

The Loop

December/
January
2021/22



The fabulous display of knitted and crocheted poppies at St James's church to mark Remembrance Day. For more details see page 5.

Picture Fran Moxon.



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



Image Unsplash.com

There is no denying that this has been a challenging year, following an even more difficult 2020. We have lost some dear friends, had to forgo social interaction with friends and family and had to make do with Zoom when we would have preferred physical meetings.

But now there is a sense that things are getting better. For many of us, having had the vaccinations including the booster (yay!), we feel more confident going out and about.

The parish organisations are reflecting this feeling. You will see inside that the Remembrance Day service at Biddenham war memorial was very well attended, that The Biddenham Society AGM was also well attended, that the Biddenham History Society intends to reinstate its meetings next year, as does the Biddenham Gardeners Association.

Of course, there are no guarantees, but we wish you all a joyful Christmas and a better 2022.

Jean Gambold

**2022 Loop subscriptions
now due
See page 3 for details**

‘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



Letter from the Vicar

Dear All

It is so hard to find words for 'The Loop,' when your mind is mush. I, like most vicars, have to do a lot of writing. There is at least one deadline every week, as I struggle to think of something meaningful for my weekly sermon. It is still difficult, after having been involved in ministry of some sort since 1985, thinking of something creative and original to write for even the religious set pieces - Easter, Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas. It is so easy to be drawn into familiar clichés associated with the familiar nativity scene but the difficulty is being original.

Of course, there are harder deadlines that a priest (or for that matter anybody) has to face. It is really the situation when you are confronted by somebody else's pain. What do you say when somebody tells you their child has died, or their partner? What do you say to somebody who is confronted with a terminal diagnosis of cancer. I have to say that often you have nothing to give but silence and, if appropriate, a hug. For some people at least that personal touch is powerful. It is difficult to make that judgement.

With God, I feel it is all in a Word, a single word, just like a whisper that has resonated through creation since the beginning of all things. The word that transcends human language. It is, at once, like a silence, a kiss formed from indescribable lips, to bring order out of chaos, to bring the oceans and the universe into being. It was a whisper that populated this finite pearl we inhabit with flamboyant, vibrant life.

It was probably my imagination but not so long ago, after a difficult time questioning my own vocation and call, I woke at around two in the morning to the sound of my own name, spoken. I can rationalise it but if I could stretch myself to believe that this was the voice of God reaffirming my call, then the thought that God himself was addressing me is to be seen as a very intimate and powerful experience. There are several incidents in the Bible which have God's servants or prophets being directly

addressed by the Almighty. It is so important to remind ourselves of the direct engagement of God with the World.

So back to the Christmas Story. One passage we always read at Christmas is John Chapter 1; 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God. The Word became flesh and lived among us, full of grace and truth.'

The word that is translated here is Logos, which is the masculine equivalent of Sophia, meaning Wisdom, so it is more connected with Greek philosophy than the Old Testament, but who is choosing? This Word that the Most High whispered at the foundations of the world has reached our ears, penetrated our hearts and transformed our lives like never before. That Word entered our lives as a living, breathing child in Bethlehem. He lived with us, as one of us. He loved like no other, reaching out to us and healing us. Ultimately, he suffered with us and, as he went with us to the grave, he brought us back to life on Easter Sunday and his suffering on the cross means that he is right with you in all the grief, the anxiety and the suffering that you experience. Unlike this useless priest, the God who loves you is never lost for words when you need to hear his voice.

Last Christmas our doors were locked. This Christmas we are open for business. Come to us and encounter God's living, breathing Word. He loves you, and he is for you.

God bless.

Eric



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

Vicar	Rev Eric Lomax	Tel: 328452
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Readers	Christopher Dawe	Tel 363890
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Churchwardens	Laurie Hurn	Tel 364251
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Secretary	Jacqui Piper	Tel 356993
Treasurer	Michael Hurford	Tel 271746
Organist/Choirmaster	Graham Weeks	Tel 07552 052840
	www.stjamesbiddenham.com	



Christmas

with **St James and All Saints Churches**

Sunday 5 December

9.30am Joint All Age Service with Nativity (St James)

Sunday 12 December

4.00pm Christingle Service (Church of the Transfiguration, Kempston – Joint with All Saints)

Saturday 18 December

9.00am Breakfast and Play Christingle (All Saints Hall)

Sunday 19 December

9.30am Christingle Service (St James)

4.00pm Nine Lessons and Carols (All Saints)

6.00pm Nine Lessons and Carols (St James)

Christmas Eve

4.00pm Carols in the Churchyard (St James)

11.30pm Midnight Communion (both churches)

Christmas Day

10.00am Joint All Age Service followed by Communion (St James)

Remembrance Sunday in Biddenham

After two difficult years we were blessed with a fine autumnal day for the 2021 Remembrance Sunday service at Biddenham War Memorial. There was a large congregation of old and young, and a few dogs.



Tom Syson and John Daniels

Paul Fricker led the service and Captain Craig McKeown read the names of the fallen from the two world wars. The trumpeter was Tom Syson of Wootton and John Daniels lowered and raised the flag. The wreaths were laid by Stuart Briggs, chairman of Biddenham Parish Council and Alan Jacobs who recently retired as a Parish Councillor.

The order of service was beautifully illustrated with Val Fitzhugh's artwork of poppies.

Jean Gambold



Graham Bates, Stuart Briggs and Alan Jacobs.

The Friends of St James Autumn Quiz Night

On Saturday 16th October The Friends of St James held their third online quiz night. We had 12 enthusiastic and competitive teams taking part! The teams were made up of some old hands but it was good to also see some new faces participating. Thank you to all who took part; it would not be possible to hold these events without your support.

The quiz night was both for fun and to raise money for the upkeep of our village church. We raised £220 on the night, so a huge thank you to everyone for their generous donations.

The questions were a mix of music, film, TV, science, and general knowledge. We would love to hear what you thought of the questions, so please feel free to send any comments or feedback to stjamesquiz@mail.com.

If you are interested in supporting or joining The Friends of St James, please contact the secretary, Peter Leverkus, on 01234 353662 or by email at peter@leverkus.plus.com.

Thank you again to everyone who took part and contributed. It was a successful and fun event! See you at the next one?

John Barkas

Bedford National Trust Association

Easy to find and with plenty of parking, we meet once a month at the Addison Centre in Kempston, about a ten-minute drive from Biddenham/Great Denham. Tea and coffee are served and there is a programme of talks covering a wide range of topics. Meetings take place in the afternoons (in January, February, March, September, October and November).

Outings to National Trust places and other properties, gardens and places of interest are arranged during the year. We organise an increasingly popular annual lunch and also arrange spring and autumn holidays.

Membership is open to volunteers and members of the National Trust and to those interested in supporting the Trust. The annual subscription is £10 for the first member and £5 for additional members at the same address.

A warm welcome awaits you at the Bedford Association, so why not come along and sample the friendly atmosphere of our group? Non-members are welcome at our talks at the Addison Centre, so you can 'try before you buy'! For details of upcoming talks and more, take a look on our website at: e-voice.org.uk/bedfordnt.

Get in touch.

Robin Salter

Hon. Secretary

Tel: 01234 261897

Email: grrdrsalter464@gmail.com

The next meeting will start promptly at 2.15pm on Tuesday 18th January at the Addison Centre, Kempston MK42 8PN.

The speaker will be Ian Keable on 'The Century of Deception - The Birth of the Hoax in Eighteenth Century England'. Hoaxes were written about extensively, and depicted by satirical artists such as Hogarth and Gillray. They are imaginative, and the tricksters had varying motives. An entertaining talk.

There will be a small admission fee. Everyone welcome. No need to book.

For further information contact Betty Thomas on 01480 860 421

2022 Loop subscriptions now due

Your annual subscription to The Loop is now due. The price for the ten issues in 2022 will remain £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:

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Please also send an email to 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.

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 Noddors Way, Biddenham MK40 4BJ or Jacqui Piper, 27 St Mellion Drive, Great Denham MK40 4BF.

Please pay by 31st January.

David Palmer

1926-2021

We are sorry to report the death of David Palmer. Whilst he spent his later years in Yorkshire and most recently lived in a care home in Brickhill, he and his family lived in Biddenham for many years. We are grateful to his son, Godfrey, and to Graham Bates for these recollections of his life.



The family eulogy

The family want to express thanks to all of you for coming here today in recognition of father's life. David always said he wanted to be at his own funeral to see who hadn't turned up!!

David Reginald Palmer was born on 13th February 1926 in Mildenhall, Suffolk, the 9th of ten children. It wasn't too long before he was off to Soham Grammar School and from there to Lincoln to study engineering. The war came and Sandhurst followed.

Then something very fortunate happened. David's brother John was working in Worcestershire and going out with a farmer's daughter. He sent David a picture of her sister Mary and eventually the two brothers married two sisters! Mary and David married in 1949, Caroline and Godfrey arrived shortly afterwards to be followed some 8 years later by Annabel (help! they said).

When David came out of the Army he decided to return home and assist in the family retail business, going into partnership with brother John. After a while, with the business growing, an opportunity arose to acquire a lease in All Hallows Bedford. So, in 1953 David and Mary left Suffolk and moved to Bedfordshire and after a little while (1959) settled down in The Old Vicarage, Biddenham.

After coming to Bedford David and Mary threw themselves into community life joining the Round Table and Ladies' Circle respectively. They began attending St James's Church and it wasn't long before David became secretary of the PCC, a position he held for over 25 years, and Mary was influential in her flower arranging and brass cleaning. Their children attended Sunday School and Caroline sang in the choir.

Rotary beckoned David in 1965 and he was soon an active member making many friends along the way. Highlights would have included his Presidency, 1987/88, hosting the annual dinner at Castle Ashby with Joe Hass heading the music; leading a District International Scholarship team to the U.S.A; and more recently, returning to Zimbabwe and re-establishing a connection with Hope Fountain and The Bulawayo Club, where David's great grandparents had started a Methodist Mission Station in 1859.

Sadly, Mary died in 2004 after a cruel period with Lewy Body.

Thankfully David was able to find companionship with Pat (another Bedford widower) and they've shared many happy times together over the past 17 years. Thank you, Pat!

Toward the end of his life David was very grateful to move into Ladyslaude Court in Brickhill, ironically part of a Methodist establishment, and latterly Anjulita Court. We are extremely grateful for the love and support they gave him.

On a lighter note, we can't forget that throughout his

life, David loved speed, whether it was crewing on his Fireball at Grafham Water or driving his beloved BM. Why he wasn't put off the road for speeding as a Justice of Peace, nobody knows!

Anybody who met David would soon become aware of his very positive attitude, kindness and generosity. He was a particularly loving father who supported and kept in touch very well with his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Thank you, God for David.

Grampa's wisdom

- Grampa managed his money better than anyone he knew. He could see opportunities when they arose.
- Opportunities will present themselves all the time – it's simply knowing which ones to take.
- He who commits himself, limits himself.
- Look after the pennies and the pounds will look after themselves.
- Buy a comfy bed and a comfy pair of shoes (that's where you spend most of your time).
- The Lord helps those who help themselves.
- The sun shines on the righteous.

Shops David owned and ran

Ecclestone's in Mildenhall
Clarke's grocery in Harpur Street, Bedford
Clarke's Patisserie, Bedford
Arbury Discount, Cambridge
Self service grocery in Kempston
The Fabric Shop, Biggleswade

A personal recollection

I first met David around 1960 when we were both elected to the Board of Management of the Chamber of Trade.

David's business was a grocery store called Clarke's in Harpur Street, Bedford. He went on over the years to own and run various businesses but I only really remember two and they were Palmer's Fabrics and Clarke's cake shop in Midland Road.

David, Mary and their family lived in the Old Vicarage in Biddenham from around 1960, later moving to the bungalow opposite the Manor Hospital when Mary died.

David was appointed to the Magistrates Bench and served until 1971 and was regarded as being very fair with those who were brought before the Bench. He was always very capable and on one occasion organised a Spring Fair which ran the length of Main Road in aid of St James's Church but I regret that my mind is now very hazy on the detail. All I remember is that it was great fun and the village enjoyed it. He was always very well liked and we shall miss him. A Great Character.

Graham Bates

The Children's Society

Notwithstanding that there has been no box collection again this year, thanks to the generosity of a number of existing box holders I have been able to send a donation of £142.50 to the Society. Thank you to all those who contributed.

Eloise Carter

Remembrance Poppies

2021

I hope you managed to walk past the Church around the time of Remembrance Day and saw the cascade of knitted and crocheted poppies streaming down from the window above the main door of St James's Church. If you came into the Churchyard to take a closer look, you will have been able to join with us in saying a prayer that Sue Richards, our Lay Reader, added to the display.



This was a wonderful community project and my thanks go to everyone within the community who made poppies, but especially to Val, Jan and Pauline who helped to transform them into such a wonderful display.



If you didn't manage to get your poppies to me in time, or still have some red wool going spare, we will do it again next year and create something a bit different, so just leave any poppies that you make in the Church porch throughout the year and they will find their way to me!

Jacqui Piper

Church finances

As we approach the end of 2021 I thought Parishioners would be interested to hear how Church finances are holding up.

I am very pleased to report that for 2021 we will most likely report a modest positive balance on the General Fund. This is made possible by the continuing monthly and weekly (Gift Aided) donations to the Church by members and also by generous donations received from The Friends of St James and Bedford Borough Council. The Friends contributed to help meet specific Church fabric project costs and Bedford BC made a very generous contribution by way of a Covid-19 support grant. The support grant helped to cover the loss of Church Barn bookings income and also the reduction in weekly service collections.

These donations will be utilised in two ways. Firstly, to help return a balanced General Fund for 2021 and secondly, as a boost to the Major Repairs and Improvements Fund to help meet future project costs eg the possible installation of audio visual equipment in the Church.

Recently Church members contributed £4,070 to help meet a special appeal which allows the Church to maintain its Mission and Giving donations for 2020 and 2021. These funds are now in the process of being distributed. Also, I am pleased to report the total donated by St James's to the Bishop's Harvest Appeal was £300.

As we approach 2022, and I'm sure we all hope for a year without Covid-19 restrictions, we do so with real hope of a return to 'normality'. Certainly, from a financial perspective, the past two years have been a challenge and we have done so well as a Church in terms of financial stability. We need to build back as the new year proceeds. Amended Church service arrangements and times apply and of course, we will have to grow the Church Barn bookings once again. One constant is your support; please do review your support of the Church and help us if you can to ensure income for the year exceeds expenditure. This will be a challenge as we build back gradually but without the grant support income we received in 2021.

Your support is vital, much needed and very much appreciated. Thank you!

Michael Hurford

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The Biddenham Society AGM 7th

November 2021

It was great to see around 45 people arrive for the Biddenham Society AGM on Sunday 7th November. In opening the proceedings, Will Jenkin noted that Tony Wood was standing down as Chairman after 14 years and the meeting expressed their enormous thanks to him for all the time and effort he had put into the Society over this period, including the funding (via the National Lottery) and establishing of the Biddenham Heritage Trail; without him we would not have this in place.

Will advised that the Borough had started working on the 2040 Local Plan and the Strategy Options and Draft Policies Consultation had been released in the summer. Housing development in this was very much related to plans for the East-West rail-link and the direction from government for the Borough to plan for 25,500 dwellings between 2020 and 2040. This was based on a new algorithm that resulted in a figure of building 1,275 housing per year, an increase from the 970 used in the 2030 Local Plan. There was little in here that directly impacted the village other than the need to maintain green space but he confirmed that the Society did write on that general basis, advising that the village had had its 'allocation' of housing in recent years and must maintain green space and paddocks within the village rather than allowing them to be built on.

Will went on to comment that there had been 74 applications since November 2019 that the Society had considered. For comparison, in the previous 12 months to this, ie Nov 2018-19, there had been 25, a figure that was felt to be low as many conversions were now done under the 'permitted development' legislation. Most of the 74 related to improvements which were largely uncontroversial.

The Society had submitted objections to 9 developments. 5 were subsequently withdrawn or rejected, 2 approved and 2 are outstanding. Of those objected to, it was mostly due to the inappropriateness or scale of the proposed development vis-a-vis the other houses in the vicinity.

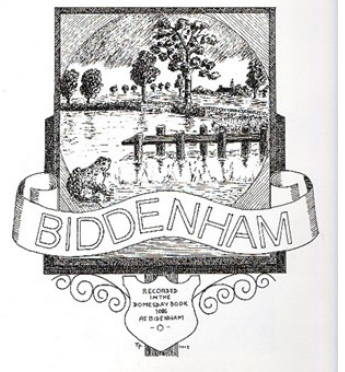
The attempt to build 5 houses behind Church End was the fifth attempt to build on this paddock (all previously refused and appeals turned down) and again had received strong objections from those in the vicinity – and this was refused too, went to appeal and was eventually withdrawn! If developed, this would close the housing gap between Biddenham and Great Denham to a substantial degree and the Society will continue to resist any further such plans.

Of the large applications, most significant is the Gold Lane development and the extension of this to 249 houses along with the hazardous entrance from this site onto Gold Lane itself.

Will concluded by advising that, as a village, we must continue to prevent large scale developments and fight to retain our few remaining small green spaces, especially in the conservation area, to avoid a continuum of housing, and to preserve Biddenham's unique character.

Thanks to all our helpers and especially Jeremy for arranging the excellent lunch that all then set about.

Will Jenkin
Chairman



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Biddenham Cricket Club



I can't say that I was particularly looking forward to writing this article for the Loop – today is 17th November with cricket in the news headlines for all the wrong reasons. Yesterday a meeting of the Department for Culture, Media & Sport Select Committee heard testimony in connection with complaints raised by Azeem Rafiq against Yorkshire County Cricket Club and subsequent developments. A communication received from the MCC [in the slightly confusing world of cricket, the MCC is a separate organisation from the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB)] included the following:

'Sadly, this particular case has come to dominate the current news agenda and it seems these issues run deeper in our sport. We have seen, in recent weeks, the harm that can be caused by those who act without giving due consideration to the feelings of others. When that behaviour is tolerated by those around them, it becomes a culture. None of us wants to think of the organisations we cherish as being unwelcoming, avoided by those made to feel unwanted.'

It is difficult to write here exclusively about Biddenham Cricket Club, other than to reassure those reading this that our actions are hopefully regarded as those of an open and welcoming club with a youth section that includes youngsters from all parts of Bedford, and all backgrounds. Historically this could also be said of the senior part of the club, but a recent reduction in playing numbers means that we currently do not have such a diverse senior playing membership.

My involvement in club cricket started in the 1970s in London and the 'culture' of the sport then was very much focussed on the social side of the game, particularly after the match. That manifested itself as mixing with the opposition in the club bar, or maybe the local pub. It is clear that this culture was not welcoming to all, but persisted in the years I was there until moving to Biddenham in 1987.

Younger players, as I was then, would be assimilated into particular ways of acting and behaving, including many good habits such as always mixing with the opposition and umpires after the match. This fostered many friendships and also the understanding of other people's viewpoints.

Cricket in the 21st century is different in many ways to those years. There is a much greater emphasis on youth cricket and also, necessarily and thankfully, the welfare of those taking part in all cricket activities. However, some of these differences can make cricket clubs more inward looking and less tolerant of others. Socialising with the opposition after the game has finished and is now the exception rather than the norm. Covid has accelerated this process.

I have been fortunate to be involved for the last 15 years in running two local leagues where, again positively, there has been a change in the makeup of the committees I have sat on that administer the cricket. The Milton Keynes based league had no diversity within its committee representing around 50 teams when I joined it. Now that league has around 70 teams participating and the diversity of the league committee better reflects the contrasting membership. The majority of new applications to join the league are now clubs whose members are of Asian heritage.

Team sport has the benefit of bringing together individuals of different ages, cultures and backgrounds – this seems to apply to recreational cricket in the UK perhaps more than other team sports. This should be something to celebrate, but as the MCC statement says, can, and clearly has been, abused by some of those in positions of responsibility in the game.

It is up to us at the grass-roots level to try and ensure that the enthusiasm for cricket does not wane following the recent adverse publicity. The more participation we can have in the sport, hopefully the greater number of volunteers to help run the club at all levels will also come forward. The key is to be able to have the opportunity to appoint the right people to the right tasks and positions of responsibility to ensure that all club members, young and old, have a positive experience of being part of Biddenham Cricket Club. However, it is also important to have the right safeguards in place should any issues arise to deal with these as soon as possible.

Sadly this is not the 'normal' cricket article but we cannot ignore what is occurring in the wider game, and consequently re-examine how we operate as a club in that context. Fortunately, we have a few months before next April to do this.

Richard Fone

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

The 100 club 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

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St James's Church Christmas Sale

St James's Church Barn
Church End, Biddenham

5 December

10.30am – 12.00pm

Free entry



Christmas Cards

Biddenham Village Gifts

Cakes & Produce

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Coffee & Mince Pies

Raffle



**News
from
the
AGM**

The Village Hall was dominated this year by what had to be done to get us through the difficult time with Covid-19. In January, we had to close as part of the national lockdown. Monthly inspections were suspended except for regular checks for safety purposes. There was a limited restart of some activities allowed from 12th April. The risk assessment for hirers was updated and we had local elections on 6th May with all the necessary hygiene and track and trace measures in place.

Then, mid-May, the 'Rule of 6' enabled some exercise classes and meetings to restart. We had a fuller reopening from 21st June and hirers have returned gradually. We agreed the capacity should be limited to 80 seated and by July we had reopened fully in line with government guidelines. With very few places opened at this point we saw a surge in booking requests for large events from people who lived outside the village. To minimise potential problems, it was agreed to restrict bookings to residents for the rest of this year.

Over the period we are very grateful to have received government Covid related grants that have ensured the continued operation of the Hall.

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 usually carry out regular inspections and take part in the annual maintenance morning, when the volunteers tackle the routine maintenance jobs. This year we welcomed Rose Houghton as the new booking officer, a difficult year for Rose to take on this key role within the committee, and we owe her many thanks for quickly coming to grips with the job and undertaking many of the Covid related tasks connected to the Hall bookings.

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 managing the 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.

Health and Safety procedures have been continually reviewed and amended in line with government advice on Covid-19 and no incidents reported. When the Hall reopened, 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 are investigating replacing the gas heating system with a more environmentally friendly electrical infra-red system. 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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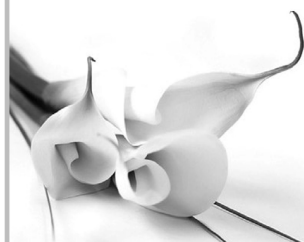
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Biddenham History Society

Village craftsmen - blacksmiths

A few weeks ago, a friend who lives in Somerset told me her grandson loved craftwork and was keen to get an apprenticeship with a local blacksmith who makes decorative ironwork. Making decorative ironwork was a tradition in Biddenham until the 1960s. There were two blacksmiths in the village in the early twentieth century: Bill Davison from 1884 – 1929 and Len Herbert from 1929 – 1965, though he was too ill to do much work in 1965 and died in 1966. Both men did creative work in addition to the repair of agricultural equipment, such as ploughs, the sharpening of instruments and the shoeing of horses, that was their stock in trade.

Bill Davison came to Biddenham in 1884 and worked as the village blacksmith until his business was taken over by Len Herbert in 1929. Bill Davison did shoe horses and he did scrollwork for Biddenham church. However, he was most well known for making bicycles which were inscribed with his name and proprietary 'Cable' brand. He also befriended the young Claude Graham-White while he was a pupil at Bedford School from 1892 to 1906. He allowed Graham-White to tinker about in the forge. Graham-White went on to be a pioneer of early aviation and in 1911 he flew his plane to Biddenham and displayed it in the meadow below the church. This was an exciting village event!

Sadly, Bill Davison could not hand his business on to his son. His son, John Davison, died of wounds on 8 June, 1918. He had enlisted in Bedford and was a lance-corporal in the 6th battalion of the Machine Gun Corps. He is buried in Esquelbecq Military Cemetery, France and his name is engraved on the Biddenham Village War Memorial. The smithy and blacksmith's work therefore passed to Len Herbert in 1929.

Len Herbert did the traditional work of blacksmiths, shoeing horses. Jonathan Bean, who was born in 1949 and grew up in Day's Lane, Biddenham, wrote his memories of his Biddenham Childhood in the 1950s for the village history 'The Village of Biddenham Through the Ages'. He recalled 'I watched Len Herbert, the smith, in his tumbledown stone and pantile workshop opposite Lavender Lodge, shoeing horses. I can still smell burning hoof. Sometimes we youngsters were allowed to pump the bellows that flared his forge. Increasingly, as smithing neared its end, he made gates. Nowadays we would preserve his smithy as a piece of heritage: in the 1960s, we thought wiping it away was progress.' The smithy was demolished in 1966.



The smithy, 1962

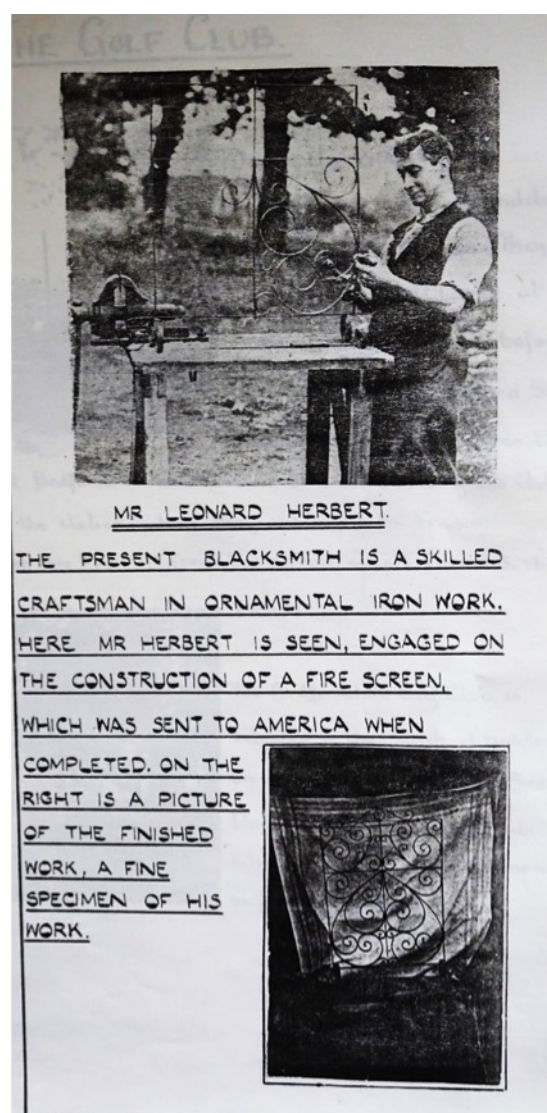
From "Village of Biddenham through the Ages" p202

The making of ornamental iron work kept Len Herbert busy until he was no longer able to work. He was a skilled craftsman. The 1956 Women's Institute History of the Village of Biddenham features a picture of Len Herbert as a young man, making a fire screen that was sent to America when he completed it.

Len Herbert was very patient and well liked. Alan Evans, who lived in Biddenham in the 1930s and 1940s wrote his memories for 'The Village of Biddenham Through the Ages' and he remembered the village boys being sent out and about in the village, calling in on Len Herbert who 'never showed that we must have been a bit of a pain with our questions'. The opportunity to watch craftspeople at work and to ask questions sadly no longer exists in Biddenham in the twenty first century.

The Biddenham History Society will be meeting again in April 2022, starting with a talk from Peter Applewhite entitled 'Biddenham: 2 things you may have wondered about and the search for answers'. The talk will be in the Church Barn on Monday 25th April at 2.30pm. Please note that we will be meeting in the afternoon and not in the evening as in pre-Covid times!

Kathy Fricker



From 'Women's Institute - a History of the Village of Biddenham 1956. '

Biddenham Parish Council

Remembrance Sunday

It was very pleasing to see such a strong turnout on Remembrance Sunday as we gathered to remember the service and sacrifice of all those that have defended our freedoms and protected our way of life. I was honoured to be part of it and to be able to lay a wreath at the war memorial on behalf of the Parish Council to remember everyone, especially those Biddenham residents who gave so much. A big thank you to all those who helped and contributed.

Parish Council Meeting

The Parish Council met on Tuesday 16th November 2021 at the Pavilion. Present at the meeting were Parish Councillors Graham Bates, Peter Chase, Karen Cotton, Harry Fowler, Chris Gee, Krzys Osuch and Francina Slade. Apologies were received from Irina Madan-Sau. The Clerk, David Brough, and our Borough Councillors, Jon Gambold and Roger Rigby were also present. I was pleased to see four members of the public attending.

I think it is worth mentioning an item raised during our public forum as it leads to a wider debate the Parish Council would like to have as there have also been emails on the same subject sent into the Parish. The concern was about motorists using Darlow Drive as a cut through to avoid traffic queues in Main Road around school time. It was thought that not all motorists were dropping off school children and that the village was being used as a short cut to avoid queues on Bromham Road. Coupled with this was the excessive speed vehicles were travelling along the road. After some discussion the Parish Council resolved to



write to the Police to ask them to enforce the access only restriction to the village. While the Parish Council has already resolved to pursue the use of average speed cameras with the Borough there may be a reinforcing role for 20mph speed limits in those roads not likely to meet the criteria for the installation of average speed cameras. Before we consider approaching the Borough Council with a request for 20mph speed restrictions (which could be on a zonal basis or just apply to designated streets) we need to gauge the appetite of the village for these. We agreed to use our website (www.biddenham.org.uk) to harvest views and help to inform our next steps. Therefore, please either contact our clerk directly or view the website where we will shortly be setting up a short questionnaire to allow residents to share their views on 20mph speed limits in the village. Initially the area to be considered for speed restrictions will be restricted to the Deep Spinney area and the old village because the new St Mary's estate is still not fully adopted.

Concerns had been raised about the works at the Gold Lane site by the developer, dandara, who had been using Gold Lane as an access point for the development. The matter was reported to the Borough's Planning enforcement team and followed up by our Borough Councillors. The meeting heard it was important to keep reporting any misuse to the Borough which could be done either directly or via our clerk. On the same subject the development is nearing the stage where the developer will be considering the naming of new streets. A very helpful suggestion has been put forward by a local resident which sets out some history to the site and suggests a theme for the naming. A copy of this information is available via our website; it makes interesting reading. Our January meeting will consider and formally agree our preference in this respect and this will be put to the developer and the Borough Council. While we can't require the developer to use any suggestions we put forward we do hope our local view will be actively considered.

Finally, we should be seeing two Christmas trees erected in the Parish in the next few weeks to celebrate the festive season; one in Main Road and the other in St Mary's.

Date of the next meeting

As we have no meeting in December I'll take this opportunity on behalf of the Parish Council to wish all residents a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Our next meeting will be Tuesday 18th January 2022 at 7.30pm at the Pavilion in Deep Spinney and all are welcome.

Stewart Briggs
Chair

REVIVE

Coffee
Bible
Fellowship

St James's Church Barn

7.00pm

Third Sunday of the Month

Everyone Welcome



Great Denham Parish Council

The next Parish Council Meetings are on Monday 6th December and 10th January at 7.30pm at Great Denham Community Hall.

For more details go to:
www.greatdenham.bedsparishes.gov.uk/

St James's Christmas cards and gifts

Scenes of Biddenham Christmas Cards and assorted Biddenham Village Gifts now available. For more details contact Sue: 01234 342373 for cards and Jane: 01234 359014 for gifts.

Conservation matters

Things are moving forward in a few areas but more remains to be done.

I am waiting to hear back from the Borough Council, owners of Cowslip Meadow on a few items but the good news is that the conservation volunteers training organised by Groundworks should start in the next few weeks or may have even started. The new BCV (Biddenham Conservation Volunteers) group needs training and insurance before starting and an application has been made to Biddenham Parish Council to fund the insurance at least in year one. We can then get going.

Training and the first tasks should start in Cowslip Meadow with some scrub clearing, coppicing and hedge renovation before some tree planting can take place.

Tree planting initially should be along the edge of the hedge line facing west with some possibility of later planting elsewhere.

I had a conversation with developers, dandara recently regarding the wet meadow habitat in the NW corner of the meadow. This is a small area about 0.6ha but is significant

in representing habitat diversity in the meadow. Its continuance depends on water getting in so that it remains wet as far into the summer as possible; at the moment the depressions dry out by about early June most years.

Dandara's current drainage plans will remove much of the water from the field above into a balance pond well away from the wet meadow so cooperation would be welcome.

Unfortunately, the meadow is designated as 'flood risk' (though the field is now behind the bypass road) so some work still needs to be done to encourage the Borough Council to take any ideas forward. Do contact me if you would like to help with this initiative and do go down and have a look at this rare, for the county, habitat which also has bee orchids and interesting sedges.

Please sign up for the conservation group via me initially.

Chris Jones
chrishj49@gmail.com

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From Our Biddenham Village Agent

Our Village Agent, Teresa Moon, is here to help older and vulnerable 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.



Do You Need Transport to Your COVID Booster Appointment?

Bedford Borough Council are offering free transport by VaxiTaxi to your COVID Booster vaccination. First book your jab by phoning 119, then call up one of the following

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- Bedford Executive Travel 07593 555593
- Clapham Cars 01234 327000
- Daytime Cars 07971 841777
- Flexible Cars 07415 267825
- Key Cars Bedford 01234 268888

Give the reference "BBC Vaccine" to the driver when you make the booking. Your journey to and from your home address in Bedford Borough to any Bedford Borough Vaccination Site will then be free of charge.

Are You Prepared for the Future?

If you lose mental capacity due to a stroke or dementia, it will be too late for you to choose who should manage your affairs - you need to do it while you are still capable of making decisions for yourself. Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) is designed for your protection, but can cause serious problems for your loved ones if you don't have one. Even your spouse will not be able to make decisions about your health or money unless you have named them in your LPA. Contact me if you need more guidance with this.

Are You SPAM Alert? Here are new updates.

To protect you from spammers, the main banks have set up a single phone number - 159 - which will safely put you through to any of the main banks. Never ever give your bank details to anyone you don't know. Don't believe anyone trying to sell you an NHS COVID Passport - the NHS don't charge. Be very wary if a family member texts or WhatsApp's you to say they have lost or broken their phone and need you to use a new number.

Would a helpful gadget make your life easier?

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

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(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.)



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This month in the garden

Perhaps I should have warned you what was coming but this is the last time I shall write 'This Month in the Garden'. I have been writing the article for nearly eight years now and, as I enter my late eighties, I think it is time for a quieter life. Also, I am not spending nearly so much time working in the garden as I used to so have less to say about what I have been doing in the garden. I have enjoyed writing the articles and it has been a good discipline to try to do the things that I have encouraged you to do. Many of you have been kind enough to tell me how much you have appreciated the articles and this has made it all the harder to give up.

I shall be rounding things off by stopping at the end of the gardening year, but gardening is a never-ending process and I am very pleased to say, although I shall stop, the monthly gardening articles in The Loop will carry on. Linda Truscott will be taking over from the February issue at the start of another gardening year. Linda will be well-known to many of you as the membership secretary of the Biddenham gardeners' association and the writer of many



Jeremy with one of his many Biddenham Show prizes. This picture was taken in 2018.

of the reports of BGA meetings in The Loop. She is both a keen gardener and an expert flower arranger.

Winter is nearly upon us and that brings with it many uncertainties about the sort of weather we shall be getting. Very probably it will not be unduly cold and with very little chance of snow. You, nevertheless, need to be prepared for bitter weather. Who knows where the Beast from the East is lurking? If there is snow, it will need to be knocked off netting over fruit to stop damage to supports and from plants where branches or stems are being unduly weighed down. If there are prolonged temperatures below freezing, containers can be protected with bubble-wrap put round the pot and by being lifted with pottery feet or pebbles to improve drainage and prevent contact with frozen ground. Tender foliage can be protected with horticultural fleece, and bulbs in containers can be covered with fleece, heavy material or weighted cardboard. If you have a frozen pond, provide wildlife or fish with some access to air by making a hole in the ice. This can be done with a rubber ball left floating on the water, and then removed, or by putting a saucepan of hot water on the ice. Both of these will need to be repeated if the hole freezes over again.

If there are still leaves on the lawn, remove them by raking or by mowing the grass with the mower set at its highest level. Raked leaves can be bagged for leaf-mould and chopped leaves from the mower put in the compost. When all leaves have fallen remove any nets over a pond.

This is the main time of the year for pruning apple and pear trees. Once the leaves have fallen, remove any dead or damaged branches or twigs and then cut back at least a third of new growth (don't cut back the buds at the end of a tip-bearing tree like Bramley apples). Prune harder to maintain the desired height and shape. Long vertical shoots at the top of a tree can be kept as row markers for newly sown seeds in the vegetable patch or to act as supports for black thread or cotton stretched around brassicas to deter pigeons.

There will generally be plenty of tidying, clearing and cleaning to be done. Wash pots and seed trays and check tools for cleanliness and wipe with oil to prevent rust.

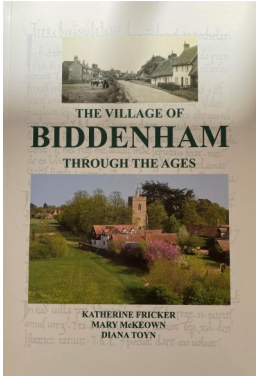
Check stored fruit for rot and remove damaged fruit. An idea from the RHS magazine is to store fruit on the trays of an unused fridge kept in a garage. Leave the door ajar for ventilation.

A good indoor task in bad weather or the evening is to plan and order vegetable seeds and annual or perennial flower seeds. Growing your own from seed is always much cheaper than buying plants although, of course, it is also more work and you may not have a greenhouse for the space needed. It's surprising what you can do, though in a conservatory or a window sill. Remember that on a window sill most of the light is coming from one side so you will need to turn plants round for even growth or provide a reflective backing, which can be done with kitchen foil stretched over cardboard.

Finally, it is goodbye from me and welcome to Linda.

Jeremy Arthern





The Biddenham history book

£15.00

Contacts:

Kathy Fricker 01234 342843,
 Diana Toyn 01234 211716,
 Mary McKeown 01234 267678
marypmckeown37@gmail.com

Evening service at St James's

There have been changes to services at St James's but following the changes we continue to worship in the evening with a 6.00pm service of Evening Prayer on the second Sunday evening of each month.

As a bonus we also now have a choral Evensong on the 5th Sunday. The next will be on 30th January and sung by the choir and is usually something put on by a cathedral or a large town church.

Few small churches now have a service in the evening so we are lucky here in Biddenham that we can do this.

Evensong is a very old traditional service and is a good preparation for the evening and night time of any day. There are hymns, readings and a psalm followed by prayers and a short sermon.

Do come along to the next evening service on 9th January; you will be made very welcome.

Chris Jones



Some of the choir with Eric, Sue our lay reader and Bishop Richard at a recent service

Wrest Park Volunteer Open Days

Wrest Park Mansion, Drawing Room
Saturday 15th January 2022 1.00-3.00pm and
Sunday 13th February 2022 11.00am -1.00pm

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Café B...



Tuesday 21st December

Biddenham Village Hall

10.15 am - 11.45am

*Selection of teas, coffees,
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Mince pies

Book Swap

*Next cafés 18th January, 15th
February*



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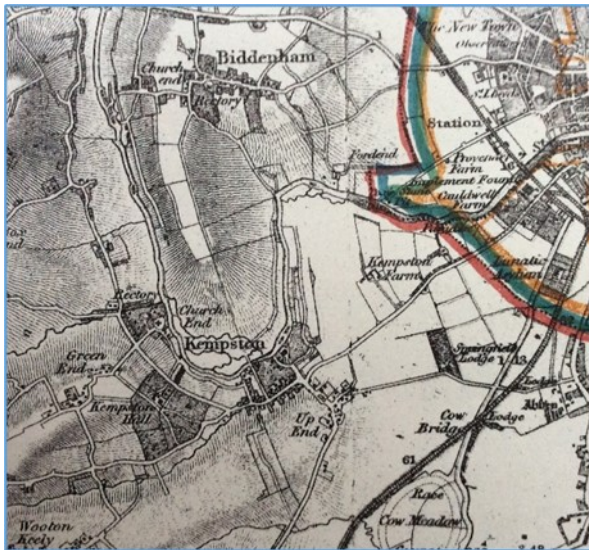
Ends where you can begin and end; that rings a bell!

You may remember from the article in May last year the two young girls, Florence Hebbes from Biddenham and May Larkins from Kempston, who in April 1906 were longing for Monday. We still don't know why!

We do know though, and you're probably familiar with, some of the Ends around Kempston: Box End, West End, Green End, Church End. But were there more and why?

May Larkins was baptised in St John's Church, Kempston, on 16th June 1889, her family resident in Up End Road. Up End? That's a new one. And it's not there now. Nor as it happens is the church, which graced Kempston for almost 100 years until 1966.

The typical parish in pre-Industrial England had one main village, perhaps complemented by a few hamlets. Kempston, a large lightly populated parish, wasn't typical. It had no central village, rather a number of hamlets, around 13 or so, called 'Ends'. The settlement around the church, Church End, has never had more than a dozen or so houses, so it has never dominated the parish.



Up End to the south east of Kempston, from my 1868 map

Up End was based around the modern Woburn Road, Saint John's Street and Bunyan Road, and the ground does rise up there some forty feet above river level. There were other Ends, now almost forgotten, including Crow End, Moor End, Mill End, Bell End, Thistley End and East End.

When urban growth arrived in Kempston in the 19th century it was concentrated in the eastern parts of the parish around the neighbouring ends of East End and Up End which began to coalesce into a larger settlement. In 1870 developers started to develop land on the road from Kempston to Bedford under the name *Kempston New Town*. At first, construction was slow but the new district began to expand steadily and Kempston acquired a more urban feel.

A gravel pit had been opened at Hill Grounds in the 1860s and the industry was so important for the area around Bunyan Road that it became known as Gravel End. The growth of the former Up End is said to be due in the main to the employment opportunities offered by the gravel pits that developed in the area, including the pit at Hill Grounds.

Bell End is thought to have been named after the Bell Inn or beerhouse which stood in Water Lane from the early 18th century until the early 19th century. And the Bell Inn

happily reminds us of a bell that was also mentioned in the article in May last year; the Biddenham village school bell.

You've read in previous articles how naughty boys would pull the bell rope harder and harder and then let it go so that the rope would wrap around the spindle, to the annoyance of the vicar, Reverend Norman, and the need for Mr Hebbes, Florence's father, to come from Duck End with his ladder to put things right.

The bell hung outside the school building and there was a form inside, near the window, on which the bell ringer for the day had to stand to reach the rope. You can just about make out the bell hanging above the large window in the wing of the then school building to the left in this painting and the photograph.

So there you have it, some Ends where you can begin too not just end, one of which 'rang' again the old school bell for us. Ding, dong!

Peter Applewhite



Painting of Biddenham School by Richard Turner, courtesy of Jonathan Bean



Photograph of Biddenham School in 1956 from the Women's Institute Scrapbook, courtesy of Bedfordshire Archives (ref X535/6)

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Peter's Picturehouse

Our film showing in December promises to be festive, romantic, moving...but expect a twist at the end! The story is of an all-year-round Christmas Elf (played by Emilia Clarke) who needs a bit of help in her life and finds it in Tom, played by Henry Golding. Written by Emma Thompson and Greg Wise and featuring the music of George Michael and Wham, we are showing 'Last Christmas', Certificate 12A, on Tuesday 7th December in Biddenham Village Hall. We would love to see you there for a bit of seasonal fun!


In 2022 we are showing 'The Personal History of David Copperfield', Certificate PG, on Tuesday 4th January. This charming and funny adaptation of Charles Dickens' novel from 1850 focuses on the life of David Copperfield and is described by critics as uplifting, eccentric, sparkling. The cast includes Hugh Laurie, Dev Patel and Tilda Swinton. Do come along and enjoy a 2020 take on English literature of the 19th Century.

On Tuesday 1st February, we have picked the award-winning film from October 2019, 'Judy', Certificate 12A. The film stars Renee Zellweger and tells part of the legendary story of Judy Garland and her struggles in a hard life between the performances of this much-loved star. Renee Zellweger's performance in this film won her the Academy Award for Best Actress as well as the Golden Globe Award.

As usual, tickets will be available at the door for £5 from 7.00pm, ready for the film showing to start at 7.30pm. Do come along on your own, or with a friend, you will be very welcome! Drinks and ice creams available before the film and during the interval. Please do support Peter's Picturehouse at one or all of these films on the longer winter evenings.

Tuesday 7th December Last Christmas
 Tuesday 4th January The Personal History of David Copperfield
 Tuesday 1st February Judy.

Rose Houghton





Peter's Picturehouse In December

Date: Tuesday 7th December

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

Location: Biddenham Village Hall.





Tickets available on the door, price: £5

Certificate: 12A

For further information contact
 Marihelen
marihelen@btinternet.com
 OR 07710288933

Last Christmas © 2019 Universal Studios. All Rights Reserved.

Coming soon...
Tues 4th Jan 2022: The Personal History of David Copperfield (PG)



Peter's Picturehouse In January

Date: Tuesday 4th January 2022

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

Location: Biddenham Village Hall





Tickets available on the door, price: £5

Certificate: PG

For further information contact
 Marihelen
marihelen@btinternet.com
 OR 07710288933

The Personal History of David Copperfield © 2020 Lionsgate. All Rights Reserved.

Coming soon...
Tues 1st Feb 2022: Judy (12A)

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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We were very pleased with the number of volunteers who turned out on Saturday 6th November for our first Autumn work morning in two years. 16 people gave up their time to trim, chop, cut, lop, strim and mow and generally tidy the site for winter. We achieved a huge amount in a short period of time, and we thank them all. It was a most enjoyable morning and great to meet new people who hadn't volunteered before. Our Spring work morning is in the diary for Saturday 9th April and we hope to see as many again.

We are pleased to announce that Jonathan Field has joined the Friends of the Biddenham Village Pond Committee. He has a keen interest in practical conservation, and we believe he will be a very positive addition to the team. He was at the work morning, so several people have already met him. There are several matters that the committee will be considering over the winter months, one of which being the mower which is well over 12 years old and is no longer cost effective to keep running. The current mower was kindly provided by our local councillors through their ward fund, so now we will be getting some quotes for a new one and thinking about how best to fund it. We are also looking to build some compost bins at the back of the triangle and set up a WhatsApp group of volunteers that we can call on to help us with ad hoc projects, such as



Work morning volunteers. Picture Peter Applewhite.

building compost bins! If you would like to be part of this, please send your details to Cathy at ceckett@gmail.com.

It is great to report that unlike some past summers, we have kept water in the pond for the whole year – keeping the ducks and moorhens very happy and very much in evidence. Whilst we have removed a lot of reeds, there are still plenty left to provide safe shelter for all our wildlife.

We try to stay in regular contact with dandara (the developer of the Gold Lane site) to influence, if possible, any decisions made that will affect the pond. We are hopeful that they will look again at whether the planned balance pond near our village pond could be linked to our pond to divert some of the grey water (from roof tops and roads) into our pond. This is rainwater that is currently feeding our pond and we do not want to lose it. We will keep you updated on any progress that we make.

The pond can be found 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.

Do come and visit.

The Pond Team

Contact Details

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Cathy Eckett-Brown
Jane Knight
Sophie Applewhite-Rees
Jonathan Field

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www.biddenhamvillagepond.wordpress.com
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Biddenham Gardeners

Association

Illustrated story of my garden

Chris Bamforth-Damp joined us on Tuesday 16th November to give us an insight into his garden. Chris is a Minister at the John Bunyan Meeting House and his house and garden are near Bedford Park. Since 2015 Chris has opened his garden to the public under the National Garden Scheme and he began his talk by telling us about the Scheme.

The National Garden Scheme was founded in 1927 when, in order to raise money for district nurses, garden owners were asked to open their gardens to the public for a shilling a head. That year 609 gardens were open and raised a total of £8,191. By 2021 over 3,600 gardens, 35 allotment groups and 21 hospice gardens were part of the scheme in England and Wales.

The gardens vary in size and showcase many different styles and features. The main consideration during assessment to be included in the Scheme is that the garden should be able to provide 45 minutes-worth of interest for visitors.

The funds raised during these open days go to support all aspects of nursing and health charities including, for example, Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, Hospice UK and The Queen's Nursing Institute. In 2020 £2.8 million was raised. The annual Yellow Handbook detailing where these gardens are and when they are open to the public is well known to most gardeners.

Chris moved to his house in Bedford in 2006 and photos from that time depict a daunting task. The garden had been a dumping ground for building materials, it was overgrown with huge trees and by any standards presented something of a challenge. To begin with the trees were felled, a flower bed was cut into the middle of the lawn and a gravel path was laid. However, it was during the Queen's Jubilee year in 2012 that the lawn was shrunk, flower borders grew and the garden really started to take off.

Chris showed us lovely photos of the perennials and annuals that are densely planted and now provide a wealth of colour and interest throughout the seasons. We saw hanging baskets and patio areas with ferns and hostas and a large green house filled with seedlings in the spring as Chris grows most of his plants from seed. Sweet peas and beans cling to wigwams, there is a pond and, not to be forgotten, chickens, geese and ducks. The whole garden is a joy to behold and it is clear from the discussion that ensued that many of our members will be beating a path to this garden next year.

Thank you Chris for taking us on your garden journey - we can see why you have had such a positive response to opening your garden to the public - it is clearly delightful.

Please join us on Tuesday 21st December at 7.30 pm on Zoom for our Christmas Quiz. On 18th January 2022, on Zoom, we very much look forward to members of the BGA presenting their gardens in Biddenham. We also invite you to join us on Tuesday 15th February on Zoom for Lucy Hartley's Part 3 of "Designing a Border from Scratch". Details can be found on our website. As usual all these meetings will be open to all members and visitors.

For our March meeting we hope, all things being well, to be back in action in the Village Hall.

Linda Truscott

New members and visitors are always welcome. For more information contact: Linda Truscott on 01234 270747

www.biddenhamgardenersassociation.org.uk



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First Friday Lunch



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

New layout - tables of 6

Draw for 2 free lunch tickets every month
Book swap

To book: email firstfridaylunch@outlook.com
Or text/leave a message on **07412 559584**

All welcome—everyone, all ages!
3rd December, 7th January, 4th February

No Fear Duplicate Bridge

Biddenham Village Hall Fridays at 2.30pm (intermediate),
Sundays at 6.00pm.
Contact Bernard Henry 07866 456759 or
bahenry@gmail.com

100 CLUB October draw

The winners were:

David Watson	No 75 -	1st Prize
Chloe Neilson -	No 91	2nd Prize
Trevor Neilson	No 130	3rd Prize

Drawn by June Murphy



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

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

CORONAVIRUS SUPPORT NETWORK

Need local help? Ring 01234 815393 or email
help@biddenham.org.uk.

Quilting & Sewing Group



Biddenham Village Hall
10.30 a.m.

Last Friday of each month

Pop in and see what goes on



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

Contact Booking Officers:

Email: stjamesbarnbiddenham@gmail.com (preferred
contact method)

Jane Knight	07831 172320
Rebecca Balmbro	07769 944727

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.

You can check availability and book on the website
www.biddenhampavilion.co.uk. Contact details for regular
events are also there.

Great Denham Community Hall

www.greatdenhamcommunityhall.co.uk

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

Regular Events in Biddenham halls
For contact details see the Hall websites

www.biddenhamvillagehall.org.uk

www.biddenhampavilion.co.uk

www.stjamesbiddenham.com

Monday		
Cha Char Chimps	10.00am	Village Hall
Yoga	10.00am-11.30am	Pavilion
Gentle Yoga	2.00pm-3.00pm	Pavilion
Storm Martial Arts	7.00pm-8.00pm	Pavilion
Guides	7.15pm Termtime	Village Hall
Tuesday		
Over 50s fitness	10.00am-12noon	Pavilion
Café B	10.30am-12noon (3 rd in month)	Village Hall
Mums & Movers Yoga	10.45am	Village Hall
Mum & Baby Yoga	12.15pm	
Peter's Picturehouse	7.00 for 7.30pm (1 st in month)	Village Hall
HIT Fitness	7.00pm-7.30pm	Pavilion
Country Dancing	8.00pm (2 nd & 4 th in month)	Village Hall
Zumba	8.00pm-9.00pm	Pavilion
Wednesday		
Ballet	9.30am-11.30am	Pavilion
Baby College	10.00am, 11.00am & noon Termtime	Village Hall
Handbell Ringer practice	2.00pm	Church Barn
U3a Table Tennis	2.00pm-4.00pm	Pavilion
Thursday		
Under 5's	9.30am-11.30am Termtime	Village Hall
Line dancing	9.30am-11.30am	Pavilion
U3A Handbell Ringer Practice	2.00pm	Church Barn
Dance classes	4.00pm-7.00pm	Pavilion
Whist	7.30pm (2 nd & 4 th in month)	Village Hall
Friday		
Pilates	8.30am & 9.30am	Village Hall
Jo Jingles	9.30am-12.30pm	Pavilion
First Friday Lunch	12.30pm (1 st of the month)	Village Hall
Quilting & sewing	10.30am-2.30pm (last of the month)	Village Hall
Brushstrokes Art Group	2.15pm-4.25pm	Pavilion
No Fear Bridge (intermediates)	2.30pm	Village Hall
Choir practice	7.00pm	Church Barn
Storm Martial Arts	7.00pm-8.00pm	Pavilion
Saturday		
Pregnancy Yoga	9.15am	Village Hall
Sunday		
Tai-Kwon Do	12noon-4.00pm Occasional	Pavilion
No Fear Bridge	6.00pm-9.00pm	Village Hall

For details of events at Great Denham Community Hall please visit
www.greatdenhamcommunityhall.co.uk

December

- Wed 1-Sun 5 Dec Christmas Tree Festival, St Paul's Church, Bedford, see p13
 Fri 3 Dec First Friday lunch, Biddenham Village Hall, 12.30pm, see p18
 Sat 4 Dec Great Denham Festive Fayre, Great Denham Community Hall, 2.00pm-6.00pm, see p12
 Sun 5 Dec **8.00am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion at All Saints**
9.30am All Age Service with Nativity followed by said Holy Communion at St James's, see p2
 Sun 5 Dec Christmas Sale, St James's Church Barn, 10.30am-12.00noon, see p8
 Mon 6 Dec Great Denham Parish Council, Community Hall, 7.30pm, see p10
 Tue 7 Dec Peter's Picture House, Biddenham Village Hall, 7.00pm, see p15
 Sun 12 Dec **9.30am Morning Worship at St James's**
10.00am Holy Communion Service at All Saints
4.00pm Christingle Service at the Church of the Transfiguration, Kempston, see p2.
6.00pm Service of Evening Prayer at St James's
 Sat 18 Dec **9.00am Breakfast & play Christingle, All Saints Church Hall, see p2**
 Sun 19 Dec **8.00am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion at All Saints**
9.30am, Christingle Service at St James's, see p2
4.00pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at All Saints, see p2
6.00pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at St James's see p2
 Tue 21 Dec Café B, Biddenham Village Hall, 10.15-11.45am see p13
 Tue 21 Dec Biddenham Gardeners Association Christmas Quiz, Zoom, 7.30pm, see p17
 Fri 24 Dec **4.00pm carols in the churchyard, St James's, see p2**
11.30pm Midnight communion at both churches, see p2
 Sat 25 Dec **10.00am All Age Service at St James's, see p2**
 Sun 26 Dec **9.30am Said Morning Worship at St James's**
10.00am Said Holy Communion at All Saints
 Fri 31 Dec Quilting & Sewing Group, Biddenham Village Hall, 10.30am-2.30pm, see p18

January

- Sun 2 Jan **8.00am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion at All Saints**
9.30am All Age Service followed by said Holy Communion at St James's
 Tue 4 Jan Peter's Picture House, Biddenham Village Hall, 7.00pm, see p15
 Fri 7 Jan First Friday lunch, Biddenham Village Hall, 12.30pm, see p18
 Sun 9 Jan **9.30am Morning worship at St James's**
10.00am Holy Communion Service at All Saints
6.30pm Service of Evening Prayer at St James's
 Mon 10 Jan Great Denham Parish Council, Community Hall, 7.30pm, see p10
 Sat 15 Jan West Park Volunteers Open Day, 1.00-3.00pm, see p13
 Sun 16 Jan **8.00am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion at All Saints**
9.30am Holy Communion service at St James's
7.00pm Revive: Coffee/Bible/Fellowship at St James's Church Barn, see p10
 Tue 18 Jan Café B, Biddenham Village Hall, 10.15-11.45am, see p13
 Tue 18 Jan Bedford National Trust Association meeting, 2.15pm, Addison Centre, Kempston, see p3
 Tue 18 Jan Biddenham Parish Council, Pavilion, 7.30pm, see p10
 Tue 18 Jan Biddenham Gardeners Association meeting, Zoom, 7.30pm, see p17
 Sun 23 Jan **9.30am Morning worship at St James's**
10.00am Holy Communion Service at All Saints
 Fri 28 Jan Quilting & Sewing Group, Biddenham Village Hall, 10.30am-2.30pm, see p18
 Sun 30 Jan **9.30am Service of Wholeness and Healing**
at St James's
6.00pm Sung Evensong at St James's, see p13

February

- Tue 1 Feb Peter's Picture House, Biddenham Village Hall, 7.00pm, see p15
 Fri 4 Feb First Friday lunch, Biddenham Village Hall, 12.30pm, see p18

Zoom Church Services every Monday & Wednesday

Every Monday at 9.00am Morning Prayer via Zoom.
 Every Wednesday at 6.00pm Virtch, online Zoom service.
 To access Zoom church services enter meeting ID 998 074 6039.

For regular events at the Church Barn, Pavilion and Biddenham Village Hall see page 19

What's On?

The Loop

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All February 2022 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 19th 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.