

The Loop

November
2021

£1.00



It's Back – the Biddenham Village Pond Work Morning

Saturday 6th November

10am to 12 noon

All welcome – Meet at the Pond

(children must be over the age of 14 and accompanied by an adult responsible for their activity)

You will need stout footwear, gardening gloves and useful tools such as secateurs and loppers if you have them.

Please come and enjoy a morning in the fresh air and contribute to maintaining the unspoilt beauty of our pond.

Please bring your own refreshments because sadly we are unable to provide any.

Planned road closures at Deep Spinney/Gold Lane junction

Anglian Water will be working on a new water supply on Sundays 31st October and 7th November. Access to Gold Lane will be closed for 24 hours on each date but access will be maintained for emergency vehicles.

The sign-posted diversion will be via Bromham Road and Biddenham Turn.

barn@2 A fitting finale

On 7th September 2021, on a beautiful sunny afternoon, we said a fond farewell to the barn@2. This erstwhile Biddenham Women's Group had been going for almost 80 years and had seen many changes over time; group names, leaders, venues, topics and social functions.

Sadly, the pandemic brought about the demise of the group but Jan Burns and Jane Duffin organised the final flourish – a lovely afternoon tea at Willington.

My sincere thanks to them; especially Jan, who had been running the group with me for about 16 years. My thanks also to past committee members, past group leaders, members, speakers and visitors who made our monthly get-togethers so enjoyable.

In memory of Margaret Platt, who had been the group treasurer, we donated all remaining funds to one of our named charities, the Tibbs Dementia Foundation, in which she had been actively involved.

My very best wishes to you all.

Val Fitzhugh

I am sure I am not speaking out of turn in also thanking Val for her major contribution to the Group's success over the years. Ed.

Remembrance Day in Biddenham

The service at Biddenham War Memorial will start at 10.50am on Sunday 14th November.

Main Road will be closed between 10.45am and 11.15am.



'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



St James's Church Barn
7.00pm
Third Sunday of the Month
Everyone Welcome



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

| | | |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Vicar | Rev Eric Lomax rev.ejlomax@gmail.com | Tel: 328452 |
| Readers | Christopher Dawe Paul Fricker Sue Richards | Tel 363890 Tel 342843 |
| Churchwardens | Laurie Hurn Lois Price | Tel 364251 Tel 961826 |
| Verger | Hilary Hurn | Tel 364251 |
| Secretary | Jacqui Piper | Tel 356993 |
| Treasurer | Michael Hurford | Tel 271746 |
| Organist/Choirmaster | Graham Weeks | Tel 07552 052840 |
| www.stjamesbiddenham.com | | |

Letter from the Vicar

Dear All

The sex lives of the animal kingdom have been the theme of another of David Attenborough's extraordinary series, 'The Mating Game'. Probably the most extraordinary episode is the one entitled 'Oceans out of the blue' which revealed the beauty and intimacy of life beneath the surface of our seas.



Approximately seventy-one percent of the earth's surface is covered by water and we think, therefore, that seventy-one percent of the earth's surface is inhabited by marine life. That is simply not accurate. Life on the surface of the earth, with the exception of birds and insects, is largely in one dimension, while the deepest part of the ocean is approximately 11,000 metres (36,000 feet). It brings it into perspective when you realise that Mount Everest extends only 9,000 metres above sea level. Marine life inhabits the sea layer upon layer and not simply on one level.

I love the sea, and I love mountains. This is because I was raised on the Wirral Peninsular, surrounded on three sides by water, the river Dee, the river Mersey and the Irish Sea. As children we spent a significant amount of time dipping our toes in the water around the nine or ten sandy beaches that surrounded us. With our sandcastles and tides, with our sunsets and storms, we were always conscious of the power and beauty of our world but were oblivious to the sheer depth of beauty in the waters.

I get little chance these days to smell the sea, to feel the sand under my feet and listen to the rattling of the pebbles and it is so difficult to envisage from the land-locked urban sprawl of Bedford.

I am conscious as well of our un-affirming culture that requires every breathing hour from our souls. Think of a mother who is struggling to raise her two young children but having to work every given hour to make ends meet. Look at her eyes and see the shadows, how self-respect, self-worth and dignity have been taken from her. When my wife was teaching music in secondary schools she talked about how the demands of the job (and motherhood) gave her no opportunity any more for creativity. Others thrive on emails, communication and business activities, surrounding themselves with gadgets and technology without which it seems impossible to function. Even in ministry there seems less and less emphasis on stillness, time for thought, study and prayer but more and more unrealistic expectations in productivity.

There is a place, as beautiful as the oceans, filled with colour, life and meaning. There is a heavenly parent there who is always there for us. Blinded by our stuff, our struggle and our activity, this place, this God, is so difficult to see. It is good during these coming months to stop, to move closer to him, to perhaps dip our toes in the water, then, perhaps, if we are strong enough, to wade deeper and bury ourselves in the deep ocean of his love. Like the sea, in order to fully grasp its depth and its meaning, in faith we need to give our whole selves to Christ. Then we will look out and experience a different, beautiful and creative life in him.

Eric

'It's Panto' Christmas Tree Festival 1st - 5th December

St Paul's church, St Paul's Square, Bedford, MK40 1SQ.
Wed-Sat 10.00am-5.00pm, Sunday 12.00noon-4.00pm.
Admission £3.00. Free under 16 years.

Daily community concerts and competitions.



Festival concert - Minerva Piano Trio

Friday 3rd December 7.30pm

Works by Ravel, Stravinsky, Mozart, Vivaldi and others. To be held in St Paul's church. Tickets £17.50 from 01234 783181/ 01234 340163 or

www.peoplesfundraising.com/concert-tickets.

In aid of the church and Bedford Hospital Charity & Friends.

Further details at

<http://www.stpaulschurchbedford.org.uk/>

Ann Collett-White



Annual General Meeting
Thursday 4th November 2021
8pm
Biddenham Village Hall
www.biddenhamvillagehall.org.uk

The AGM will be taking place as normal in the Village Hall. Attendees may choose to wear masks inside the Hall and all appropriate Covid measures will be in place.

We are pleased to say that many activities have restarted and Covid measures have been put in place. The Committee is open to hearing ideas about ways to improve the Hall. The Village Hall "belongs" to you, the residents of Biddenham, and the short AGM gives you a chance to hear about the management of the Hall and give your views. Please come along. If you can't make the meeting but have some bright ideas please contact any of the Committee or leave a message on the website.

We look forward to seeing you on 4th November.

Biddenham Village Hall Management Committee



Great Denham Parish Council

The next Parish Council Meeting is on Monday 1st November at 7.30pm at Great Denham Community Hall.

For more details go to:

www.greatdenham.bedsparishes.gov.uk/



St Paul's Church, Bedford MK40 1SQ

**Wednesday 1st to
Saturday 4th December**

10.00am - 5.00pm

Sunday 5th December

12noon - 4.00pm



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Admission: £3
Children under 16 free entry

**Daily Concerts by
Community Groups**

More information ... 01234 340163

Tag us on ... [f Bedford Christmas Tree Festival](https://www.facebook.com/BedfordChristmasTreeFestival)



Quiz Night

Saturday 27th November at 7.15p.m.

Teams of 6 /8

Or make up a table with others

Two course supper

Bar for wines, beer and soft drinks

Tickets £12.50 from Liz Watson

liz4watson@aol.com or 345028



Proceeds to Cancer Research UK

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

Decorations & Bulbs

Coffee & Mince Pies

Raffle

No Fear Duplicate Bridge in the Village Hall



Fridays at 2.30 p.m. (intermediates)

Sundays at 6 p.m.

Contact Bernard Henry

07866 456769

bahenry0309@gmail.com

St Joseph's and St Gregory's Primary School



Catholic Schools Week Mass October 2021

On Monday 11th October to celebrate the end of Catholic Schools Week students representing all the Catholic schools in the Diocese were present at the Church of St. Mary, Dunstable to share in the celebration of a special Schools' Mass for this year dedicated to St. Joseph.

It was led by the Right Reverend David Oakley, Bishop of Northampton and assisted, among others, by the Reverend Canon Tony Brennan, Parish Priest at St. Mary's.

Two students from St. Joseph and St. Gregory's, along with students from St. Joseph's, Gerard's Cross, led the prayers of intercession.

Bishop David gave an inspiring homily to the students and adults about growing in God's love.



At the close, to commemorate this year of COP 26, the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, Bishop David blessed a collection of saplings and invited each school to come forward to take a small tree back to plant in their school grounds.



Bedford Poppy shop

The 2021 British Legion Poppy shop is being opened on 28th October in the former Clark's Shoe Shop on Harpur Street. There is a window display featuring old uniforms and a Lancer display upstairs.

Biddenham History Society

Poppies for Remembrance Day

In October, 2021, the Queen attended a service in Westminster Abbey to mark the Centenary of the Royal British Legion. Since its foundation, the Legion has worked hard to support service men and women, veterans and their families. One of the main sources of fund raising to do this has been the Poppy Appeal.

Last year, because of the Covid pandemic, for the first time in the history of the Poppy Appeal, the Legion's volunteers were unable to carry out face-to-face collections in England and Wales. Biddenham has a strong tradition of support for the Poppy Appeal. Many will remember Mrs Joy Bean who lived in Day's Lane for 57 years until she died in December 2011. In 2008, Joy was presented with a unique medal in recognition of 75 years' fund-raising work for the Legion. In an interview with the 'Bedfordshire Times and Citizen' Joy said:

'I started collecting for the Poppy Appeal with my mother when I was about 16 years old. I've always lived and collected around Bedford and Biddenham. I'm still a great supporter of the Poppy Appeal and the work the Royal British Legion does..... What would we have done without the men who fought in the wars? I had three family members who fought in the War and lost my brother.'

In 2010 Joy received special recognition at an 'evening of appreciation' hosted by the Royal British Legion at the Addison Centre, Kempston. As Joy had now sold poppies for even longer than when she got her first award, the Lord Lieutenant for Bedfordshire, Sir Samuel Whitbread, presented her with a special letter from the Queen which paid tribute to her commitment to and support for the Poppy Appeal. The Lord Lieutenant explained he had met Joy on numerous occasions and 20 years ago he had presented her with the British Empire Medal. Joy wore her Royal British Legion medal with great pride at this latest presentation.

Despite the issues raised by the Covid pandemic, we have still been able to support the work of the Royal British Legion. As Jacqui Piper pointed out in the October edition of 'The Loop', the Legion has a website and has promoted a range of poppy themed kits and digital patterns which can be bought from Deramores with a percentage of every sale donated to the Legion. This has enabled people to make their own poppy brooches. The Legion also welcomes donations and you can arrange for a personal tribute to be planted in one of the Legion's six Fields of Remembrance across the country. I always arrange for a tribute to be planted in the Welsh Field of Remembrance in Cardiff to remember my uncle who served in the Second World War. The Legion managed to plant the tributes last year despite the pandemic, though the ceremony had to be closed.

This year we hope that the November Remembrance Service at the Biddenham War Memorial will be as normal and that there will be a beautiful display of crocheted and knitted poppies organized by Jacqui Piper, like the display of flowers for Mothering Sunday. We will be able to gather once again to remember those who served their village and their country.

Kathy Fricker

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Christmas with St James's Church

Sunday 5 December

9.30am All Age Service with Nativity

Sunday 19 December

9.30am All Age Service with Christingle

6.00pm Nine Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve

4.00pm Carols in the Churchyard

11.30pm Midnight Communion

Christmas Day

10.00am All Age Service followed by said
Communion

Biddenham Parish Council

The Parish Council met on Tuesday 19th October 2021 at the Pavilion.

Present at the meeting were Parish Councillors Graham Bates, Peter Chase, Chris Gee and Francia Slade. Apologies were received from Stewart Briggs, Krzys Osuch, Harry Fowler and Councillor Rigby. The Clerk, David Brough, and our Borough Councillor, Jon Gambold were also present. I'd like to thank Peter Chase for stepping in to chair the meeting at short notice.

Parish Council Meeting

Attendance continues to improve with two members of the public present to hear the various discussions.

The first item of business was to elect two new members for the Parish Council. There had been three submissions to fill the two vacant roles but at the meeting one of the nominees stood aside. I am pleased to report that Karen Cotton and Irina Madan-Sau were elected and took their positions with immediate effect. We look forward to having them 'on-board'.

Among the various items of business for consideration this month was notification from the Church Warden at St James's advising the Parish that it wished to discontinue burials in the old churchyard at St James's; the new churchyard will continue to be available. In line with the legislation the responsibility for maintenance of the now 'closed churchyard' will pass to the Borough Council; they already manage many closed churchyards in the Borough such as St Cuthbert's Churchyard and Fosterhill Road Cemetery.

In my last report I reported that the Parish Council had agreed to spend £6,000 in support of the Trees for Streets scheme. Following site visits by myself and the Clerk we reached the conclusion that to make an impact we would need to plant more trees than our initial estimate of twenty. It was very encouraging to see Councillors agree to fund a further twenty trees, making 40 in total. The proposed areas for the new trees will be consulted on and can be viewed on the Parish Council website.

It was also great to see Councillors approve the grant request to Bedfordshire Police Partnership Trust for £500 to support the 'Bobby Van' who provide 'ring doorbells' for the above 65s. The Trust has promised that the funding will be exclusively used for residents in Biddenham Parish and that the units provided will not have monthly/yearly subscriptions and will work solely on a sim card.

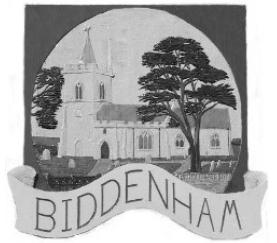
The meeting also reviewed the arrangements for Remembrance Sunday which this year will be Sunday 14th November with the service commencing at 10.50am. I do hope that many of you will be able to attend this important event.

Finally, it was great to learn the Pavilion is now fully booked at weekends until the end of the year with booking requests starting to come in for 2022. Activities are also filling up during the week with only a few gaps left to fill.

Date of the next meeting

Our next meeting is Tuesday 16th November at 7.30pm at the Pavilion in Deep Spinney and all are welcome.

Stewart Briggs
Chair



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 **Reverse ADVENT CALENDAR**

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Please deliver to 71 Murdock Road MK41 7PL from 4th to 7th January. 9.30am to 12.00pm.
 Email address: info@bedford.foodbank.org.uk | Telephone Number: 01234 268569
 At present we have plenty of pasta , cereal ,soup and sanitary ware and don't require any more.

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 Small Saucepan | 2 Tinned Fruit | 3 Jars of pasta Sauce | 4 UHT Fruit Juice | 5 Squash | 6 Washing Clothes Tablets |
| 7 Long Life Sponge Pudding | 8 Washing Up Liquid | 9 Jam | 10 Wooden Spoon | 11 Biscuits | 12 Tin Openers |
| 13 Size 6 Nappies | 14 Tinned Tuna | 15 Soap/Liquid handwash | 16 Toothpaste | 17 500g Rice | 18 Deodorant |
| 19 Tinned Rice Pudding | 20 Cutlery sets | 21 Coffee | 22 Bar of Chocolates | 23 UHT Milk | 24 Tinned Meat |

www.bedford.foodbank.org.uk. To donate money <https://bedford.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate->
 Registered Charity in England & Wales 1179538

Supporting Bedford foodbank

This 'reverse advent calendar' has been published on the Bedford foodbank website. The suggestion is that anyone who wishes to support the charity, either individually or as a group, can collect items throughout December and deliver them to Murdock Road in January so that stocks can be replenished after Christmas.

If you wish to donate groceries in the meantime the current list of items required is UHT Milk, Fruit Juice (Longlife), Jars of Pasta Sauce, Tinned Tuna, Tinned Rice Pudding, Tinned Fruit, Rice 250g/500g/1kg, Ham (Small Tins), Tinned Tomatoes, Tinned Peas/Carrots, Tea Bags (40/80), Soap Bars, Toilet Rolls.

Cash donations are also welcome. You can donate online, see the website <https://bedford.foodbank.org.uk> for details, or send a cheque payable to Bedford foodbank to 71 Murdock Road, Manton Industrial Estate, Bedford MK41 7PL .

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This month in the garden

As the pace of jobs that have to be done slackens this is a good time to do some work on longer term projects. I have, at last, done a job that I have been thinking about for several years. When we moved here many years ago, we had a wilder area along the back of the T-shaped land at the bottom of the garden. Over recent years I have worked on this to change it to more of a spring garden and I now have a line of camellias flanked by hellebores and snowdrops with an area of long grass growing daffodils, bluebells and a patch of snakes-head fritillaries in front. At one end of this there is an L-shaped border which is still pretty unkempt. I had a go at tidying this up last year but this month I have had a good clear out and put in some new perennials and now it looks like a garden and a fitting place to host my statuette of April; a young girl sitting cross-legged and radiating calm.

I mentioned this last month but, if you grow vegetables, you may well have harvested most of the produce and there will be empty spaces calling for attention. This is the traditional time for winter digging (not double digging nowadays) but a 'no digging' regime is becoming increasingly popular and this means hoeing the empty spaces to loosen the top soil and remove the weeds. If you still have root vegetables like parsnips or carrots in the ground they should be lifted and stored in dry soil or compost in a frost-free place. Many varieties of brassica (Cabbage family) and leeks will be ready for use now and in the coming winter months. Brassicas may need protection from marauding pigeons. You can sow broad beans for an early crop next year and you can try salad leaves in a heated greenhouse or on a windowsill indoors

for cut-and-come-again use.

Most spring bulbs should have been planted by now but November is the best time for planting tulips either in the ground or in containers. You may still be able to buy bedding plants for winter and spring colour with pansies (viola) the most popular.

Most plants can be bought in containers for planting at any time of the year but a good way, and the cheapest, is to buy bare-root plants now. The most likely to be available will be trees, roses and fruit bushes and canes. Prepare planting places with the addition of compost and don't plant when the ground is water-logged or in freezing conditions. If mail-order plants are delivered when conditions are not good unpack them and heel them in a patch of loose soil. Soak the roots of freshly delivered plants for an hour or so before planting out. Trees will probably need to be staked to keep them growing upright. Summer-fruiting raspberries should be planted in a row with a stake at either end connected with two or three strands of strong wire. All newly planted plants will benefit from a good layer of mulch (kept away from the base of trunks or stems) and they should be well-watered. Keep plants regularly watered throughout the first year. During the last year or so we have had three trees planted by the Council on the verges opposite our house. The Council do come round and water them occasionally but not often enough. We kept the one nearest to us well watered and it is flourishing, but, of the two on the other side of the road which were not watered additionally, one is dead and the other not looking too healthy. If you have a newly-planted tree on the verge near you keep this in mind.

When the weather is wet or too cold for comfort remember that this is a good time for tidying up in a shed or greenhouse. Plants will grow better in a greenhouse with clean glass and hygienic conditions and it is quicker to find things in a tidy shed. This is advice I need to heed myself. While thinking about glass don't ignore the advantages of having a cold frame which you can either buy or make fairly easily for yourself. A frame can provide winter protection for newly grown plants and is useful as a staging post for new plants that need hardening off before going to permanent positions. Alpines are plants that need to be kept out of the rain in winter to prevent rotting but, given good ventilation, don't mind the cold.

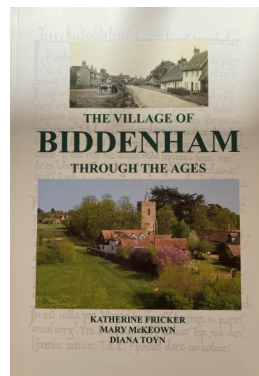
Jeremy Arthern



Reminiscence Mornings at The Higgins

The second in the series 'Going to Town' will be held on Thursday 18th November at 11.00am. The session will focus on The Embankment.

Free entry, refreshments £1.00. Booking essential. Telephone 01234 718618 and ask for Lydia Saul.



The Biddenham history book
£15.00

Contacts:

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



Young Archaeology Club at Wrest Park

If your child has an interest in archaeology, history, heritage or all three, then Wrest Park is an amazing place to learn about them. Find out about the past and how we explore and conserve it through hands-on activities, all based at Wrest Park. The club meets once a month, excluding some holiday periods, and is an affiliated club of the YAC network run by English Heritage staff and volunteers. Suitable for children aged 8-16 years, the club starts at 10.30am and lasts one and a half hours.

Pre-booking is essential and costs £4 per child for members and £6 per child for non-members, in addition to the usual admission price. For more information and to book please email Reception.WrestPark@English-Heritage.org.uk or call 01525 860000 option 5.

The next session will be on Saturday 13th November, 10.30am to 12.00noon.

Café B...

Tuesday 16th November

Biddenham Village Hall

10.15 am - 12.00 noon

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

Home baked cakes

Book Swap

Next café 21st December

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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What will your 'new normal' be?

*"When
nothing
is certain,
everything
is possible"*



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~~Worry~~ Security
~~Retired~~ Inspired



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What's with Watts?

Isaac Watts died on 25th November 1748. His tomb in Bunhill Fields, a former nondenominational burial ground particularly favoured by nonconformists, now in the London Borough of Islington, is in good company with John Bunyan, Daniel Defoe, William Blake and Susanna Wesley, the mother of Charles and John.



Isaac Watts (PD-Art)

Isaac was small in stature, at five feet tall, but substantial in his achievements. Most particularly, he is regarded as the creator of the English hymn, and we still sing his hymns today, bringing *Joy to the World*. Before him it was psalm singing not hymns that formed the main musical component of church services in the English-speaking world. Isaac was at once a churchman, an educator, and an important minor poet influencing later poets including William Blake and Emily Dickinson.

The oldest of nine children, Isaac was born in Southampton to Dissenter parents. His father was in prison when he was born and it is said his mother nursed him whilst sitting outside the prison gate on a silent protest against the unjust treatment of her husband. Isaac suffered poor health and frequent illness throughout his life. But despite that he showed remarkable ability as a child for languages, learning Latin when aged four, and for poetry.

Aged 16, Isaac had impressed a local doctor sufficiently for him to offer to support Isaac to attend Oxford University. But the university was affiliated with the established Church of England and to attend Isaac would have had to have converted, to conform. Instead, he attended the Newington Green Academy, a Dissenting institution in the area of London around Newington Green and villages including Stoke Newington and Hackney which had become the home of English Dissenters during the 17th century.

His studies prepared him to become a minister but he didn't feel ready yet for that office and, aged 20, he returned home, continuing to read, write and reflect. And, it is said, to write his first hymn *Behold the Glories of the Lamb*, having complained about the dull psalm singing at the family's church and encouraged by his father to try and change that.

Isaac moved back to London to work as private tutor to the nonconformist Hartopp family at their home, Fleetwood House, Church Street in Stoke Newington, where Isaac's convictions deepened. It was, he was quoted in a 19th century biography, '... five years of pleasure and improvement'. Watts was to become a prominent educator whose textbooks and educational theory were republished in Britain and America for more than a century, including his basic text on English usage *The Art of Reading and Writing English*.

When he was 24 he gave his first sermon and became assistant pastor at the Mark Lane Meeting, a large independent chapel, where he helped train preachers, becoming pastor in 1702. The congregation grew and Isaac's sermons began to be collected and printed. His success was due in part to his emphasis on the place of music in worship.

He published a volume of poetry in 1706 and a year later his three volume *Hymns and Spiritual Songs*. The latter, reissued in 1709 in an enlarged edition, is regarded as one of the most influential publications in the history of Protestantism. Isaac didn't write music; psalms and hymns at the time were sung to tunes known to congregations and/or choirs, but he did create a musical revolution with his

hymns written in a new language of personal worship that anyone could understand.

The original American edition of *Hymns and Spiritual Songs* was issued by Benjamin Franklin in 1741 and Isaac's texts were as widely disseminated in America as in England. It is thought they had a particularly strong impact in the religious life of African-American slaves and it is suggested the word '*spiritual*' to describe a religious song is derived from the title of Watts' book.

The Hartopps' immediate neighbours in Stoke Newington were the nonconformist Sir Thomas and Lady Mary Abney, who lived at Abney House, Church Street. Sir Thomas, a merchant, a banker and one time Lord Mayor of London, became Isaac's patron, and Isaac moved in 1712 to live with the family. A post in August 2014 in the blog, *On Women and Gender*, tells us of Lady Abney's sermon notebook and more of her and Isaac.

Her notebook records her attendance at church and the sermons she heard in the years 1722 - 1723, including the name of the preacher, the date preached, and a key line of scripture from the sermon. Sometimes she would listen to two sermons in one day. It seems some 46 sermons are summarised of which 17 are by Isaac Watts. Many of the sermons are annotated in another hand, which may have been Isaac's, and on the front page of the notebook there is an inscription '*To Mrs. Mary Abney/Novr: 27th. A.D. 1722.*' Under which appear the initials '*I.W.*'

The post continues that according to Isabel Rivers' entry on Isaac in the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, after Sir Thomas' death in 1722 when the family moved permanently to Abney House from Sir Thomas' property in Hertfordshire, Isaac continued to live with Lady Abney and her two daughters: '*They represented the ideal dissenting household. Watts thanked Lady Abney in the dedication to Divine Songs (1715): It is to her unwearied Tenderness, and many kind Offices by Night and Day, in the more violent Seasons of my Indisposition, that (under God) I own my Life and Power to write or think.*'

He lived with the family for 36 years until his death in 1748. He had particularly enjoyed the grounds at Abney Park, laid out by Lady Mary and accessed from both Fleetwood House and Abney House, a source of inspiration for his books and hymns.

There is a memorial to Isaac in Westminster Abbey, and statues in Abney Park Cemetery, Stoke Newington, and Watts Park, Southampton: but he lives on through his hymns.

Peter Applewhite



Isaac's statue in Abney Park Cemetery (with thanks to the Abney Park Trust)

Peter's Picturehouse

As someone from the audience put it, 'a good story well told and wonderfully portrayed'; how wonderful it was to have a bumper audience at Peter's Picturehouse in October to see Nomadland.

The same, we hope, can be said for our film being shown on Tuesday 2nd November, Greta Gerwig's Little Women (Certificate U). This film was released on Boxing Day 2019 and is probably a familiar story to many of us. The Louisa May Alcott novel has been revived and adapted whilst keeping the characters of the March sisters Jo, Meg, Amy and Beth intact. Starring Saoirse Ronan, Emma Watson, Florence Pugh, Eliza Scanlan, Laura Dern, Timothee Chalamet and Meryl Streep, the film was nominated for many awards, gaining a win for Best Costume Design.

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!

Rose Houghton



Peter's Picturehouse In November

Date: Tuesday 2nd November

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

Location: Biddenham Village Hall.



SAOIRSE RONAN EMMA WATSON FLORENCE PUGH ELIZA SCANLAN LAURA DERN TIMOTHEE CHALAMET and MERYL STREEP

Tickets available on the door, price: £5

LITTLE WOMEN

FROM GRETA GERWIG
THE WRITER AND DIRECTOR OF LADY BIRD



Certificate: U

For further information contact

Marihelen

marihelen@btinternet.com
OR 07710288933

Coming soon...

Tuesday 7th December : Last Christmas (12A)



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The Biddenham Society



56th Annual Lunch and AGM

**SUNDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2021
12.30 pm In the Village Hall**

Admission: Adults £10 - Children free

***** Tickets are still available *****

- Find out about recent planning applications, decisions and appeals in Biddenham including the Gold Lane development.
- Receive an up-to-date briefing on developments, the Borough's plans for Biddenham, and any imminent threats to the village.

Covid precautions will apply -
All surfaces will be cleaned before and after the event

- This annual event is a friendly, informal and popular occasion which is always well supported by residents.
- Enjoy a free glass of wine or a soft drink on arrival followed by the Society's special Ploughman's Lunch.
- ALL WELCOME - especially our younger residents - but to help catering arrangements, please book early. Thank you.

Cheques payable to 'The Biddenham Society'.
All bookings to Garry Fitzhugh, 69 Church End, Biddenham MK40 4AS
(tel: 07778 004749).

PLEASE NOTE THAT TICKETS WILL NOT BE ISSUED.
Receipt of your booking and cheque secures a place.

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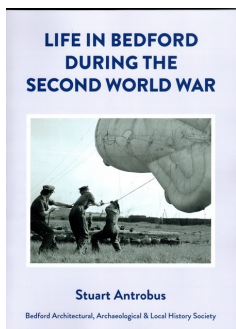
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Contact Ryan on
TEL: 07980 209587
or EMAIL



'Life in Bedford during the Second World War'

by Stuart Antrobus



This attractive book is a wide-ranging account of the effect of World War 2 on the people of Bedford. In 19 chapters Stuart Antrobus has covered all aspects of this topic, including evacuees, air raids, rationing, the BBC, secret activities and the end-of-war celebrations.

There are over 100 illustrations, including a shocking photo of the Grosvenor hotel after suffering a direct hit on the night of 23rd July 1942, and one of a Morrison indoor shelter, which brought back memories to me

of sleeping in one during air raids on Bristol, where I grew up.

There are also many appendices giving details of all the air raids on Bedford, where the bombs fell, and the fatalities and injuries that were incurred. Many suggestions for further reading are given.

Whether Bedfordians or not, I am sure readers will find much to interest them, and the book is very reasonably priced at £9. It is available at the Eagle Bookshop in St. Peter's Street (opposite Lidl). Why not give copies to friends and relatives at Christmas?

Mary McKeown.



Sadly, we report that our secretary Paul Godden has retired from the Friends of the Biddenham Village Pond committee. In addition to the secretarial duties, he took on many other responsibilities including the mowing and bin rota liaising with our wonderful volunteers, regularly inspecting the pond and its environment to produce a schedule of work needed, organising the annual inventory audit to ensure our tools were not mislaid, maintenance of our first aid and covid prevention supplies, as well as providing refreshments at our work morning, in the days when we were able to do such things. He was also physically active at the pond taking part in the work mornings and other ad hoc activities as necessary. He will be greatly missed, and we thank him for all his hard work which has been much appreciated, and hope that he will still join us at the work mornings.

This means that we are once again on the hunt for new committee members, to help us ensure that the Biddenham village pond remains an attractive part of the Biddenham landscape. If you would like to be involved, please contact a committee member, our details are below.

In the last edition we reported a problem with the metal gate, and we are pleased to say that this has now been mended so that it opens properly and no longer catches, and we thank Will Jenkin for doing this for us.

At long last our community pond work morning is back and will take place on Saturday 6th November between 10.00am and 12.00noon. For more details, please see our poster on page 1. Work has already started to move the reeds from the edge of the pond to the triangle and this will be completed at the work morning. There is much to do to tidy the pond and make the area ready for the winter, so please come and help us. The more volunteers we have the greater our achievement.

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's Church along the ancient coffin path that takes you across the fields and back to the village.

The Pond Team

Contact Details

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Chris Jones | chrishj49@gmail.com |
| Jane Knight | jane@80klt.co.uk |
| Cathy Eckett-Brown | ceckett@gmail.com |
| Sophie Applewhite-Rees | dansop1@googlemail.com |

www.biddenhamvillagepond.wordpress.com
www.facebook.com/biddenhamvillagepond



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Biddenham Gardeners Association

Artists and their gardens

On Tuesday 19th October we were so pleased to be joined by Dr Twigs Way. Dr Way is a researcher, writer and consultant in garden history and designed landscapes. She is well known to members of the BGA as, amongst other things, she lectures at Rothsay Education Centre, gives talks to The Arts Society and has also visited us in Biddenham on numerous occasions. Twigs started the session by saying that she would be talking about artists of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and that although many of the gardens depicted were from the heartland of France she would also be referring to gardens in England and Germany. Twigs' presentation was wide ranging - here is a small snap-shot of her talk.

Twigs took as her theme well known artists who were also horticulturalists and gardeners. They were drawn together by their love of art and gardening and influenced each other in both. Many of these artists were used to painting 'en plain air' and so capturing the images of their own gardens was a natural progression. Gardening is an art in itself - it is an art form and painting gardens, plants and landscapes becomes a reciprocal, reflective relationship. Many of the artists knew each other and regularly visited each other's gardens and indeed some, as in Broadway in the Cotswolds, Charleston in Sussex and Benton End in Suffolk lived together. During Twigs' talk and looking at the stunning paintings we caught glimpses of the life these artists lived with their wives, mistresses and children.

There were many similarities in the artists' work in capturing the outside space. They portrayed their gardens

and often the same view of the garden over and over again at different times of the year and different times of the day, using the light so that each painting took on a different aspect reflecting contrasting tones and hues. Twigs drew our attention to the splashes of colour and daubs of paint depicting bright pink and red of pelargoniums, nasturtiums and chrysanthemums. These colours were often picked out in the colour of the dresses worn by the women and children portrayed. I particularly liked Frederick Frieseke's painting of the women in white dresses in the garden at Giverny reflecting the white of the tall lily regale in the background. Many of the paintings depicted looking into the garden - this was true of Monet and Caillebotte. The artists often planted their gardens in blocks of colour, as in a paintbox and this was reflected in the blocks of colour used in their artistic impressions. The artists also took flowers, for example chrysanthemums, from their gardens to paint still life pictures. In contrast Pierre Bonnard, who knew Monet well and visited Giverny frequently, had a small garden and portrayed this in a different way - looking out from his 'Garden of Eden' as he called it to the landscape beyond. It was a jardin sauvage - wild and overgrown but it also let in the light.

Monet, in particular, was obsessed with his garden at Giverny, he put his whole life into creating it, telling visitors when to come to catch the various flowers at their best. His garden became his legacy for his friends. Like many of the other artists he created a formal garden but transformed this, in his paintings, into something more impressionistic, less formal and unstructured. The gardens provided the inspiration, but as some of the photographs of these gardens revealed, they were perhaps not factually portrayed. However, the gardens these artist/gardeners captured on canvas brought to life the personal paradise they had created. Monet said 'My garden is slow work - pursued by love' and 'All the money I earned went into my garden'. I think many of us can relate to those sentiments. How lucky we are that he and the other artists had the talent and inspiration to provide such a wonderful legacy for us to enjoy.

Many thanks to Twigs for such an informative and enjoyable talk and for reminding us that, as well as visiting gardens, there is such joy to be had from art galleries and exhibitions.

Please join us on Tuesday 16th November at 7.30 pm, on Zoom, for the 'Illustrated story of my Garden' by Chris Bamforth Damp. Details can be found on our website. As usual this meeting will be open to all members and visitors.

Linda Truscott

From Our Biddenham Village Agent

Our Village Agent, Teresa Moon, is here to help older or disabled people in Biddenham to fill in forms, access services and support, and learn what help is available to them. Her services are free and she can visit you at home. Just call Freephone 0800 039 1234.



Do You Need Transport to Get Your Booster Jab?

Bedford Borough Council have arranged free transport with 6 local taxi companies. For details go to www.bedford.gov.uk/VaxiTaxi. Booster vaccinations are available at Bedford Heights and a number of local pharmacies. You can book your jab via the nhs.uk website. Go to www.blmkccg.nhs.uk/drop-in for a list of venues.

Bus Operators Join Forces to Launch Cygnet Bus Pass

Bedford Borough Council have relaunched the 'Cygnet' bus pass, which enables bus users to switch freely between the three local bus operators - Stagecoach, Grant Palmer and Uno - without the need to buy multiple tickets. The 'Cygnet' pass is £6 for a day ticket, with the weekly ticket priced at £18.

The Cygnet travel zone includes the whole of Bedford and Kempston, as well as surrounding villages such as Bromham, Oakley, Cople and Elstow.

Bus Pass Applications

Do you need help to apply for or renew a bus pass? I'm happy to assist.

Do You Struggle with Mobility?

You might be eligible for a Blue Badge - I can help you to fill in the application form.

Door to Door Transport in Bedford Borough

- Do you struggle to get on a bus? Did you know that the Door2Door minibus service will collect you from home, and has facilities to take wheelchairs and mobility scooters using a tail lift?
- A subscription costs £30 for the first year and £20 annually thereafter. Minimum charge per journey £3.00. (There is no need to give up your bus pass.)
- The minibuses operate between 9:15am to 4:15pm, weekdays only. You need to book your journey two days ahead - or earlier for health-related appointments.
- Call the Door2Door admin number (01234) 834933 for more details.

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.)



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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!
5th November, 3rd December

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:

Jane Knight 07831 172320

Rebecca Balmbro 07769 944727

Email: stjamesbarnbiddenham@gmail.com

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

100 CLUB September draw



The winners were:

| | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Shaun Barnes | - 1st Prize |
| Hanja Bantock - | 2nd Prize |
| Stephanie McIntyre | 3rd Prize |

Drawn by Anne Blood

CORONAVIRUS SUPPORT NETWORK

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



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

Membership
Treasurer

Peter Leverkus
Paul Fricker

Tel: 353662
Tel: 342843

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

November

- Mon 1 Nov** 9.00am Morning Prayers via Zoom
Mon 1 Nov Great Denham Parish Council, Community Hall, 7.30pm, see p3
Tue 2 Nov Peter's Picture House, Biddenham Village Hall, 7.00pm, see p11
Wed 3 Nov 6.00pm Virtch, online Zoom service
Thu 4 Nov Biddenham Village Hall AGM, 8.00pm, see p3
Fri 5 Nov First Friday lunch, Biddenham Village Hall, 12.30pm, see p14
Sat 6 Nov Pond work morning, 10.00am-12.00noon, see p1
Sun 7 Nov 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
 Biddenham Society Annual Lunch and AGM, Biddenham Village Hall, 12.30pm, see p11
Sun 7 Nov 9.00am Morning Prayers via Zoom
Mon 8 Nov 9.00am Morning Prayers via Zoom
Wed 10 Nov 6.00pm Virtch, online Zoom service
Sat 13 Nov Young Archaeology Club, Wrest Park, 10.30am-12.00noon, see p9
Sun 14 Nov 9.30am Morning worship at St James's
 10.00am Holy Communion Service at All Saints with Act of Remembrance at 11.00am
 10.50am Act of Remembrance at Biddenham War Memorial, see p1
 6.30pm Service of Evening Prayer at St James's
Mon 15 Nov 9.00am Morning Prayers via Zoom
Tue 16 Nov Café B, Biddenham Village Hall, 10.15am-12.00noon, note new start time, see p9
Tue 16 Nov Biddenham Parish Council, Pavilion, 7.30pm, see p6
Tue 16 Nov Biddenham Gardeners Association meeting, Zoom, 7.30pm, see p13
Wed 17 Nov 6.00pm Virtch, online Zoom service
Thu 18 Nov Reminiscence coffee morning, The Higgins, 11.00am, see p8
Sun 21 Nov 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 p2
Mon 22 Nov 9.00am Morning Prayers via Zoom
Wed 24 Nov 6.00pm Virtch, online Zoom service
Fri 26 Nov Quilting & Sewing Group, Biddenham Village Hall, 10.30am-2.30pm, see p14
Sat 27 Nov Village Quiz Night, Biddenham Village Hall, 7.15pm, see p3
Sun 28 Nov Advent Sunday
 9.30am Morning worship at St James's
 10.00am Holy Communion Service at All Saints
Mon 29 Nov 9.00am Morning Prayers via Zoom

December

- Wed 1 Dec** 6.00pm Virtch, online Zoom service
Wed 1-Sun 5 Dec Christmas Tree Festival, St Paul's Church, Bedford, see p3
Fri 3 Dec First Friday lunch, Biddenham Village Hall, 12.30pm, see p14
Sat 4 Dec Great Denham Festive Fayre, Great Denham Community Hall, 2.00pm-6.00pm, see p8
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 p7
Sun 5 Dec Christmas Sale, St James's Church Barn, 10.30am-12.00noon, see p4
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 p11

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 15

Contributors please note that the next edition will cover both December and January.

The Loop

| | | |
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All **December/January** 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 17th November 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.