

The Loop

July/
August
2021

Peter Culverwell

As promised, we have a feature 'Memories of Peter Culverwell' inside, starting on page 7. In the meantime, here's a quiz from Peter Applewhite:



Peter Culverwell and William (Bill) Fowler worked together over the years as the village's unofficial handymen. On at least one occasion they left their mark. You may have passed by it many times. But where is it? You could seek it out, or simply see page 2 for the answer!



Children's adventures

These lucky children of St Joseph's and St Gregory's Primary School have had an exciting time in June.

Year Two had a Rainforest Experience at school whilst Year One went to the Swiss Garden.

More details on page 13.



'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

Rewilding

Residents of Biddenham are quietly rewilding areas near their homes and some beautiful flowers are appearing.

This very rare arable plant, Pheasant's Eye, grew by the church gate.



Thanks to Val Fitzhugh for this picture. You can find two more inside.

Pond dip coming soon

Pond dipping has been much delayed by Covid-19 but a new date of Sunday 5th September has now been set.

Details and more news of the pond on page 17.

Peter's Picturehouse reopening delayed

The July showing has been cancelled but it is hoped to go ahead in August. See page 15 for details.

Letter from the Vicar

Dear All

Going through Bedford town centre today I counted nine beggars. It was scorching heat and I have absolutely no knowledge of whether these people are begging out of necessity or whether they are pushed into it by others. I have no idea whether they are driven by genuine need or by drugs or by alcohol but to me that is barely relevant. I have no right to judge. I just know that until the Church Commissioners stop paying me, I have no need to beg or sleep on the streets.



Happily, the majority of people who live in the ecclesiastical parish of Biddenham do not have to gain their food through begging. It is probably good to be aware, however, that this is not the case for everybody and in our streets there is genuine need. Perhaps it is good not to make assumptions. With plenty, we may be drawn into the temptation of developing a sense of worthiness. This is a dangerous sensibility for church communities and it is perhaps good to be aware of what the Bible says about need.

Matthew's Gospel, echoing the giving of the commandments by Moses on Mount Sinai (Exodus 20), places Jesus on a mountain and records him delivering his own version of the Jewish law. He begins with what is described as the beatitudes. Beatitude simply means 'supreme blessedness'. Unlike Moses, Jesus does not give us a list of ethical behaviours but rather like Aristotle, who talks about the virtues we possess, Jesus talks about the qualities that make us blessed by God. He begins by saying 'Blessed are the poor in Spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of God'. They are very good words and they fit quite well into an Anglican church because they are a little vague and they

don't offend middle class people by talking about genuinely poor people.

I started going to Church when I was about fourteen. This is unusual because in the modern world that is about the time when people stop going to Church. I didn't even go to a very lively church. I think two things made me go. One was a girl I quite liked and the other was a very old-fashioned Anglican vicar who actually talked to me about faith as if it really meant something. Twenty years later I had the privilege of conducting this man's funeral. This man, who was called Arthur Hesketh, preferred a much older version of the Bible and when he read Matthew 5, verse 1, he read a very different translation; 'Blessed be those who know their need of God'.

This seems so different from the modern version but actually the two translations are not that far apart. The New Testament was written in Greek and the word that is used for 'poor' actually means something like beggar. It really is about those who know that without God they have nothing at all. It is about coming to God with open hearts and hands like the hands of a beggar.

There is another passage in Luke's Gospel that explains this really well. It talks about two people praying in the Temple. One, a religious man, prays; 'I am so glad I am not like that sinner over there', while the other prays, 'Lord have mercy on me a sinner'. One believes he has the right to everything, while the other recognises his need for God. (Luke 10). Comparing the two, Jesus said, 'I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled and those who humble themselves will be exalted.'

This last year has been such a struggle for us as a church and as a community. In so many ways, the pandemic has undermined our self-confidence, our sense of being worthy and also, dare I say, our arrogance before God. Maybe we should treat this as a reminder of the fact that we have nothing without him. It is a time to come back to God as beggars, seeking his love and mercy. We will only be truly blessed when we truly know our need of God.

God bless.

Eric



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Treasurer	Michael Hurford	Tel 271746
Organist/Choirmaster	Graham Weeks www.stjamesbiddenham.com	Tel 07552 052840

Services at St James's

Services will continue to be held fortnightly at St James's church. Zoom services will continue on Sunday, Monday and Wednesday. Dates and details are on the back page.

Please note that, unless it is raining, the physical services will be outside in the churchyard. Chairs are provided but you can bring your own if you prefer.

PC + WF

Found it? It's at the foot of the gate post to your left as you pass through the church gate heading to the porch.

The gates erected in 1926 were replaced in 1955 and they in turn were replaced in 1990. Peter's and Bill's initials were inscribed on a subsequent repair in 2003. Peter pointed them out one day some years ago after we had ascended the church tower to raise the flag; and it was a poignant moment as he passed by them for the last time on Thursday morning 10th June.

But there they are and there hopefully they will be preserved as a mini memorial to all the pair's love and care for the village, maintaining and enhancing it for the benefit and enjoyment of us all.

PA

The 30th St Philip & St James Golf Society Charity Golf Day

On behalf of the society, I would like to sincerely thank all those who supported (by sponsoring, donating or playing) our Charity Golf Day held on Friday 4th June 2021 at Pavenham Park Golf Club.

We were overwhelmed by the generosity of all involved. As a result, we were able contribute the sum of £18,165 which was equally shared between our two selected charities Living it Up and CHUMS. An additional contribution of £2,500 was made to Bedford Foodbank at the request of one of our key sponsors, so the total raised on the day was £20,665.

Sincere thanks.

Mike Chappell.



The Leprosy Mission

A big thank you to all those with Leprosy Mission collecting boxes who contributed to the grand total of £477.45 raised this year.

Anyone who would like to have a collecting box in their home for their unwanted coins to be emptied in May each year or to make a donation please contact me on 01234 346550.

John Gardner

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 and she can visit you at home. Just call Freephone 0800 039 1234.



Are you caring for someone?

- If you are helping someone with their personal care, such as bathing, dressing or night-time support, you may be eligible for a non-means tested weekly allowance called Attendance Allowance, paid by the DWP. I can help you to apply.
- You may also be able to claim an NHS Carer's Grant to help you deal with stress or health issues.
- Carers in Bedfordshire** offers support and runs a range of courses and activities for carers. Sign up for their free quarterly magazine and learn more about their services via www.carersinbeds.org.uk or tel 0300 111 1919.

Are you supporting someone with dementia?

- Bedford has an excellent charity – **Tibbs Dementia Foundation** – which offers a wide range of support for people with dementia and their family carers. You can attend both separately and together for cognitive, physical, emotional support and overall wellbeing. Sign up for their weekly email newsletter via contact@tibbsdementia.co.uk or tel 01234 210993 (10am-1pm).
- Bedfordshire Dementia Intensive Support Service (DISS)** The NHS runs a dementia intensive support service (DISS) to provide specialist support to those living with dementia and their carers. It operates 9am-8pm 24/7 year-round and provides urgent response. Contact 07880 078843 or eift.diss@nhs.net
- Blue Badges.** Did you know that people with dementia may be eligible for a Disabled Parking Badge? I can help you to apply.

Need home adaptations but can't afford to pay?

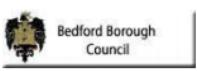
Disabled Facilities Grants may be available if you need essential adaptations such as showers, ramps, stair lifts or wider doorways. These grants are means tested.

Would a helpful gadget make your life easier?

We have a range of handy gadgets to distribute free of charge to people who may be struggling to manage, including a jar opener; button hook and zip puller; automatic night light; 'Good Grips' potato peeler; half step; handy reacher; extra-long shoe horn or seat belt helper. Just call and ask for the item you would like.

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.)



Nick Sleap
Proprietor

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A Late Spring

It rained
Then it rained
Then it rained some more
A rabbit in her burrow
Opened one eye
It was still dark
She opened one ear
It was raining
She closed both and slept

The sun peeped out
Just for a few minutes
Just testing the water

The Brits
Threw off all their clothes
They dressed in shorts and halter tops
Goose pimples made walking uncomfortable
The ends of their noses were blue
As were the tips of their ears
The temperature was 11 degrees

But it was summer
They had seen the sun
Or somebody had seen the sun
Or thought they had

The sun stayed out
The buds burst; the flowers bloomed
Luscious fertility of late spring
Lunch time for the bees and butterflies
Late summer honey to come
For me

Edwin Martin

Biddenham Under 5s

Silence continues to echo through the walls of the village hall on Thursday mornings; no baby squeals of laughter, no toddler talk, no mums, dads, carers and grandparents chatting, no coffee brewing, no juice being spilled or biscuits crushed. However we must keep our fingers crossed for an eventual return in September.

This group provides, as it has done for many years, a wonderful opportunity to meet and share and play together. There is no doubt that our current 'lockdown' babies and toddlers have missed out on social interaction.

While we are confident that numbers will return to the village hall when we get the green light we do need some committed help in any way to enable our Thursday mornings, 9.30am to 11.30am, to run successfully.

Please consider a role that you could play and get in touch with us for more information:

Email: biddenhamunder5@gmail.com.

As we write there is still much uncertainty with regard to a roadmap back to normality but meanwhile it would be useful to put some preparation in place and not lose sight of this small yet special community that is Biddenham Under 5s.

Biddenham Under 5s Team



Biddenham Cricket Club

In 2016 a calculation was made of the number of volunteer hours spent over the whole year to enable the club to maintain the ground and run all its teams. The figure was well in excess of 2,000 hours in total spread across around 15 individuals who at that time 'made things happen'. Around half of the total hours were contributed by 4 or 5 people; a situation I expect is mirrored in many organisations reliant on volunteers.

Five years on the total hours required to run the club are perhaps about the same, but we do have more individuals involved, particularly in the junior section of the club where we now run 6 teams, compared to the 4 teams in 2016. The club has more coaches and helpers in the junior section which is very encouraging. The constant has been the 4 or 5 people contributing around half the hours across the year. Work on maintaining the ground and pitches remains the cornerstone of the club. The wonderful condition of the pavilion field throughout June is evidence for all to see of the hard work that David Watson has again put in this year, and also in the many years that we have been fortunate as a club and a village that he has fulfilled that responsibility.

Sadly for us, that responsibility will come to an end in the autumn and the cricket club faces perhaps its greatest challenge in recent years to adequately replace David's expertise and the time he has so generously given for the benefit of so many.

In terms of cricket played so far in 2021 all the junior teams have thrived and have also won some matches. We have tried to deal with the specific restrictions advised in Bedford because of the Delta Covid variant, but fortunately only a couple of matches have not been played because of this.

The adult Sunday team has continued to struggle to put out a full team with most players not being in a position to commit to playing on a regular basis for a variety of

reasons. We continue to hope that availability will improve, but we have to accept that playing cricket is not top of the list of priorities for many at the moment.

We now know that we will have to continue to comply with Covid restrictions until at least 19th July, and very probably thereafter to some extent. The Pavilion facilities are not currently available to us apart from the toilets. The club continues to be grateful for the co-operation and organisation at the pavilion by Deborah Slade and the 'cleaning team' to support our ability to run training sessions and play matches.

Richard Fone

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

The 100 club, that has been relaunched this year, provides the club with useful income and also raises its profile within the village amongst the residents for an annual fee of £12. If you would like to join the cricket club as a member, you will also gain automatic entry into the 100 club draw, which is held each month.

Contact numbers:

Chairman	Glenn Taylor	07778 479479
Junior Chairman	Chris Spurgeon	07707 771606
Cricket Secretary	Richard Fone	07818 678697
Club Welfare Officer	Joe Derilo	07468 431304
100 Club	James Gardner	07928 478563

100 CLUB

The May draw for the 100 Club was held at The Three Tuns on the evening of Sunday 6th June.

The draw was made by members of the cricket team present - Glenn Taylor, Will Lowerson and Mark Edmunds.

The winners were:

Fatima Ayyub - 1st Prize - £50
David Watson - 2nd Prize - £25
Iqbal Ruksana - 3rd Prize - £12.50

BIDDENHAM CRICKET CLUB - HOME FIXTURES - JULY AND AUG

04-Jul-21	Sunday	Under 9	v Elstow	10:00
06-Jul-21	Tuesday	Under 13 County	v Blunham	18:00
08-Jul-21	Thursday	Under 15	v Flitwick	18:00
11-Jul-21	Sunday	Under 11 Development	v Kempston Hammers	09:30
11-Jul-21	Sunday	Sunday League XI	v Great Brickhill	13:00
13-Jul-21	Tuesday	Under 13 Development	v Biggleswade Town	18:00
18-Jul-21	Sunday	Under 11 County	v Elstow	09:30
18-Jul-21	Sunday	Sunday League XI	v Biggleswade	13:00
22-Jul-21	Thursday	Under 15	v Eversholt	18:00
25-Jul-21	Sunday	Under 11 Development	v Harrold	09:30
25-Jul-21	Sunday	Under 9	v Olney Town (A)	09:30
25-Jul-21	Sunday	Sunday League XI	v Luton Town & Indians	13:00
27-Jul-21	Tuesday	Under 13 Development	v Ickwell	18:00
01-Aug-21	Sunday	Under 9	v Olney Town (B)	10:00
01-Aug-21	Sunday	Sunday League XI	v Cople	13:00
08-Aug-21	Sunday	Under 11 County	v Flitwick	10:00
08-Aug-21	Sunday	Friendly Team	v Shenley Church End	13.30
22-Aug-21	Sunday	Sunday League XI	v Ickwell	13:00

Biddenham Parish Council

The most recent Parish Council Meeting was held on Tuesday 15th June 2021 at the Pavilion with social distancing and safety measures in place; a review of our risk assessment had concluded once seated we could remove our face masks, so at least we could be heard.



Present at the meeting were Parish Councillors Graham Bates, Stewart Briggs, Peter Chase, Harry Fowler, Chris Gee, Krys Osuch and Francia Slade. Apologies were received from Alan Jacobs, Joe Warren and our two Borough Councillors Jon Gambold and Roger Rigby. The Clerk David Brough and one member of the public were also present.

Parish Council Meeting

The public open session provided an opportunity for a further update on the results from the speed indication device fitted on Bromham Road. Sadly, although the Unit seems to have had some ameliorating effect, excessive speeds continue to be recorded. There is now a wealth of data gathered which needs to be shared with the Highway Authority (Bedford Borough Council) and the Police so that we can encourage them to consider either more enforcement or more permanent physical measures to manage the problem which the evidence shows occurs more frequently during the quieter periods when traffic flows are less.

The Parish Council has also submitted a proposal to the Highway Authority for some traffic safety features on Gold Lane. These are independent of any future highway works planned for the new development. Needless to say, the underlying issue will be one of funding once the technical details have been agreed. To progress agreement for a scheme Parish Councillors will be meeting with a Highway's representative, hopefully in the near future. There was also a discussion regarding the reported concerns of issues being caused by the local bus stopping to let passengers alight in Main Road as it travels towards Gold Lane and causing damage to the verge as it drives off. A number of planning applications had been received during the month and the Parish Council sub-committees had looked at them and determined there were no major concerns that would cause the Parish to raise an objection with the Planning Authority. It is worth noting objections can only be for valid planning reasons. One item that might be of interest more widely was the reserved matters application for the development on Bromham Road

Don't forget the Foodbank

IN THESE DIFFICULT TIMES THE NEED IS URGENT

You can find the latest list of items needed by Bedford food bank and details of how to make a financial donation at <https://bedford.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

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covering what was the old Ouse Valley Golf course. This had received outline planning permission and the reserved matters applications filled in the details of the layout, house types and access routes to service the 296 dwellings that would be provided. If you are interested in seeing the plans, they can be viewed on the Borough Council planning portal; search for application 21/01362/MAR.

Finally, the Parish Council considered some matters relating to the Pavilion. Quotes had been received for upgrading the heating at the Pavilion and subject to some clarifications from the companies who quoted it is hoped to appoint a contractor and have the new system up and running before the cold weather arrives. There is also a desire to improve the booking system for the site so that potential hirers can more easily check availability and make a booking. One proposal had been received and some further ones will be sourced so hopefully we should have a more user-friendly website operational by the autumn.

Date of the next meeting

Our next meeting is Tuesday 20th July at 7.30pm at the Pavilion in Deep Spinney. Do please come along if you have anything you'd like to bring to our attention.

Stewart Briggs
Chairman

Walk for Dave

158 mile walk in aid of life saving bowel cancer treatment

Tom Baker is walking 158 miles from London to Nottingham to raise money for a close friend, Dave Baxter who was diagnosed with bowel cancer in September 2020 and has already had major surgery. Dave used to live in Biddenham.

Tom is aiming to raise £17,400 for further blood tests and a potential course of immunotherapy, neither of which are covered by the NHS due to Dave's age and cancer type. If treatment is not needed then the money will be donated to Bowel Cancer UK's Never Too Young project group, which aims to raise awareness of bowel cancer in people under 50.

To find out more about Tom's walk, Dave's progress and to donate please visit <http://bit.ly/158milesforDave>. Keep up to date on Tom's walk with the hashtag #158milesforDave .



Dave with wife Vicky and children Brooke (aged 5) and Riley Baxter (aged 12 months) at Christmas 2020



Tom wearing a 10kg rucksack for a training walk

Memories of Peter Culverwell

Thanks to everyone who has contributed their memories and pictures.



Peter and Bill Fowler up ladders, cleaning the old village sign.

They were apt to set off on their bikes to carry out tasks around the village that they thought were needed. This also included painting the wooden bus stop and the unique footpath sign at the north end of Day's Lane, something that sadly gets ignored now.

Chris Haydn Jones



Peter and Glenys Culverwell in 2013

For many years a small group of local residents maintained a keen interest in the upkeep of the ancient parish footpaths. P3 stood for Parish Paths Partnership and Peter was an ardent member of our group, avidly attending meetings and working groups and always referring to footpaths by their specific numbers.

He wanted everything to be neat and tidy and, initially, couldn't tolerate the ivy on the church wall or any unkempt vegetation; that is until his curiosity and concern for conservation got the better of him. We'd often chat by the church gate, which he had donated in memory of his dear wife, Glenys. He wanted to know what was growing along Footpaths 11 and 9, the re-wilding strips along the lane or in the churchyard.

The flowers for his funeral, in the porch and church, contained ivy (good for insects and birds), cow parsley (a reminder of the abundance of blooms along the edges of the paths he frequented), white valerian (growing on top of the church wall, which he used to clear), and some sprigs of the wayfaring tree as a reminder of daily walks.

Sadly, very few of us remain in the Conservation Group that resulted from the demise of the P3 Group; just Chris Haydn Jones (who was the chairperson), Jane George and myself.

Jane remembers how, when we held annual Flower Festivals in the church, Peter's bike would be borrowed and the basket filled with flowers. Peter also went with Jane to Bedford Borough Council planning meetings because he was concerned about building developments encroaching on fields near Red Gates, Footpath 5, opposite Day's Lane.

Our group went on 'litter picking missions' and, of course, Peter joined us in his quest to keep Biddenham tidy. Chris was also involved in the Tree Warden Scheme and we were ably assisted by Peter when we planted lots of trees down by the river. He took a great interest in so many things and was never afraid to ask the awkward questions or put the effort in to making things better.

As you walk around the footpaths, please think of Peter Culverwell who helped to keep them open and conserved for your enjoyment.

Val Fitzhugh



It was a joy to see Peter's son Nigel riding Peter's bike behind the hearse in the funeral procession.

The bike has a long history. When the blacksmith in Vicar's Close was closing down his business he had two or three of these bikes left and Peter got one which he rode until a couple of

years ago.

The bike has now been inherited by Manfred Sanger so it can still be seen around the village.



Peter was a regular at the First Friday Lunch. The first course is soup, always two choices, and frequently I served the soups. But Peter always wanted to taste both, so he had 'half and half' in his soup bowl. One soup in one half, the other in the other half. This looked really odd but he was happy. We used to say 'There's always one'.....

Rosemary Harris

We came to the village in December 1963, and it was a few years later that I had the pleasure of getting to know Peter, with his charming smile and positive personality.

Peter and I discovered mutual interest in engineering – civil and precision manufacturing respectively – and in rugby union, leading to going together to events at Bedford Blues and internationals at Twickenham. He recounted that just before being interviewed for his degree course at Bristol University he was advised by other former naval officers that ‘civil was easier than aeronautical’; he plumped for civil, and went on to build a very successful career in civil engineering with Kier, notably in the West Indies.

After he retired, he was a familiar figure cycling through the village loaded with gardening tools; with Bill Fowler he kept the village tidy and planted hundreds of daffodil bulbs etc.

Peter was very modest, as became clear to Tom Benson and me as we sought his permission to put him forward for a royal award for his services to our community. Eventually, he gave in gracefully.

Pat McKeown



Peter in his WW2 Royal Navy uniform as featured in Jon's book

Apart from Peter being a regular attendee of the Friday lunches from the very beginning, my main contact with him would have been relating to the 100 Club. I believe he subscribed from the very start in the early nineties and in recent years with 16 units he had the record for the most entries in the draw. He won prizes with increasing regularity and often purchased additional units with the prize money.

Judith O'Quinn

Peter was exceptionally well skilled in the art of involving people in village life and activities without them realising what was happening, as we found out after our arrival in Biddenham!

He was a great friend of the village pond, working with energy and enthusiasm at the memorable big clean-up of

2002, and absolutely the right choice to unveil the new information board in 2013 and to cut the pond’s 30th anniversary cake in 2016.

But wait! A fleeting glimpse. Was that Peter, once more on his trusty bicycle, turning the corner for home, job done for the village he has cherished for so many years? Farewell kind soul, and thank you.

Patricia and Peter Applewhite



The new village sign was unveiled by Peter (2nd right next to Tony Wood) and Daisy Smith (second left) in pouring rain on 6th November 2015. The artists are in the foreground.

Courtesy Richard Moxon.

Peter was a long-standing member of the Biddenham Society committee during the seventeen years’ chairmanship of my predecessor Doug Kitchen. When Doug stepped down in 2007 Peter did too, ending a remarkable partnership. His interest, however, did not end there, for he maintained a close watch on local planning applications, and regularly telephoned me to determine the society’s view. He would then submit his own personal response in support.

Many years ago, the society placed a seat at King’s Corner to record a significant anniversary. The seat is now to be replaced, and we are pleased to be able to recognise Peter’s unique contribution on the new commemorative plaque.

*Tony Wood
Chairman,*

The Biddenham Society

We shall always remember Peter as a very charming facilitator. When Mary, Diana and I finished ‘Biddenham Through the Ages’, he immediately said that we should continue to meet to discuss and record the history of the village. We started the Biddenham History Society and Peter regularly attended the talks that we held in the Church Barn. We will particularly think of him every Spring as we admire the beautiful Spring bulbs that he helped to plant in the centre of the village. He will be much missed.

Kathy and Paul Fricker

When Peter and Bill Fowler were banned by their wives from clambering through the bells to raise and lower flags on the church tower, I asked the Parish Council to buy a flag pole that could be installed at the war memorial. That was about 15 years ago, it’s still there flying the flag. Neither Peter nor Bill were dismayed by this usurpation and Peter became my flag adviser, telling me which flag to raise when.

Peter was a walking encyclopedia of Tree Protection Orders, dodgy drains, ivy encrusted walls and wonky lights: he was an invaluable ‘unofficial’ member of the Parish Council. Indeed Public Questions was more often than not Peter’s list of jobs that needed doing.

Jon Gambold

Peter was awarded the British Empire Medal (B.E.M.) in the New Year's Honours List 2013, the second Day's Lane resident (after Joy Bean) to receive this honour. The award is for services to the community in Biddenham'. Rosemary Harris interviewed Peter in February 2013 for her Biddenham Biographies series and we are delighted to reprint a slightly edited version here.

If you know Peter you may be surprised that he was 88 in January – he certainly doesn't look it! He was born in County Durham in 1925 and lived in Marseille, France until he was 5½ when the family moved to Watford where they lived until 1939; he was then 'evacuated' and went to stay with his grandfather in Wellington, Somerset. Educated at Watford Grammar School and then at Wellington County School, Peter left school at 17½ and took an engineering course at Wolverhampton prior to joining the Fleet Air Arm where he trained and served as a Sub-Lieutenant Air Engineer, serving on two aircraft carriers in the Mediterranean. Demobbed after the end of the war, Peter went to Bristol University and studied Civil Engineering. While at Bristol he met Glenys who was studying Physiotherapy, and they married in 1951. On graduating Peter worked for J. L. Kier & Co. Ltd. for a couple of years. During this period Peter was sent to Canvey Island building jetties and experienced the worst of the 1953 floods, working to repair the area's vital sea walls. He then worked for two companies in Bristol.

In 1957 Peter rejoined Kier, and in 1963 he went to live and work in Kingston, Jamaica as the resident Director of the subsidiary of Kier, with Glenys, their four children, and his mother-in-law! They spent an interesting three years in Jamaica, which at that time was newly independent. The company executed a number of major contracts including building the new harbour for Kingston. In 1966 the Commonwealth Games were held in Kingston and Glenys volunteered as a physiotherapist (a very early 'Games Maker'!) The family considered moving to New Zealand but decided to return to the U.K. By now the Kier head office had moved to Tempsford, near Sandy. Peter took advice from the British Consul in Jamaica who recommended Bedford for its schooling. In 1967 the family arrived in Bedford and soon afterwards bought their house in Day's Lane where they have lived ever since. The children attended Bedford School and Bedford High School and Peter worked with Kier until he retired in 1986.

When Richard and I moved to Biddenham in 1992, one of the first people we encountered was Peter, as he cycled around the village on his trusty bicycle (with basket) and straightaway started to encourage us to join in the village activities. It was in the mid-1970's that Peter became involved in earnest with the community in Biddenham. It all started with the Biddenham Show which at that time was held in Darlow Drive. Joining the Show Committee, Peter first encountered Bill Fowler and the two of them became a formidable team. Apart from the Biddenham Society, on whose committee Peter served for approximately 32 years, almost all of his work for the village, on the maintenance side, was carried out with Bill.

When it was suggested a couple of years ago, initially by Pat McKeown, that Peter might be a suitable candidate for an award, Peter (with his characteristic thoroughness) had previously produced a list of all the things he has done in the village. It's a long list! He has been involved for long periods of time in 14 separate organisations and activities, including the Biddenham Society; the Biddenham Show; the Village Hall Management Committee; the Parish Paths Partnership; the Millennium Committee; and the Church Maintenance Sub-Committee. He helped to set up the Biddenham Gardeners Association. For ten years he organized shipments of books to Ghana with Jonathan Bean, via Book Aid. He collected newspapers from elderly residents to be recycled for the Village Hall. He rang the Church bells. He worked to establish the legal status of Day's Lane and set up a committee to be responsible for its maintenance. For 24 years he transported friends to and

from all the local airports ('local' comprising Luton, Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted and Birmingham).

The longest list of activities is on the maintenance side. For years, Peter and Bill worked hard to keep the village well maintained. They were a real team: Peter had the ideas, Bill was the master craftsman and Peter the labourer. Apparently they possessed complementary tools; one of them always found he had the correct spanner! Others helped, but the core team was always Peter and Bill, and they enjoyed themselves over the years. They had innumerable cups of coffee and often went to the pub before opening time when the work was finished.

The list of Peter and Bill's practical tasks is enormous.

Many were 'behind the scenes' and most of us have no idea just how much they did. On Peter's list there are 22 separate jobs undertaken for the Village Hall – painting, decorating, work on the masonry, gutters and garden. When Peter 'retired' in 2002 the Village Hall Committee presented him with a special mounted and framed paintbrush. There is a similar list of work in the Church and Churchyard (27 tasks, several undertaken annually).

When the flag needed erecting on the tower flagpole, it was always Peter who climbed up to the top of the tower to put it up and take it down. And in the village generally, Peter and Bill obtained and planted daffodils (using money from the Biddenham Show) over a period of ten years, planted crocuses, maintained the village sign, the War Memorial, the seats and the bus shelter, and erected and removed the Christmas tree.

Sadly Bill became ill, and died in 2006. Since then Peter has taken something of a 'retirement'. He still keeps busy (mostly in the car now, rather than on the bicycle). He still rings the Church bells, collects newspapers for recycling, walks the footpaths, and helps friends and neighbours. He attends Parish Council meetings as a resident, as he always has, and continues to take a keen interest in everything that's going on. He spends many hours working with Glenys in their large and well-maintained garden; his chief responsibility is the vegetable plot at the back. Peter and Glenys have experienced happy and sad events in their family, but they are fortunate in that they still enjoy good health, celebrated their Diamond Wedding anniversary last year and thoroughly enjoy their six grandchildren, five boys and a girl.

Peter was nominated for an award by Pat McKeown and other individuals and representatives of village organisations. He is clearly proud and grateful to receive the B.E.M., although there's a tinge of embarrassment there too. There is also one major sadness, that Bill Fowler is no longer around. Peter says that what he has done for Biddenham was in partnership with Bill – he wouldn't have done it on his own. Many congratulations on a thoroughly deserved award.

Rosemary Harris

In March 2020 Peter, as usual, was helping us by cutting stamps off the Captain Tom 100th birthday letters for charity.

Chris Haydn Jones



Peter Norman Culverwell

Eulogy given by his son, Nigel Culverwell

What can I say about Peter Norman Culverwell? Or as a neighbour once said to me, 'You know we call him Mr Biddenham?'.

What I can say is I didn't really know Mr Biddenham! Not while I was at home anyway. Back then he had little to do with the village and I had never even seen him ride a bike!

You know there are times when you see your parents in a different situation and so in a different light? Well a visit home, maybe around 1977, coincided with the Biddenham Show. Reluctantly I agreed to go and there he was white shirt and tie, as ever, sleeves rolled up to the elbows coordinating, liaising, joking and helping everyone. He seemed central to it all! So different to the father I thought I knew, who did little outside of work apart from in the garden & said little at home!

But there were hints to this side of him. His life after leaving school seemed to be a succession of courses and a fair bit of sports, rugby and boxing, all very gratefully funded by the government. There are old photos of him as a young man dressed in crazy costumes parading the streets of Bristol collecting £ for charity during rag week which he had been central in organising. An old newspaper cutting described the work that he and his friend Morley did at their hall of residence. 'Perpetually penniless, constantly cheerful & highly reliable they throw themselves heart and soul into any project they tackle.'

Do we recognise that?

Those projects included 3 years of producing and acting in the hall's variety show. Despite all this they passed their courses and on leaving in 1951, 12 of them set up a club. The members' chief duty, as described in the minutes, was 'to attend a dinner every 5 years where large amounts of intoxicating liquor shall be consumed'. And these dinners did happen, every 5 years.

Apparently after 20 years they agreed to invite their wives; the minutes describe this as 'a mistake; the meals cost twice as much and the conversation is more subdued'!!

We had our own memories of this side of him, especially when we lived in Jamaica driving round in an old Rover 90 exploring the island, its beaches and visits to Morgan's harbour, yes the one in the Bond film Dr No!

One time there we had urged him to throw us into the sea from a short parapet. In no time there was a long queue of kids waiting for him to do the same to them, then getting out to join in the back of the queue!

There he was, willing to oblige them all!

Back in England, here in Biddenham, there was a period he would later describe as finding awkward. The 60s had happened, teenagers had been invented and he found himself in a house full of them! After work then dinner, he would escape to the living room with his Daily Telegraph & classical music. Maybe many parents recognise that need to escape!

His answer was to go into his strict Victorian father thing; especially around manners, meals, bedtimes and TV! So, if he was late back from work, we would grab a chance to watch programmes like Monty Python, half an ear out for the sound of tyres on gravel which meant racing back to bed, crossing the kitchen on all fours so we couldn't be seen from the window. A visiting friend could hardly crawl



for laughing.

We were allowed to watch certain programmes & strangely these seemed to coincide with the very ones he liked. Rugby & the six nations or five as it was then and a certain Christmas show by the two comedians Morecombe and Wise was one of his favourites and this became the ONE show we could watch at Christmas.

He was a traditionalist, to the core, in his dress, never 'unkempt' (a favourite word), in his politeness, in his sticking to rules and routines. He was a man who stood up whenever the National Anthem was played even if just on TV. A man who could recognise, and always point out to organisers, if their Union Jack, or is it flag, (he'd know) was upside down!

And as you can imagine, when these principles met with our more carefree, hedonistic approach to life there were some clashes - big clashes!

But as we grew older and the grandchildren grew up into adults themselves he grew too. Showing a strength of character when he admitted if he had his time again he would do things differently, be less strict. But as he said 'You only get one go at it'!

Free from work and parenting he had a very content life! Spending more time and bonding more closely with mum, they developed the garden together, digging that large vegetable plot with never a backache. His routine would be one row with his right side and the next with his left. Indeed he was an early conservationist, recycling all the leaves, grass cuttings and food waste to his compost heap, which he would then dig into the veg plot. He even used only rainwater to flush the outside loo!

He spent more time with his grandchildren, creating special memories with annual trips to the Gower and developing close relationships with them as they grew into adults, which they see as special.

And becoming 'Mr Biddenham'! Throwing himself 'heart and soul' into village life and organising fundraising for Navrongo, a village in Ghana, where they now have a 'Biddenham Library', from all the books sent over. I know he was so pleased when he got the Council to recognise the apostrophe for Day's Lane and he treasured the times he spent with Bill Fowler doing numerous jobs for the village.

When we thought he might struggle after the death of mum five years ago he showed his strength yet again, just carrying on with an approach to life he had always had; to remain active and fully engaged. One of his last letters was from the Daily Telegraph, responding to his comments on a grammatical error. And approaching everyone and everything with humour and a smile.

So we must celebrate his LIFE, one that could be an example for us all

He summed it up with 'I've been very lucky' and when the end came he was ready for it, very ready. How would I sum him up? He was a gentleman, wasn't he?

A proper gent!

Life lessons from a life well lived

Presented by Nathan, on behalf of Peter's grandchildren

After 96 years on this planet, you learn a thing or two about the world.

Being the grandchildren of Peter we were all fortunate enough to soak up a great deal of his wisdom, guidance, and advice.

If we were to list everything we have learned from our Grandy, we would probably all still be sitting here

tomorrow morning. So instead we've chosen 10, from a man who had the sharpest mind and the warmest heart. Who defied science, faced every day with a smile, and never let anything faze him.

- **Dress for guests, whether you're expecting them or not.** Sun, rain or snow, there was never a time we didn't see our Grandy wearing a neatly ironed shirt and smart pair of trousers. He was a Gentlemen in every sense of the word. From his daily shaves with his ancient badger brush right down to the checked slippers he wore almost religiously.
- **Read more books.** Grandy was reading constantly. Like a trusty companion, a book was never far out of reach, normally lying beside his favourite armchair. His mind was an ever-expanding sponge that he would somehow fill with new knowledge every single day. For this reason, he always had the most captivating stories to tell.
- **To be interesting you have to be interested.** Our Grandy was the grandmaster of listening. He always knew how to ask, and more importantly, how to answer questions. His genuine and honest curiosity for the world we live in most recently led us to discuss topics as broad as the physics of volcanoes and the technical engineering behind Formula 1 cars. But Grandy's favourite subject of all was other people.
- **Nothing is more valuable in life than family - keep them close and together.** He always told us to look after each other and to be generous with our time. We'll fondly remember watching Grandy light up after filling him in with our various life milestones over the years. From new partners to new adventures, they would, without exception, put a permanent smile across his face.
- **Always try to be of service to others.** Whether that was helping to install the village sign, driving friends to and from the airport in the early hours, or waiting around at Bedford train station for half an hour after we got on the wrong train. Our Grandy always saw the best in people and there wasn't much he wouldn't do for someone lucky enough to be an acquaintance.
- **A healthy body means a healthy mind.** It would appear that a walk a day keeps the doctor away - at least until the age of 96 in Grandy's case. His dogged determination to exercise every day around Biddenham on his bike (which was almost as old as him) or on foot, was something we all marvelled at.
- **As a man, there is absolutely nothing wrong with owning pink furniture.** Or having a totally pink bathroom - complete with pink toilet and bathtub, for that matter.
- **Speak up when something isn't right.** If you happened to work for the Daily Telegraph over the last 50 years or so, you probably know about Peter 'Punctuation' Culverwell. Being a man of structured routine, Grandy was a real stickler for grammar and if he stumbled upon a word or phrase that didn't look right, the journalist was getting an enquiring letter.
- **Lidl isn't only a supermarket for collecting your weekly groceries.** If your name was Grandy, you could also find a new friend there, and even get an invitation for dinner out of it.
- **Never stop learning.** Grandy proved to us all time and time again that you are never too old to learn something new. Not long ago, I was talking to him about the world's first cryptocurrency, Bitcoin, which he quizzed me on after recently reading up about it. He quite often left us stumped for an answer to questions from his naturally enquiring mind. Both he and our Nana regularly cut out pieces

from the newspaper for us to read. And not forgetting only back in February had he learned his latest skill...how to video call, well just about.

Finally...

Always remember to eat your daily 2 b's and 2 c's - beans, broccoli, celery, and carrots. Breakfast like a king, lunch like a prince, dine like a pauper.

And NEVER forget the Queen's speech on Christmas Day.

Further thoughts from grandson, Redfern

Just over 6 years ago, many of us were here to say goodbye to Glenys, our beloved Nana, mother, wife and friend. When Nana passed away it was an extremely hard time for all of us, especially grandad. Not just because he'd lost his partner and best friend of the last 60 years but the pivotal role she played of hosting, chatting and mingling, of which we all knew she was always the champion.

Early on he struggled with this. However, over the years, it was a role he grew into magnificently!

When I finished university he encouraged me to fly the nest of Manchester and move to London. Nathan and I would come up from London regularly, usually timed with the latest Fury or Joshua fight so we could watch the highlights with him.

We'd try different bars and restaurants in Bedford and marvel at his ability to parallel park into the tightest spaces.

Sometimes we'd cook and bring it to the house. He'd always stand by his macaroni cheese or open top cheese sandwich (fishcakes on Fridays of course). However, we always made sure we packed an extra portion for him and watched with glee as the chilli tingled on his lips and he'd turn and say 'Ooh that's quite nice'.

The last time I saw him I visited with my girlfriend Lou and we sat in the beautiful garden on a hot April day. He chatted in reflection of his life and the story of his and Nana's first date following her exemplary care with his knee injury. He took her for lunch at Bright's in Bristol. He expected she'd have a cucumber sandwich or a toasted teacake, much to his surprise she had a soft roe sandwich (fish eggs). Nevertheless it didn't deter him.

Fast forwarding to their 80s, they took a cruise around the Baltic. They stopped in St Petersburg. As they were walking down a busy street, he felt a jostling around his pockets and realised his wallet was gone. Searching the crowd in a frenzy he saw a young man scarpering off. He grabbed the man and thrust him up against the wall, yelling 'Where's my wallet?'. Whilst Nana was below frisking him she spotted it a few metres away. It was later discovered that it had been discarded by the man's accomplice during the altercation. When I asked what was in there the reply was 'No cash, just cards, but it's the principle!'.

I've loved our regular phone conversations; whether it be bursting with adrenalin after we'd both watched a great six nations game or more often, moaning about the poor performances of England and Wales. I especially enjoyed chewing the fat about work, relationships and life in general. He was the perfect soundboard, providing enthusiasm without judgement and always encouraging me to take risks.

He was more than a grandad, he was also a great friend.



The toy department



Emmaus Village A Bedfordshire homelessness charity with a difference

Emmaus Village Carlton is a Bedfordshire charity based just outside Carlton (15 minutes from Biddenham). It provides a real workable alternative to homelessness, offering a home and support as well as meaningful work experience and training. People being supported by the charity (known as 'companions') live on site for as long as they need to and are helped to move on when they are ready.

Like any flourishing community, Emmaus works because everyone makes a contribution. Companions, staff and volunteers all work together to help generate the funds needed to support the charity. All companions gain work experience and develop their skills by helping to run social enterprises: three charity shops and a bistro.

The charity estimates it will have lost around £200,000 of trading income due to the pandemic; valuable income that is needed to ensure they can continue their work. Emmaus Village Carlton is now reaching out to local people, asking for their support, needed now more than ever.

Set in the heart of the beautiful Bedfordshire countryside, Emmaus Village Carlton is a shopping village full of preloved items, with three large charity shops to explore plus a popular Bistro and attractive outdoor areas. It's a special place to visit and a great day out for the whole family.

The shops and bistro (on School Lane, Carlton, MK43 7LQ) are open Wednesday to Saturday 9.30am - 4.30pm and Sunday 10.00am - 4.00pm.

Visit the impressive Home Store to explore a wide range of quality, preloved furniture and homeware, across multiple rooms, including a toy department and upcycled creations. The Bric a Brac shop offers a wide range of music, books, games and homeware, whilst the Boutique at Emmaus Village Carlton is the perfect place to browse quality preloved clothing, shoes and accessories for all the family.

Serving proper coffee, tasty breakfasts, delicious hot and cold lunches, as well as their famous cakes, em's Bistro at Emmaus Village Carlton is extremely popular.

Emmaus Village Carlton runs a free collection service for unwanted quality furniture, within 20 miles of the site. Alternatively, you can drop-off items for any of the shops, by making a donation appointment. To book either of these services, please call 01234 720826.

Anna Eddleston

To find out more: www.emmaus.org.uk/village-carlton

Twitter: @EmmausVC |

Facebook: @Emmausvillagecarlton |

Instagram: @emmauscarlton

Emmaus Village Carlton is a registered charity - number 1083113



A companion in the Boutique

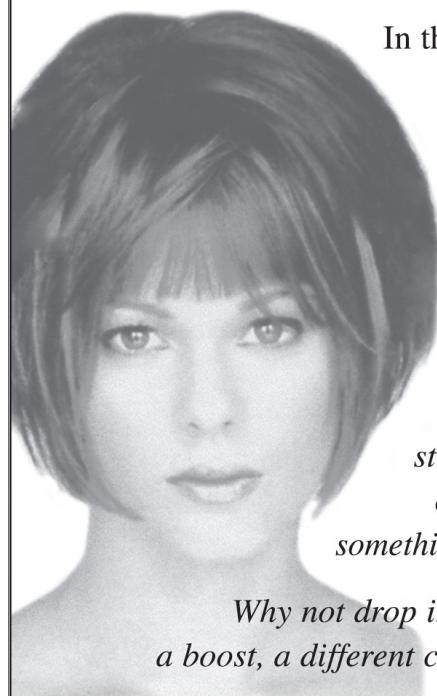
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Biddenham History Society The Bedfordshire Clanger

As we turn to summer and holiday activities, we should think of our very own food for the fields and picnics: the Bedfordshire Clanger. It was originally food for the men and boys who worked in the fields. Albert Church recalled in his Memoirs that the farm workers around 1918 might take bread, cheese, cold pork and raw onions to the fields and if they were lucky, a clanger.

The recipe that was given to the 1956 Women's Institute Scrapbook was to:

'Take a pound of plain flour and half a pound of suet, chop the suet and add it to the flour with a pinch of salt. Mix to a stiff dough with cold water and roll out. Cover half of the dough with a mixture of cold meat, chopped onion and a sprinkling of chopped parsley and any other herbs to taste. Cover the other half of the dough with jam or treacle. Roll up in a cloth and tie in the centre and at both ends and boil for three hours.'

The end product was not always edible. An elderly farm worker told one of the compilers of the WI Scrapbook this story in 1956:

'When he was a boy about 70 years ago, he left school aged 10 and was given a job with a neighbouring farmer driving the plough: this is walking beside the team of horses and turning them round at the end of the furrow and starting them down the field again. He took his clanger wrapped in a red spotted handkerchief when he left home at 6am and left it in the farm barn for his midday meal at 2.00pm. As his mother wasn't very well off, having several other children and a husband to cater for on 18s per week, her cooking was limited. The boy's clanger was composed largely of flour and water and a sprinkling of pork and parsley, so when it was cold, it became very hard. Therefore, in company with another boy, he had a game of football with their clangers before eating them. They thought that kicking them around tended to soften them.'

The clangers were generally delicious though. Albert Church remembered that when he and his father went on an outing with other Biddenham farm-hands to the Wembley Exhibition in 1921, his mother made an extra large clanger for him and his father to share. It was put into his father's old rush basket along with the bottom of a cottage loaf and one or two raw onions. Extra fillings for the clangers, such as onion or jam, depended on the time of year.

Clangers are still available to buy in Bedford today. A range of meats and onion are used and a good selection of fruits and jams. They are now true all in one Bedford picnic food combining main course and pudding!

Kathy Fricker



St Joseph's and St Gregory's Primary School

Our Trip to Swiss Gardens 9th June 2021

This term the Year One topic has been 'Into the Garden' and we have been learning about plants and trees. We went on a trip to Swiss Gardens, we got a coach there and we were very excited!

When we got there, we did lots of fun activities like leaf rubbing, tree hunts and plant hunts. We had to tick off the trees and plants we found.

We saw two peacocks, Snowy and Stormy and we were lucky enough to see their beautiful feathers on display!

Rainforest Roadshow

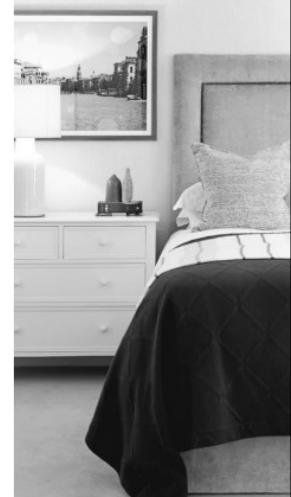
Year Twos had their WOW day on Tuesday 8th June 2021. Dave from the Rainforest Roadshow came to tell the children about all the things that could be found in the rainforest.

At the start of the day, he showed the children stick insects and a blow pipe which the tribal people use to hunt animals. The children smelled some durian and held a giant millipede and tarantula! Finally, at the end of the day the children became part of a tribe by having their faces painted and making their own tribal necklaces.



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Dorothy and Agnes

Who, you might wonder. Well, we met them last month at the party in 1932 for the newly restored dovecote, where guests enjoyed 'mugs of tea and delectable buns' served by Miss Tanqueray-Willaume and her partner Mrs Lilly 'and a bevy of assistants picturesquely attired in Old English costumes'.

This picture, retrieved from an archive in America, of those ladies appeared here some years ago as we tried to identify them, but it's worth repeating for new readers:



We believe the ladies by the horse's head are on the left Miss Tanqueray-Willaume, Dorothy, and on the right Mrs Lilly, Agnes.

Dorothy was descended from Huguenots who, facing persecution in France in the late 17th early 18th centuries, sought refuge in England. David Willaume, a goldsmith, arrived in the late 1600s, prospered and extended his interests into banking. He retired c1728 and purchased the manor of Tingrith, Bedfordshire, which became the family seat. The Tanqueray family, gold and silversmiths, arrived in the early 1700s and settled in Bedfordshire. David Tanqueray was apprenticed to David Willaume and in 1717 married Anne, his eldest daughter. The two Davids and Anne were accomplished smiths, with eminent clients including royalty.

For three generations descendants of David and Anne Tanqueray were clergymen in Tingrith, but then young Charles Tanqueray, creator and inventor, broke away from the church, devoted his creative spirit to spirit, and in 1830 established a distillery in Bloomsbury which, with the advent of large-scale quality distillers, was just about a respectable profession for the privately educated son of a clergyman. It was his innovation combining his mix of botanicals with the neutral grain spirit, redistilling and then distilling again which gave us Tanqueray Gin, chin, chin!

Dorothy was born in Bedford in 1888, the last of the seven children of Frederick Tanqueray-Willaume, a retired revenue surveyor and a governor of the Harpur Trust, of Albert Terrace, Union Street, and then from c1892 of Shakespeare Road where Dorothy lived until 1927. Frederick had been born a Tanqueray but became a Tanqueray-Willaume when his godfather, a Willaume, died and left his estate to Frederick's father who added the name Willaume to his Tanqueray name.

Dorothy was educated at Bedford High School, and at school and after was a talented amateur actress and crafter of art jewellery. During the Great War she worked on the machines at WH Allen, and in the Second World War was a welfare worker. She drove a car, which we learn from the report of a collision in Cotton End in February 1926!

She moved to Beverley Crescent in 1927 and by 1929 was living in Vicar's Close, Biddenham, at what, when numbering was introduced, became number 3 albeit renumbered to 4 around 1954. In Biddenham Dorothy took a keen interest in the Women's Institute and other village activities. In 1945 and 1946, the year she died after a long illness, Dorothy was living next door in Mrs Lilly's house

in Vicar's Close (initially number 1 and later renumbered to 2). A friend said: '*She loved life, loved her friends, and was herself altogether lovable.*'

Agnes Beveridge was born in 1878 in Kirkcaldy, Scotland. She married Reginald Lilly, a merchant and shipper in Manchester, and the couple had one child, a son John, in 1902. Reginald retired c1908 when his business was dissolved.

By 1911 the family was living in Bedford in Shakespeare Road, and in 1914 in Ashburnham Road where they lived until 1927 when they moved to Vicar's Close, Biddenham (recorded in the Electoral Register as "New Estate" rather than Vicar's Close).

From c1920 to c1935, Agnes and Dorothy were partners

in the Victory Tea Rooms in Bedford, 'opposite Modern School' above what was most recently Beales: '*Many Bedford people will remember the Victory Tea Rooms in Harpur Street ... which provided a happy conjunction of good meals and a pleasant atmosphere.*' The Tea Rooms was a popular venue for many and varied social events and meetings, rooms being '*available for whist drives, dances, etc any evening*', and catered for events at other venues and for orders which were '*promptly delivered in town and county*'.

Agnes, like her friend, drove a car, one of the reasons she appeared regularly in the local paper: she seemed to forget the car when working in the Tea Rooms and was fined a number of times for obstructing the traffic in Harpur Street.

She was president of the Biddenham WI from 1939 to 1944 and under her direction the women of the village knitted some 200 pairs of socks, 80 pairs of gloves and mittens, together with scarves and helmets for the forces during the Second World War.

By 1965 Agnes had moved next door to 2a Vicar's Close and she died in 1966.

We don't know when and why the Lillys moved to Bedford, perhaps they like other families were attracted by the Harpur Trust schools for their son. Nor do we know when Dorothy and Agnes met: was it when residents both in Shakespeare Road, or at WH Allen where in 1919 and likely during the Great War, Mrs Lilly was Welfare Supervisor? Whatever the answers, the two seem to have been like-minded, spirited ladies with a zest for life and challenges, well known in and actively involved with many organisations and events in Bedford and Biddenham.

Agnes lives on in the village, the Mrs Lilly Bowl is still awarded at the Biddenham Show. And let's remember Dorothy next time we might sip a Tanqueray Gin!

One last photo, Mrs Lilly on the left with, yes, Barbara Cartland, the novelist, who in 1965 spoke at the Biddenham WI.

Her topic "You and your health", and the 86 ladies present each shook hands with her and received a box of vitamin pills.

Peter Applewhite

Peter's Picturehouse

July showing of JoJo Rabbit is cancelled

We have decided to postpone our reopening of Peter's Picturehouse, due to be on Tuesday 6th July. We were going to show the film JoJo Rabbit, so we will now show that film later in the year.

Our August film is planned for Tuesday 3rd August and is the murder mystery from 2019, Knives Out (certificate 12A). The cast includes Daniel Craig, Jamie Curtis and Chris Evans. It tells the story of the 85th birthday party of renowned crime novelist Harlan Thrombey (played by Christopher Plummer) after which he is found dead at his estate. Daniel Craig plays the detective who is enlisted to investigate. Reviewers say it is a classic style whodunnit, compelling, humorous and light-hearted with a refreshingly different plot. Do come along and see for yourself.

The Village Hall will be open at 7:00pm for a prompt start at 7:30pm. Tickets are priced at £5 and are available at the door. Wine, beer, soft drink and coffee or tea are available, both before the film starts or in the interval, as well as ice creams. We shall be complying with government Covid guidelines in place at the time.

Our September film will be shown on Tuesday 7th September. Information will be updated on village notice boards and the village website when it is available.

Rose Houghton

Peter's Picturehouse



Date: Tuesday 3rd August 2021
Following government guidelines

Time: Doors open 7:00pm, Film starts 7:30pm

Location: Biddenham Village Hall.



Knives Out © 2020 Lionsgate. All Rights Reserved

Future Showings at Peter's Picturehouse—subject to review

Tuesday 7th September: to be confirmed
More details in the Loop, on the Biddenham Village website and on village noticeboards.

Ticket price: £5

Certificate: 12A

For further information contact

Marihelen

marihelen@btinternet.com OR 07710288933



Café B...



20th July
10.30 – 12 noon
Village Hall

17th August
10.30 – 12 noon
Garden, 57 Day's Lane (all being well)
Trissa Willmott has very kindly offered her garden at 57 Day's Lane as our venue for 17th August, weather permitting.
(Village Hall if wet)

As government guidelines on numbers might change, please contact Maggie on 346550 to book a place each time.

Thank you - we look forward to seeing you

Cafe B Team

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Tuesday - Thursday 9am – 5pm, Fri 9am – 6pm and Sat 9am - 4pm

This month in the garden

My garden outings in June included a visit to the David Austin rose garden between Wolverhampton and Telford. This was the second time I have been to this stunning garden and, although it was at the same time of year, it was noticeable how flowering had been put back by the cold April and May and many roses were still in bud. On the other hand, when we got home, we were surprised to see how extraordinary the growth in our garden had been after only three days away. The mid-June heat will mean that the flowering time of many plants, including roses, will be reduced and that will mean a lot of dead-heading to keep plants looking good.

The weather nowadays seems to be regularly either too wet or too dry and if we get another dry spell it will be important to pay attention to watering. Current advice is to leave lawns unwatered and put up with brown grass but if cutting is necessary mower height should be set high. Vegetables and soft fruit will need more frequent attention than flowers. In particular, soft fruit yield will repay frequent watering as will cucumbers, courgettes and salad crops which all have a high water content. Flowers and crops grown in containers will need daily watering plus feeding according to manufacturer's instructions. If you can grow camellias or rhododendron, in the ground or in pots, keep them fed and watered so that they will flower well next spring.

Most crops will be in the ground by now but in July you can still sow carrots and turnips for this year and spring greens for next spring. Every few years bearded irises that have grown into large clumps can be divided and replanted. This can be done once flowering has finished. Discard rhizomes from the centre of the plant and replant

the others. Shallow planting should leave the rhizomes exposed to the light. Plant in a sunny spot and cut back the leaf growth to help stability.

This is the time of year for enjoying the rewards of growing your own fruit and vegetables and harvesting may well be the chief garden activity. Fruit picking particularly can be very time consuming. If you have a glut, raspberries and currants freeze well. Freeze them spread out on a tray and store in something like a re-used ice-cream container. This will keep them as individual berries so that you can just use the amount needed. Strawberries can be frozen but they break down during freezing and need to be used with other things (such as jelly) rather than served as individual fruit. Beans and sweet corn are other things that freeze well and this is especially useful for sweet corn as they need to be eaten as soon as they are ready and will not keep on the plant. Whether picked to be eaten fresh or to be frozen they need to be dealt with as soon as they are picked. Their sugar content turns to starch very quickly.

Most pruning is done in winter months but there are exceptions. Plum trees should be pruned after fruiting as winter pruning can lead to disease getting into the cut wood. Ornamental trees such as a weeping pear can be pruned in winter but summer pruning reduces the amount of regrowth and it will be easier to see the final shape with the leaves on.

Ponds need weeding just as much as flower beds and oxygenating plants can grow rapidly in summer so that they can choke the pond and should be thinned out. Weeds may also grow in planting baskets and need to be removed. Blanket weed is a perpetual problem and regularly needs to be cleared out. It can be pulled out by hand, twisted around a stick or, with due regard for the water plants raked out with a garden rake. Keep an eye out for tadpoles, newts and water snails in the weed you pull out and ease them back into the pond. Leave the weed at the side of the pond for a day or so to let wildlife get back in the water.

August can be a quieter time in the garden and an opportunity to turn thoughts to next spring. Plan where you might like to have more spring bulbs and order online or by mail catalogue. Remember that many tulips are only at their best for one year, especially if grown in containers, and you may need new ones each year.

Jeremy Arthern

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Rewilding: Cow basil in the pollinator strip by the church.



It might not look much, but we are very pleased that our new pond shed has been successfully installed. Our grateful thanks to the Parish Council, those who generously contributed to our request earlier in the year to raise funds to remove reeds from the pond, with the surplus being used to fund the shed, and to the hard-working volunteers who cleared the land to put down a base, moved the flat pack to the pond, and then put it up. Thank you everyone!

Chris Jones was hoping to hold a pond dip in early July, but with the extension of the current covid restrictions, this will now take place on Sunday 5th September between 2.00pm and 4.00pm, meeting at the pond. This is always a fun event so please come along to see what is lurking on and in our pond.

Everyone is welcome.

For those of you who have yet to find the village pond, it is situated behind the Manor Hospital and the footpath that will take you to it is at the junction of Main Road and Gold Lane, where there is a signpost with a kingfisher. Alternatively, it can be reached from the footpath behind St James Church along the ancient coffin path that takes you across the fields and back to the village.

Please come and visit.

The Pond Team

Contact Details

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Cathy Eckett-Brown	ceckett@gmail.com
Sophie Applewhite-Rees	dansop1@googlemail.com

www.biddenhamvillagepond.wordpress.com
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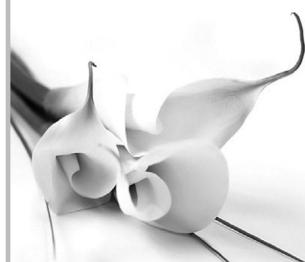
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Gold Lane, Biddenham: Selected drone images on 10/05/2021 courtesy of Albion Archaeology



Area 1 – possible Neolithic hengiform monument under investigation



Area 1 – cluster of Iron Age storage pits under investigation;
Looking south



Area 1 – sub-square enclosure under investigation;
Looking north-west



General view of Area 1;
Looking north

If you've walked over the path from Duck End recently you will have seen some very large diggers and some people with trowels and wheelbarrows. This is what they are investigating as part of the archaeological survey before building commences.

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Biddenham Gardeners Association

Grow the best Glorious Plants

On 15th June we were joined by Adam Pasco who explained to us exactly how to do this.

Adam, who runs his own gardening media company, is a well-known writer and radio and television presenter. In 1991 he launched the BBC Gardeners' World Magazine which he edited for 22 years. He is now editor of Waitrose Garden Magazine and works as a consultant to several gardening, retail and trade organisations. So we were very fortunate that he was with us, on Zoom, to share his expertise and horticultural knowledge.

Adam took us on a journey around his own garden showing us how to fill our gardens with colour throughout the year. His garden provides him with a continuous display within the borders and in pots. Adam starts off by planting bulbs, narcissus, etc., at the back of the borders so that the foliage can be left to die back naturally. It is essential to feed the bulbs for the following year but the dying foliage is hidden by the plants in the front of the borders. Plants such as grasses can be grown in pots which can then be moved to change the display as the season progresses. Adam gave, as another example, pots of Japanese Anemone 'Pretty Lady Susan' which can be tucked into a border of shade loving plants in a Spring garden when plants like the Epimedium and Brunnera Jack Frost have finished flowering. This will give an instant pop of colour.

Adam advised on siting patio areas in different parts of the garden so that one can sit in a sunny or shady spot and enjoy different views. Adam recommended a huge range of hardy perennials that perform really well and most of them had an AGM, that is the RHS Award of Garden Merit, a good indicator of excellence. Of the many plants Adam mentioned I was particularly taken by Echinacea Green Twister with its lime green and magenta flowers. Campanula Kent Belle was also mentioned and there was much discussion, following Adam's talk, on the merits of Erysimum Bowles Mauve which flowers for many months. Top of Adam's list for shrubs were Hydrangea Macrophylla Miss Saori, Viburnum Plicatum Mariesii and Sambucus Eve Black Lace.

We were shown examples of layering of trees, shrubs and herbaceous perennials to give height to a border and provide a tiered effect. Interestingly, Adam uses some plants as living supports for others. For example, he has underplanted a Japanese Maple with Clematis Kingfisher and has grown Clematis Viticella Etoile Rose up through a hedge. Borders should be designed with care so that planting and grouping provide maximum impact and when one plant fades another can take up the story. Repetition of plants down the length of a border (if one has a large enough garden) provides continuity. Old flower heads and stems can be left to give structure in the winter and on a frosty or snowy morning give additional impact.

Adam provided us with a wealth of useful information, from the biodegradable coir fibre plant pots from the Hairy Pot Company to help us reduce our use of plastics to flowers to bring in the pollinators to the specifics of when to cut off the old leaves of epimedium to ensure that one can see the flowers and to encourage new growth in the spring; something that I, like one of the members who asked this question, have struggled with in the past. All



good stuff, but whether we are weeding, feeding, watering, protecting, training, dead heading or pouring table salt on our patio weeds (another useful tip) please, as Adam concluded, make sure you "Enjoy the moment!"

Adam's photos were stunning and it was so useful to have each photo with the named variety of plant so that members could easily make a note if they wished. Many thanks to Adam for an excellent presentation.

Please join us next month on 20th July when Kate Jones will be talking to us about The Worshipful Company of Gardeners. Following Kate's presentation there will be a short AGM. 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



A hairy pot

Church Barn

After a number of years' service Jan Burns has now stepped down as Barn Bookings Officer. Anne Church who has also played a large part in looking after the Barn for many years has also stepped down from her role. I would like to publicly thank both Jan and Anne for everything they have done in this respect.

In the absence of anyone new to take on the role, we have had to make the difficult decision not to open the Church Barn to external bookings for the time being. If you are interested in keeping this valuable village resource open for the community and have the time to take on this role please do contact me.

In the meantime if you have any queries about the Church Barn please get in touch at:
stjameschurchbiddenham@gmail.com
or on 0778 6886 710. Thank you.

Jacqui Piper

Jazz up your Hair, Home and Garden!

Hairdressing in your home? My name is **Jazz Wheeler** with 17 years' experience in Cuts and Styling, Blow Dries, Colouring, Sets etc for men, women and children.

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What's On?

July

Sat 3 Jul

National Meadows Day, why not visit Cowslip Meadow?

Sun 4 Jul

9.30am service at All Saints

11.00am Virtch, online Zoom service

9.00am Morning Prayers via Zoom

6.00pm Virtch, online Zoom service

Mon 5 Jul

9.30am service at St James's

Wed 7 Jul

11.00am Virtch, online Zoom service

Sun 11 Jul

9.00am Morning Prayers via Zoom

Mon 12 Jul

6.00pm Virtch, online Zoom service

Wed 14 Jul

9.00am Morning Prayers via Zoom

Sun 18 Jul

6.00pm Virtch, online Zoom service

Mon 19 Jul

9.00am Morning Prayers via Zoom

Tue 20 Jul

Café B, Village Hall, see p15

Tue 20 Jul

Biddenham Parish Council, Pavilion,

Tue 20 Jul

7.30pm, see p6

Tue 20 Jul

Biddenham Gardeners Association meeting

and AGM, Zoom, 7.30pm, see p19

Wed 21 Jul

6.00pm Virtch, online Zoom service

Sun 25 Jul

9.30am service at St James's

Mon 26 Jul

11.00am Virtch, online Zoom service

Wed 28 Jul

9.00am Morning Prayers via Zoom

6.00pm Virtch, online Zoom service

August

Sun 1 Aug

9.30am service at All Saints

11.00am Virtch, online Zoom service

9.00am Morning Prayers via Zoom

Tue 3 Aug

7.00pm, Peter's Picturehouse, Biddenham

Village Hall, see p15

Wed 4 Aug

6.00pm Virtch, online Zoom service

Sun 8 Aug

9.30am service at St James's

Mon 9 Aug

11.00am Virtch, online Zoom service

Wed 11 Aug

9.00am Morning Prayers via Zoom

Sun 15 Aug

6.00pm Virtch, online Zoom service

Mon 16 Aug

9.30am service at All Saints

Tue 17 Aug

11.00am Virtch, online Zoom service

Wed 18 Aug

9.00pm Virtch, online Zoom service

Sun 22 Aug

9.30am service at St James's

Mon 23 Aug

11.00am Virtch, online Zoom service

Wed 25 Aug

9.00am Morning Prayers via Zoom

Sun 29 Aug

6.00pm Virtch, online Zoom service

Mon 30 Aug

9.30am service at All Saints

11.00am Virtch, online Zoom service

To access Zoom church services enter meeting ID 998

074 6039.

Biddenham Cricket club fixtures are on page 5.

Contributors please note that there will be no magazine in August. The next edition will be September.

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

Church Barn

The Church Barn is currently closed. Contact Jacqui Piper at stjameschurchbiddenham@gmail.com or 0778 6886 710 if you have any queries.

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 or Debs Slade on 07808 579330.

Great Denham Community Hall

www.greatdenhamcommunityhall.co.uk



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Paul Fricker

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Welcome Packs for New Biddenham Residents

Contact Richard Church Tel: 214805

The Loop

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All September articles, preferably by e-mail in Word format, to loopeditor@gmail.com or to 22 Day's Lane and adverts to 3 Queen's Close (cj.sugars@talktalk.net) by Wednesday 18th August 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.