://peacockauction.co.uk)

# Biddenham Gardeners Association

## Designing a border from scratch

On Tuesday 17th November Lucy Hartley, an award winning Garden Designer based in Stratford-upon-Avon, joined us via Zoom to talk about the principles and pitfalls of designing a border. Lucy started her talk by advising that a border should be viewed from different angles. She went on to say that borders should combine restfulness with interest. The principles of designing a border are the same as those involved in painting a picture. Lucy illustrated this by showing as an example Van Gogh's painting of 'Starry Night'. In this painting there is a balance of visual mass or weight and drifts of colour leading the eye to a focal vertical point, surrounded by horizontals and some fuzziness. The painting has restfulness through similarity and interest through contrast. This is what makes a good composition. If the composition is right it will look good when depicted in black and white. We were shown black and white photos of well designed borders.

Lucy went on to talk about balance, contrast and uniformity when designing a border and illustrated this with four different well known gardens showing photographs of each one in a different season. Winter structure is important and can be achieved with a bench, an obelisk, a bird bath, a small deciduous tree or shrub or evergreen plants, sometimes in topiary form, or grasses. These provide the skeleton which holds the border together in the winter. The structures give a vertical axis around which perennials can be planted. Plants which follow one another in their flowering or foliage become the stars in different seasons and give prolonged interest. As one collection of plants go over others come to the fore - Gertrude Jekyll was well known for her drifts of planting which did exactly this.

Colour is important, the more vibrant colours look well at the front of the border with the more muted, pastel colours providing a background foil. It is always useful to take note of the colour spectrum when looking at colour combinations. Red is a difficult colour as it can pull the eye. Lucy showed examples where a particular colour stood out and destroyed the harmony of the border. There are many different shades of white so, in an all white border, it is important to note that not all whites mix well together. It is not always necessary to have flowers. Foliage borders can be interesting. Leaf colour is important, variegated leaves can look good and Lucy suggested that lime and glaucous greens do not go well together, choose one or the other for a more harmonious impact.

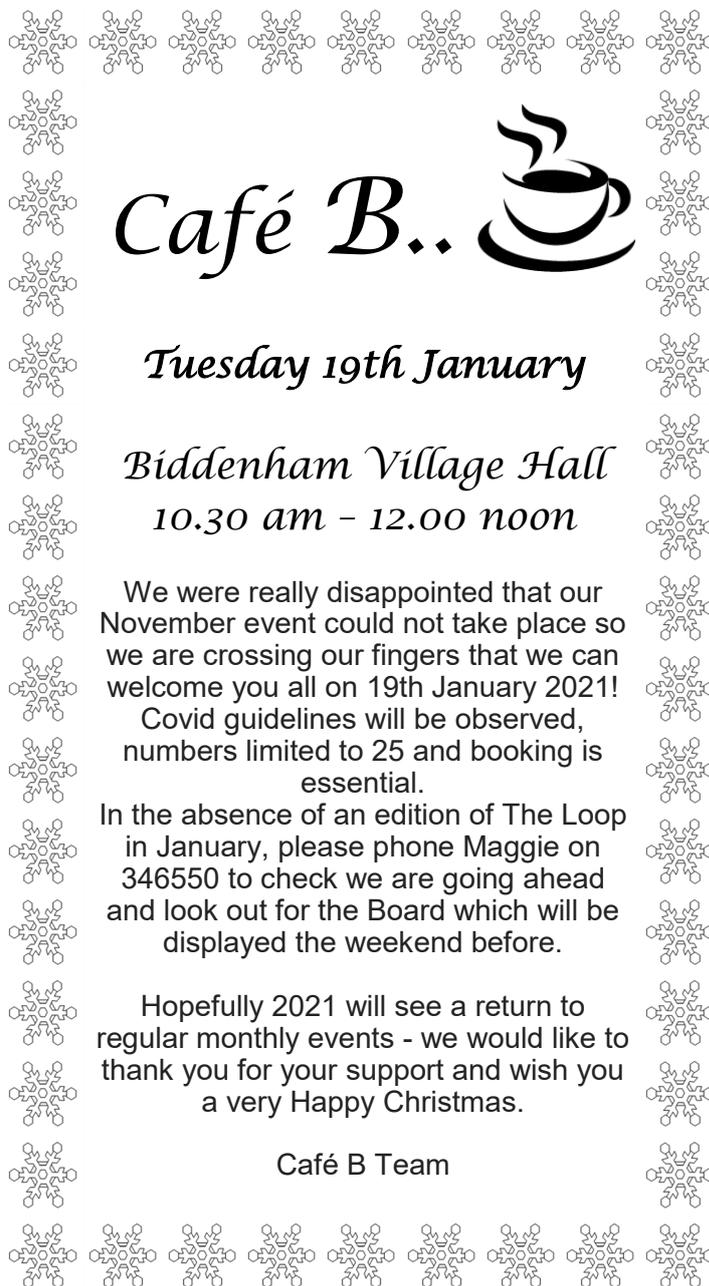
A very interesting talk and as most of us have borders in our gardens there were a lot of questions from members. Lucy suggested that, after planting, borders usually take the first three years to establish and that after five years or so one may need to thin out or rethink. Oh dear, there's always something to be done in the garden! However, enjoy your borders before they get out of control.

Please join us for our pre Christmas meeting on 15th December and on 19th January 2021 when two of the BGA members will talk about their own gardens in Biddenham. Details can be found on our website. As usual this meeting will be open to all members and visitors.

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)



Emilia, 2016

# What's On?

**11.00am Sundays and 6.00pm Wednesdays:** St James's church is continuing to hold services via Zoom so keep an eye on your email for details.

## December

- Sun 6th December** Service at All Saints, 9.30am, see p3
- Sun 13th December** Service at St James's. 9.30am, see p3
- Tue 15th December** Biddenham Gardeners Association meeting via Zoom, see p15
- Sun 20th December** service at All Saints, 9.30am, see p3
- Sun 20th December** Nine lessons and carols via Zoom, 4.00pm, see pp3 & 7
- Thu 24th December** Christingle via Zoom, 4.00pm, see p3
- Thu 24th December** Midnight Communion via Zoom, 11.30pm, see pp3 & 7
- Fri 25th December** Family service via Zoom, 10.30am, see pp3 & 7
- Sun 27th December** Service at St James's. 9.30am, see p3

## January

- Sun 3rd January** Service at All Saints, 9.30am, see p3
- Wed 13th January** Biddenham Parish Council meeting via Zoom, 7.30pm, see p10
- Sun 10th January** Service at St James's, 9.30am, see p3
- Sun 17th January** Service at All Saints, 9.30am, see p3
- Tue 19th January** Café B, Biddenham Village Hall, 10.30am-12.00noon, **BOOKING ESSENTIAL**, see p15
- Tue 19th January** Biddenham Gardeners Association meeting via Zoom, see p15
- Sun 24th January** Service at St James's, 9.30am, see p3
- Sun 31st January** Service at All Saints, 9.30am, see p3
- Sun 31st January** Loop subscriptions due, see p3

Some classes have restarted at Biddenham Village Hall, see the website <https://biddenhamvillagehall.org.uk/>

Biddenham Pavilion is open for bookings, subject to lockdown restrictions.

The Church Barn unfortunately remains closed for the foreseeable future. Due to the size of the space and the narrow entrance/exit we do not feel it would be safe to reopen. Please be assured that we are keeping the situation under review and will notify you of any changes.

Jacqui Piper



Ruby, 2017

# 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)



## The Friends of St James

*- the charity which helps conserve the church, churchyard and barn for future generations*

Membership  
Treasurer

Peter Leverkus  
Paul Fricker

Tel: 353662  
Tel: 342843

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

## The Loop

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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](mailto:cj.sugars@talktalk.net)) by

**Wednesday 20th 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.*