

The Loop

September
2022

£1.00

Church bells to ring for Peter on 2nd September

Peter Culverwell was a stalwart of the St James's bellringers and one of his last requests was that the bellringers would perform two special patterns that he was particularly fond of. COVID struck and made a quick response impossible but now that life is returning to normal the bellringers have got themselves organised to deliver his request.

On Friday 2nd September between 5.30 and 6.30 pm they will ring Bob Doubles and Falling Rounds. Everyone is invited to come and listen and, in true bellringers' tradition, the team will then retire to the pub!

Jean Gambold



Nick Bailey to speak at BGA

Nick Bailey, garden designer and presenter on BBC Gardeners' World will be speaking at the October meeting of the Biddenham Gardeners Association.

For details see page 3.

Ukraine in music and song

Do come along to a very special concert on **Saturday 3rd September at 7:30pm** in St James's Church, Biddenham. Two professional musicians from Ukraine, Mariia and Izabella, will tell us about their country in music and song. You can reserve your place by emailing peterleverkus@outlook.com (there are no tickets or specific seats).

Cash donations will be welcome on the day for "Children of Ukraine". Alternatively, please send any bank transfer donations to the church's charity account:

Biddenham PCC / 60-02-13 / 5131 7710 / reference "Ukraine" plus postcode and house number (for Gift Aid).

Why not bring along a group of friends?

3rd September, 2022
St. James Church, Biddenham

Mariia Yaremak



Izabella Ivaschenko

Composer and Vocalist
Live Music, donations for the Children of Ukraine.



See pages 4 & 5 for details.

??????? Save the date for the Village Quiz

Save Saturday 5th November for the Quiz at Biddenham Village Hall.

Proceeds will go to Willen Hospice.

'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

Did you know that graveyards are full of indispensable people? We are off on holiday and I am trying my best to travel light. It has been some time since we have been away properly together, so we pooled the holiday vouchers that Easyjet gave us for cancelled holidays over lockdown, and we are off to the Algarve for eight days. We are out of practice, so what shall we take with us? What are our priorities?



I am not very good at keeping the weight in my suitcase down. We are allowed 23Kg each and what they call a small cabin bag, but I always like to pack for all eventualities. Liz's bag weighs no more than half of that; shorts, T-shirts, sun cream, and all the other stuff. It is different for me because one way I relax is with my camera. Did I say camera? Actually, several cameras, oh and a few lenses, and..... Liz reminds me that the holiday is about leaving things behind, about concentrating on relationships and our own sanity. She is right of course. We all need time to refocus.

The holiday actually began yesterday, but we have come down to Guildford before flying because our daughter is looking after Nutmeg, our chocolate Labrador. I remember seeing a sketch on social media of a dog and its master looking out at the countryside. A thought bubble is above the person's head which shows the concerns about work, the house, the car, and the mortgage, while all that was in the dog's head was the thought of sitting alongside its owner, overlooking the countryside. With our complex minds, clearly it is harder leaving things behind and letting go.

My focus over the last few months has been wrapped up with people who have ended up in our community with no

choice but to travel light. I sat in a poky flat yesterday with a thirty five year old woman and her twelve-year-old son who had lost all that they ever had in the Russian occupation of Kherson. With Putin's disordered 'ores' (their words for his army, not mine) tearing apart their city, raping the remaining women and children, looting their possessions and indiscriminately chucking ordinances at the civilian population, what could she bring?

Of course, her suitcase may have been clothes and possessions light, but the real burden that this woman carried was far deeper. The absence of objects often equates to the absence of identity, a deeper burden still. How on God's earth could she ever shed those burdens? She was not travelling light at all, but carrying the burdens of her memories and broken dreams.

I was utterly disarmed by the depth of this woman's eyes. Again, I found myself unwittingly drawn into this person's experience, walking in the broken glass and rubble of Putin's war, trying to draw some healing and resurrection out of it, but, at the end of the day, only confronting my own emotional demons. 'It is not your job!' Liz said to me today, but I no longer know what my job is in this sense. These encounters do weigh upon us a little. I suppose, in my particular role, that there is a tendency to try to take on other people's stuff.

Yesterday, I had three phone calls from the same bride, and each time my gentle reminder that I was actually on holiday seemed to go completely over her head. Then, as I was typing this on my iphone this morning, my daughter said to me; 'Did you know that on a plane they ask you to put on your own oxygen mask first, otherwise you will not be able to help anybody else?' Her comment is noted.

I love the mini-parable that Jesus used with the rich man, 'It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than it is for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven'. Obviously that is about wealth, but it can also serve as a reminder about losing some of the baggage we all carry round with us. We all have our fair share, and often it is difficult putting that stuff down.

The Bible is not short of such reminders; Jesus' reminder to his followers that they should travel light (Luke 9:3) stands out from the rest, because it reminds me personally that I should not be so arrogant as to believe I should rely on my own strength alone. If you believe that you alone have the power to save the planet, that is bad faith, because God alone has the power to save (Acts 4:12-14). Then there is the no less powerful, but infinitely more sympathetic reminder, that you should cast your burdens on him, because he cares for you (1 Peter 5:7). The whole principle of Sabbath in the Old Testament is not an optional extra but a reminder to us of our humanity in the face of God, our need to rest, our need to let go, and our need to unburden.

Well, I believe our gate number has been called. It is time to stop writing and fly to a beach, not least because if I don't then my wife will actually kill me. 'Just one thing,' Liz says to me. 'Will you carry my bag for me?'

God bless.

Eric

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/>



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 Nash | Tel 364251 Tel 961826 |
| Verger | Hilary Hurn | Tel 364251 |
| Treasurer | Michael Hurford | Tel 271746 |
| Organist/Choirmaster | Adam Wright | |
| www.stjamesbiddenham.com | | |

Bulky waste collections Biddenham 3rd September:

Pavilion 8.30am to 12.00 noon

Darlow Drive 1.00pm to 3.30pm

Great Denham 10th September

Near the first roundabout 1.00pm to 4.00pm

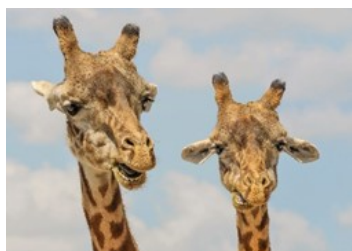
Gifts for Ukrainians are making a real difference

Along with the financial gifts, the kind donations of toiletries, stationery, umbrellas, vouchers and many other items have been making a real difference to our visitors at this dreadful time in their lives.

Many are now actively involved in English classes, enhancing employment opportunities and their lives in the UK. The stationery provided has supported this activity and has been appreciated by their children too.

The money donated has been invaluable in bridging the gap for individuals and families falling between the funding from other agencies. It has really helped them to get started and alleviate anxiety.

The other great need has been helping Ukrainians settling locally to be more mobile! The donations have funded the provision of around 60 safe, well equipped and serviced bikes of various sizes. Our guests and their hosts are very appreciative of the thoughtful and fantastic response.



For those in a position to do so we are now welcoming donations to pay for a £20 ticket or two, or half a ticket, for a trip to Whipsnade Zoo in the school holidays. The trip has been planned jointly by us and Bedford Borough Children's Services. This is to give around 120 local Ukrainians a day to be

together, distracted from the trauma of the war. The Borough and Diocese have both donated generously, but we are seeking to raise a further £800 to cover tickets and ice creams for children.

One of our local hosts summed up the planned trip for everyone by saying, *'This is so amazing - it's sort of overwhelming. My family are so excited to be invited. I didn't have to arrange it! And this is a gift for sponsors to have a day off on their own at home, as well as for the guests to have a fantastic time.'*

You can donate by:

Bank transfer to:

Name: Biddenham PCC,

Sort code: 60-02-13 (NatWest),

Account No: 5131 7710.

Please reference "Ukraine" plus your postcode and house number for claiming Gift Aid. (This is the church account for charity appeals.)

Cheque - payable to: "Biddenham PCC" and send to: St James's PCC Treasurer, 32a Church End, Biddenham, MK40 4AR and include your name and address to allow Gift Aid and mention "Ukraine".

Thank you

St James' Church Ukraine Support



BIDDENHAM GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION

Tuesday 18th October

7.30 pm

in

The Village Hall

We are pleased to announce that

Nick Bailey

Garden Designer and Presenter on
BBC Gardeners' World

will be joining us

His talk is entitled

"365 Days of Colour in the Garden"

Visitors are very welcome - £10 per person on the door

This event is, of course, free to all BGA members

HARVEST FESTIVAL

on

Sunday 9th October

Come and enjoy

Harvest Flowers in the Church

and

Cream Teas in the Church Barn

3:30pm-5:00pm



Proceeds to St James's Church



Sunday 11th September - 12 noon to 4pm
St James' CE VA Primary School &
Biddenham Village Hall

www.biddenhamshow.org

Bedford Blues

We are delighted to announce that this year's Show will be formally opened by some of the players from Bedford Blues.

Fancy Dress Parade

The Bedford Blues will also be judging this year's Children's Fancy Dress Parade. The theme is 'My Favourite Costume'. So, dig out your favourite fancy dress outfit for a chance to win some prizes.

Competitions Galore

This year there will be over 60 competitions for participants of all ages, covering a wide variety of interests and skills, offering plenty of opportunities to win trophies:

- Gardening
- Young Biddenham Gardeners
- Sunflower Growing
- Chutneys, Jams & Preserves
- Cakes & Baking
- Young Biddenham Baker
- Photography
- Art & Craft
- Young Biddenham Art & Craft
- Fun Dog Show

Entry Forms and full details for each competition category and class are available on the Show web site:
www.biddenhamshow.org.

Deadline for Entry Form submissions is: **Thursday 8th September**. All entries to be brought to the Show ground between 8.15am and 9.45am on Sunday 11th September for judging.

Cake & Biscuit Donations

Every year the tea and cake stall in the Village Hall makes a significant contribution to the funds available for local groups and organisations.

The stall requires lots of volunteers to donate homemade sponge cakes, lemon drizzles, cupcakes, scones, biscuits, brownies and many more.

If you can help, please contact: Sharon (07785 223676) or Maddy (07971 094438).

Book & DVD Donations

If you didn't manage to drop off your unwanted books and DVDs at Café B or the First Friday Lunch, please bring them along to the Book and DVD stall on the day.

Mary Berry's Orange Drizzle Cake Baking Competition Recipe

- The recipe for Mary Berry's Orange Drizzle Cake is now available on the Show web site: www.biddenhamshow.org.

Mary Berry's Tips

- **Prepare Ahead** – the cake can be assembled up to 8 hours ahead
- **Freezing** – sponges freeze well if wrapped in cling film or foil
- **Icing** – pour the drizzle icing onto the warm cake
- **Decorating** – sprinkle the orange zest on the top immediately after the drizzle icing

Thanks to our Sponsors

We would like to thank **Taylor Brightwell** and **Circle Health Group** (formerly BMI) for once again sponsoring this year's Show.

All activities are vulnerable to change due to circumstances beyond our control.
Please check the Show web site for details.

Janet Field

Terry Platt

We are sorry to report the death of Terry Platt on 6th July.

Terry was a Biddenham Parish councillor for a number of years and a noted local artist. His work will be remembered in Biddenham for many years through his contributions to the Biddenham Heritage Trail and work on the village sign for which he developed the two main illustrations from paintings by John Hardacre and Gerry Allen, originally created for the Heritage Trail.

We are grateful to his son, Simon, for this obituary.



Terence Charles Platt, Esq. C.B.

It is with regret that the family of Terence Charles Platt, aged 85, announces his passing on Wednesday 6th July 2022 at home in Bedford. His wife of 60 years, Margaret, having passed away just two years ago, Terry leaves two sons, Christopher and Simon, and four grandchildren, Helen, James, Andrew and Esther.

Terry was born in London, educated at St. Olave's Grammar School and worked as a Civil Servant, largely in the Home Office, throughout his career, rising to the grade of Deputy Secretary. For his service to the country, he was awarded the honour of Companion of the Order of the Bath.

He was a huge cricket fan and MCC member, joking in his last week of life that following the English test team's recent resurgence, his dream of hitting a six versus Australia was probably now destined to remain just a dream. To his credit, though, he remained ready for a call up. He was also a butterfly enthusiast, a philatelist and latterly an accomplished watercolour artist.

Finally, it would be wrong of us to omit that Terry had a thing about cats. He loved their sense of independence and their ability to rise above the difficulties and challenges of everyday life. Over the years, Margaret and he shared their lives with many feline friends. Over the last two difficult years, Terry's best mate was Monty, a tabby of indeterminate age. They both adored each other as Margaret and those of us who remain adored him too. He will be badly missed, but not forgotten.

The funeral service was held on Tuesday 9th August at Christ Church, Bedford.

Charitable donations in Terry's memory may be made at <http://www.memorygiving.com/terenceplatt>. The page closes on 7th September.

Dog Control Regulations

It is apparent that some dog owners are using the St James's churchyard extension as a convenient enclosed area in which to exercise their pets off the lead and failing to remove the evidence.

You should note that the churchyard extension is subject to a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for Dog Control and that it is an offence for dogs not to be kept on a lead in that area. Failing to comply with a PSPO carries a maximum penalty upon conviction of a fine not exceeding £1,000. Offences may also be dealt with by way of a fixed penalty notice of £75.

For further information go to dog-control-orders at www.bedford.gov.uk.

Laurie Hurn
Church Warden

BIDDENHAM SHOW 11 SEPTEMBER 2022

BOTTLE STALL REQUEST FOR DONATIONS



Should you wish to donate some bottles to this years' Biddenham Show, please call Jane on 07831 172320 or email jane@80ktd.co.uk during the week commencing 5th September to arrange delivery or collection.

REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS



If you are planning to come to the Show, why not donate an hour (or two) of your time to help on the day. We still need help on the gate, with the dog show/dog agility course, selling raffle tickets, splat the rat and general marshalling.

If you are free on Saturday 10th from 9.30am to noon, we also need help setting up the Show on the school field.

If you can help with any of the above, please contact Lin on 0749 467 0246 or email laf@peakweb.com

Thank you for your support – we look forward to seeing you.

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Biddenham Parish Council

The Parish Council met on Tuesday 12th July 2022 at the Pavilion. Present at the meeting were Parish Councillors Graham Bates, Peter Chase, Karen Cotton, Harry Fowler and Chris Gee. Apologies were received from Irina Madan-Sau, Francia Slade and Krzys Osuch. Also present were the Clerk, David Brough, myself and our two Borough Councillors, Jon Gambold and Roger Rigby.

The Public Open session raised a number of matters with the Parish Council. One member of the public shared details about a potential future planning application for a third dwelling at 12/12A Vicars Close. Clearly until an application is submitted the Parish Council is not in a position to comment on it, but it was helpful to receive the heads up. Concerns were also raised about speeding,



particularly on Gold Lane (prior to the current 4-way lights being in place!), and the general dissatisfaction with motorists who speed in the village was clearly a wider concern with those present. The public forum is helpful at our Parish meetings as we can use it to focus our concerns with those responsible, which in the majority of cases is the Borough Council.

Once again, the issue of average speed cameras was discussed and the Parish Council agreed to contact the Borough to request them again to move forward with Bromham Road. The matter of the pedestrian refuges would be revisited at a later date so that it didn't cloud the Borough's thoughts on the applicability and need for the average speed cameras on Bromham Road.

As I stated in my June report, the Parish will be considering, probably at its September meeting, whether to invest in further street trees as a continuation of the 'Trees for Streets' initiative. Do let our Clerk know if there are any locations on Parish or Borough owned land you think would benefit.

Also, at this meeting we considered a proposal from Bedford Borough Highways for a 20mph speed limit in Deep Spinney. As there had been support for this when we undertook our consultation earlier in the year, the Parish Council supported the proposal put forward.

Finally, little did I appreciate when we met in July, that weeks of disruption would follow due to the construction of the roundabout on Bromham Road (which effectively closed Bromham Road) coupled with the 4-way traffic lights at the Gold Lane/Deep Spinney junction. There have been a lot of issues raised by residents with reports of excessive speeding on Main Road and Biddenham Turn, large vehicles ignoring the diversion routes, the inadequacy of the signage erected and the increased rat running through the village. Through our Clerk, and with the help of our Borough Councillors, we have been pushing the Borough to make adjustments to mitigate some of these. I am pleased they have listened to us and made some limited amendments. However, it's clear that there will continue to be disruption for several weeks to come!

Date of the next meeting

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 20th September 2022 at 7.30pm at the Pavilion in Deep Spinney and all are welcome.

Stewart Briggs
Chair

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Whither the Biddenham station?

The quest to find a link, if it existed, between Australia's Biddenham and our Biddenham initially took me forward through many owners of the station to the current owners, Natalie and Guy Newell, running a cattle breeding herd aiming to produce annually for sale up to 500 steers.

Natalie is the daughter of Julie and John Cornes who bought the station in 1997 and later acquired the freehold. John had played rugby for Queensland and was capped four times for Australia. From 2008 they were assisted in managing the station of some 68,000 acres by Natalie and Guy. John died in 2014 aged only 66, bringing more change to Biddenham: a division into two halves. Natalie and Guy now own the new Biddenham station, and Natalie's sister and her partner own the other half, called Ellangowan station.



The now barren lands. Picture: Katrina Lehmann

The Newell family: Ruby, Natalie, Guy, Campbell and Eva in 2018 pictured in The Australian on their parched Biddenham station.

This area of Queensland can suffer substantial floods, but also prolonged droughts. The drought that began in 2013 was highlighted in The Australian in May 2018 in an article, featuring the Newells and Biddenham, 'Cry for help as 'natural disaster' cripples parched lands', and it was through that I found the family.

The Australian Prime Minister was under pressure to deliver a substantial drought relief package as Queensland bush towns and graziers battled a fifth failed wet season: 'The drought has been the first thing they think of when they wake up, and the last thing they think of when they go to bed. Watching stock die, their businesses are under pressure ...'

At Biddenham the Nive River was dry, flowing only once in the previous five years, the herd had been reduced from 1,500 to 1,100 and the Newells were considering cutting it to 600 as Biddenham faced its worst winter since 2013. Four months later there was some transformation of the parched landscape with, in a 24 hour spell, widespread rainfall including over 3 inches at Biddenham.

That was though only a temporary reprieve.

Back in England, still hoping and looking for a link with our Biddenham, suddenly up popped the earliest reference yet to Biddenham in Queensland, it being taken up in 1863 by a Henry Missing. Could he be the link?

Village history books record a Reverend John Missing, Curate of Biddenham, and searches revealed he had a son, Henry, who it first seemed had gone to Australia. But two problems arose: that Henry was 73 when he died there, but John's Henry would have been 72 and, worse, I found a Henry Missing, of the right age, sailing in 1856 to Canada via New York. Oh dear.

A quandary; were there two Henrys and which might be John's son? Only one thing to do ... go to Australia!

Sadly, only via the internet. And, having failed with earlier enquiries there, to try to contact the family on the spot to see what they might know of their station's history.

Happily, contact was made with Guy who, coincidentally, had been asked by one of his daughters a few days earlier why their station was called Biddenham. He didn't know the answer.

His interest piqued, Guy made an interesting find. With bated breath, opening the link he'd sent revealed an article 'Death of a Queensland Pioneer' in The Brisbane Courier of 6 September 1910 about, yes, one Henry Missing. That with other obituaries I subsequently found confirmed there was only one Henry; he was John's son. He had first gone to Canada then later to Australia where he found and claimed land, and named it Biddenham. The oddity of his age at death, still a mystery.

But in Australia I'd left the Newells stuck in a prolonged drought. What happened next?

In March 2019, 5 inches of rain was followed shortly by another 2 inches. 'Some useful rain at last', Guy said and added, 'It was a bit late in our grass growing season but it has really saved our bacon nonetheless!' Further action had though been necessary and the herd had been reduced to some 600 cows. There was little further rain, most of eastern Australia remaining in the grip of severe drought, and there had been a mass sell-off of livestock. Come December the Newells were preparing to brand their new calves, but what they and the region still really needed was more rain.

2020 dawned and, with torrential rain and floods elsewhere in the country, Biddenham received its first storm rains in early January. Over a few falls the station ended up with almost 1.5 inches around the run, but more was needed to keep closing up the cracks and start some grass growth. During the next two months, nearly 8 inches of rain fell in February and 2 inches in March: 'The place looks great again and it is so green! We have a fair bit of flood fencing to fix and a fair few washouts on our roads but the rain has been terrific.'

The drought had yet to be declared over and in Guy's opinion in February 2021 it certainly had still to break on Biddenham. But by the end of the year he concluded it had been overall a reasonably good year with nearly 24 inches of rain, somewhat above the 20 inch average. Whilst a slow process, more replacement heifers had been retained over the previous two years to rebuild the herd. By early 2022 it stood at 1,200 head with the aim of returning to the pre-terribly dry 2018/19 level of 1,500 head.



New grass at Biddenham and a growing herd (With thanks to the Newell family)

And in May 2022 the drought that had plagued Biddenham for almost a decade was officially declared over.

We wish the Newell family good luck, rain whenever needed, a happy and successful future and thank them very much for their help in finding our Missing link with them.

Peter Applewhite
{With thanks to Trove and The Australian for the newspaper and magazine extracts}



From Our Village Agent

Our Village Agent, Teresa Moon, is here to help people in Bedford Borough villages to access the services and support they might need. She can also help with money issues. Her services are confidential and free and she can visit you at home. Just call Freephone 0800 039 1234.

There are a number of payments available to help you with rising costs of energy and food, which you can check on <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/cost-of-living-payment>. If you are unable to use a computer, do contact me for help. If you're eligible for any of the payments below, you'll be paid automatically in most circumstances. You shouldn't be contacted and asked to apply, or asked for any personal details, so if you are contacted, please be on your guard, as this could be a scam. Here is a summary of benefits available for pensioners:

Money Off Energy Bills. All households in Britain will get £400 off their energy bills between October 2022 and March 2023. In most cases, it will be credited to electricity accounts automatically. If you pay by pre-payment meter, it will either be credited to the meter or you will receive a voucher.

Council Tax Rebate If you are in Council Tax bands A-D, you should be entitled to a non-repayable £150 from your council. Payments have already been made from April 2022, and if you don't pay your bill via direct debit, you'll need to make a claim.

One-off Payments

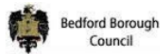
- A **£300 Pensioner Cost of Living Payment** for households that receive the Winter Fuel Payment. This is a **top-up to your Winter Fuel Payment** in November/December 2022.
- A **£650 Cost of Living Payment** for households on means-tested benefits, such as **Pension Credit** and Universal Credit. You'll be paid in two instalments if eligible. Your eligibility for the first instalment will depend on whether you were entitled to certain benefits between 26 April 2022 and 25 May 2022— Universal Credit, Income-based JSA, Income-related ESA, Income Support or **Pension Credit**.
- A **£150 Disability Cost of Living Payment** for those receiving disability benefits, such as **Attendance Allowance**. To get this payment in September, you must have a successful claim for a disability benefit in progress on 25 May 2022.

Household Support Fund. This is a payment to help those considered most in need with the rising cost of food, energy and water bills. Bedford Council will make an award to Council Taxpayers of pension age who are receiving Council Tax Support.

Are you Eligible for Pension Credit? If your income is below £182.60 (single person) or £278.70 (couple) then you should qualify. Ask me to help you to apply.

Contact your Village Agent on Freephone 0800 039 1234

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



Ron Hope

We are sorry to report the death of Ron Hope, who passed away in June at the age of 68. We are grateful to Chris Jones for this tribute.

We were privileged to have Ron and Margaret Hope live in Biddenham for about seven years and they were a very lively part of our community.

Ron passed away recently after a long illness bravely borne, so this is an opportunity to remember him and all he did while he was here. Some of us were able to attend his funeral where many fulsome and, often amusing, tributes were paid to him from family and friends, including some poetry.

Ron had a long and distinguished career in the Metropolitan Police service, serving for 30 years. He was the first black inspector and also first chair of the Metropolitan Black Police Association.

He rose to the rank of Chief Superintendent and eventually retired in 2003 as Borough Commander of Islington.

After retirement from the Met, Ron worked for the ICC in their anti-corruption department, focusing on rooting out match-fixing in international cricket. Cricket gave him the opportunity to travel to the West Indies, Australia and New Zealand, to name a few. He toured for many years, watching a sport he loved whilst being paid!

I think a number of cricketers in the village offered to be his deputy.

Ron was a jovial host and fully entered into the Biddenham spirit during his time here, and is much missed.

He served the village community as a member and subsequently Chairman of the Village Hall Committee from January 2004 to November 2005. Before that he was on the Committee as representative for the Wine Tasting Club.

What he most liked to do here was to talk, often over a glass of good wine, and watch cricket and there are many in the village who still remember fondly conversations on the outfield or of meeting him at Lords cricket ground.

He and Margaret loved to entertain, and many memorable evenings were shared at their house in Nodder's Way.

After moving away to Norfolk, Ron and Margaret would come back and join a small group of us for a Christmas supper in the The Three Tuns or at various parties. This was a great opportunity to catch up and hear news of their family.

We were very lucky to have had Ron among us and wish Margaret and her family the best for the future.



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Bedford National Trust Association



Next meeting 20th September at 2.15pm

Speaker Martin Sirot-Smith - in costume

"Sulgrave Manor and the Washington Family"

- an interesting talk.

We meet at the Addison Centre in Kempston, MK42 8PN

There is plenty of parking space.

There will be a small entry fee for visitors.

No need to book. Just come. We will make you welcome.

If you need more information please ring Betty Thomas on 01480 860 421

Biddenham Cricket Club

The welcome arrival of some rain has made the cricket field green again and means that we can put away the hosepipe that has been used constantly, but hopefully responsibly, to keep the cricket pitches playable.



The senior team won the majority of matches in the second half of the season and are currently placed second of eight teams in the Bedfordshire County League Division One (the Premier Division is above us). Captain Ross Cunningham has made great efforts to field as strong a team as possible and his own performances with bat and ball have inspired others to also put in some notable performances. Finding eleven players remains a challenge for the majority of the season, but, perhaps surprisingly, August has proved to be the best month for player availability.

It is possible to keep track of the team's performance via this link: <https://bedsccl.play-cricket.com/website/division/101550>

The junior section of the club has again seen a great deal of activity. All the league matches have been completed but there have been some 35 over-a-side friendly matches played in July and August by the Sunday Development Team containing a mixture of juniors and a few adult players, mostly parents. Thanks again to all who have helped with umpiring and scoring, plus at training sessions, without whom the club would not function.

Weather permitting, the junior season should reach an enjoyable finale on the late afternoon/evening of Friday 26th August when there will be a final junior 'training session' including presentations.

Once again the club is thankful for the support from the Parish Council mainly offered by Deborah Slade. Also, thank you to all the club's supporters in the village, including the Vice-Presidents and Sponsors, plus all those working behind the scenes to keep the cricket club functioning.

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 |
| Youth Chairman | Chris Spurgeon | 07707 771606 |
| Cricket Secretary | Richard Fone | 07818 678697 |
| Club Welfare Officer | Katie Ulvert | 07739 286783 |
| 100 Club | James Gardner | 07928 478563 |

In case you were wondering....

... why Lavender Lane (the entrance to the Dandara development off Gold Lane) has turned into Peacock Lane.

Well, it transpired that unbeknown when names for roads in the development were put forward, there is already a Lavender Lane in Great Denham, and confusion it was thought might arise.

The powers that be decided to rename our road and to call it instead Thyme Lane. Shock, horror, oh no!

The whole point of the road names suggested for the development was to commemorate Biddenham's longstanding agricultural and farming heritage, and our Lavender was a farmer not a herb.



Happily it was not too late to put things back on the right road (sorry) and names of other village farmers were put forward, from which the Borough selected Peacock (note for future reference given past experience, definitely a farmer not a bird).

Henry J. Peacock farmed Grove Farm from 1880 to 1900 and when he retired had built the first house to be built in the then New Road, now Biddenham Turn.

Peter Applewhite

Andrew Charles

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This month in the garden

At the end of my July article I wished you all Happy Harvesting and here we are now in full swing enjoying the fruits of our labours. Hopefully some of the produce will be making its way to the show benches of the Biddenham Show. I have been reflecting on summer and remembering the lovely gardens I have visited.

My mind went back to the last Sunday in June when a number of residents of Church End opened their gardens to visitors. What a lovely afternoon, ambling through other people's gardens, chatting to the owners, looking at the lay out, the landscaping, what was being grown. However, the thing that struck me most was that, although residents were clearly looking after their plots with lots of flowers for the pollinators and tidy vegetable plots, there were also the 'untidy' bits - the log stacks, the upturned pots, perfect environments for all sorts of insects and invertebrates, the stinging nettles, such an essential food source for moths and butterflies, the wild, un-mown grassy areas. As well as a mixture of plants, flowers, fruit and vegetables, plus trees and shrubs, creating diverse habitats in our gardens is, for me, an essential part of gardening. I noted with glee holes in fences for hedgehog ramblings. I read in the RHS Garden Magazine in May that urban gardens are providing positive safe havens for hedgehogs as recent data reveals that populations here are stabilising. Hedgehogs need to forage through multiple gardens, so gaps in boundaries are essential. The British Hedgehog Preservation Society reports that urban hedgehogs travel around a mile each night in search of food. Most of the gardens I visited on that afternoon had areas of water so, all in all, sanctuaries for wild life. Well done to the residents of Church End and to everyone else in Biddenham who cares about our environment and is seeking to nurture, protect and provide habitat for our fellow creatures.



Aston Pottery Gardens

During the summer I spent a few days in Bath with my daughter and on the way we stopped off at Aston Pottery and Gardens near Witney, a wonderful place to eat and shop as well as admiring the stunning perennial borders.

In July, I had a short break with my sister at her house in Kenilworth,

Warwickshire, and we were able to visit the lovely gardens of mutual friends in the Cotswolds. I envied the lushness of their lawns and borders, although those who live in these places are sorely depressed by their lack of rain this year. They have no concept of how our gardens are faring in the dry East!

Whilst there we visited Hidcote, Packwood and Baddesley Clinton Gardens. National Trust properties always excel in their 'hot' borders at this time of the year. The perennial beds, with their kniphofia, echinacea and crocosmia, really come into their own in July and August, and the dahlia borders are a great delight.

Like most garden enthusiasts, I am always drawn to the plant stalls. It is good to see what is on offer and what can be added to one's



Baddesley Clinton

own collection. Discipline is needed but, if one has been tempted, the new treasures are a reminder of happy days out with friends and family.

I have been contemplating changing the way I garden to cope with drought, like many other people I suspect. I am investigating the plants that have adapted to these drier, more Mediterranean conditions and observing the plants to see when they need water. Giving them a really good soak very early in the morning works better than the evening as

night time watering encourages the slugs and snails. We need to look at smarter ways of irrigating to ensure that our precious water is used as effectively as possible. A good amount of water infrequently is much more effective than little and often as this only encourages shallow root growth and the plants soon wither if watering is halted. It goes without saying, of course, that we should all be collecting our 'grey' water, washing up water and the like, to irrigate our plants. Please also put out a shallow pan of water for the birds for drinking and washing. Mine is in constant use by robins and blue tits, although blackbirds prefer the pond.



Hidcote



Whilst it is impossible to save everything, I am trying to keep my hanging baskets and tubs ticking over with regular deadheading and a weekly feed of liquid seaweed.

A question about watering regimes was asked on Radio 4 Gardeners' Question Time on 7th August and the panel, including Christine Walkden, had some very useful suggestions. It is well worth listening to this episode.

Many people in Biddenham will remember when Christine joined us to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Biddenham Gardeners' Association. This year, to celebrate 30 years of the Association (plus an additional couple of years - COVID got in the way!), we are welcoming Nick Bailey from BBC Gardeners' World. Do join us if you can, visitors will be very welcome, on 18th October, 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

By the time you read this article it may have rained - fingers crossed!

Linda Truscott

Day in the Life of a Thatcher

'A job for life'

The many pretty thatched cottages of Biddenham have stood the test of time. Janet Field caught up with master thatcher, Roger Evans, whilst he was re-thatching a cottage on Duck End Lane with partner, Mark White, to find out more about this ancient craft, which has changed little over the centuries.



Roger Evans

How did you become a thatcher?

I've been a thatcher for 55 years. I'm from Derbyshire originally, but I moved to Bedford after a chance meeting with a master thatcher from Radwell. I started out as his apprentice for 10 years before setting up on my own. I was also an instructor at the thatching school at Knuston Hall, Northampton, for 21 years [now closed].

What are the skills required to become a thatcher?

Common sense is the main requirement. The basic principles of thatching are fairly simple. You need a good eye because there's nothing level on a thatched roof. You also need a good head for heights.

What tools do you use?

Reeds are not cut, so they're batted into shape with a tool called a leggett. The reeds are held onto the roof with metal spikes which go through to the rafters and a steel bar lies horizontally across to hold it in place.

We use reed or straw for the thatch and sedge for the ridge. Reed is more durable than straw but, for conservation reasons, reed has to be replaced with reed and straw with straw.

Does reed only come from Norfolk?

It's grown in Norfolk because of the wetlands. But it's a common reed that's grown all over the world, as far away as China. We prefer to source our reeds from the Norfolk Broads where it's grown especially for thatching.



How long does it take to thatch a roof?

It varies depending on the type and size of the building, how much of the thatch needs replacing, and whether there's any timber work needs doing. Every job is different. The Duck End Lane cottage took 8 weeks.

How long will a new thatch last?

Around 30 years.

Why do some thatched roofs have straw animals (finials) on the ridge?

It dates back to when corn dollies were put on haystacks as a symbol of fertility and thanks for the harvest. Sometimes they're used to deter birds. We don't usually put animals on the ridge, but if people request them, we'll get them made.

What's the most unusual thatch you've worked on?

We were invited to Japan to demonstrate our techniques on a Minka (traditional Japanese thatched farmhouse) in Miyama, a remote rural area north of Kyoto.

We also work on thatched churches, particularly in Lincolnshire and Norfolk.

Is there a fire risk?

It's a misconception that thatch is more risky. You're more likely to have a house fire through an electrical fault than because of a thatch.

We lay a fire blanket underneath the thatch so that, should the thatch catch fire, it protects the property underneath. A reed roof is less inclined to ignite, whereas straw will burn more readily.

Occasionally lightning or bonfire night can cause a thatch to catch fire.

What's the best thing about being a thatcher?

It's a natural job using natural materials, working out in the country, in the fresh air. It's also a guaranteed job for life. There are around 70,000 thatched cottages, barns, and churches across the country, and they've all got to be maintained. I have 2-3 years of work ahead. Every thatcher worth his salt will be the same. It's always been like that throughout my working life.

Are young people still training to be thatchers?

Very few. It's a physical job and we do all our work stood on a ladder. We're out in all weather. At times it's pouring with rain, but reeds have to be laid dry. So, on those days we have to find something else to do. Straw has to be wet to make it pliable, so it lies better. And sedge has to be wet to be able to bend it over the ridge.

What is the biggest challenge?

Reed is grown in wetlands and very dry weather inhibits growth. One season was also very rainy, and the ground was too wet to sow the seeds. If the growing conditions aren't right, you get a poor crop, which creates a shortage. This has happened for 2-3 years, so the price of reed is going up.

Do you live in a thatched cottage?

Yes, I live in a thatched cottage in Riseley.

Janet Field

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Planting pants at Warden Abbey - yes really!

Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity has leased the vineyard since 2010, and developed it as a unique resource for the local community. Throughout the year, staff and volunteers are kept busy with jobs such as pruning the dormant vines, stripping leaves from fruit zones, and harvesting grapes.

Since 2017, a group of students from St John's Special School have been visiting the vineyard over 6-7 weeks to work with the vineyards volunteer 'mentors' on a range of tasks. The students visibly gained in confidence and learned new skills, as did the volunteers, and true bonds were built which lasted the whole of the length of the project. After a successful first year, the school have been coming back ever since.

Five students took part this year and were kept busy planting new vines, weeding and watering, as well as growing sunflowers and building bug hotels. The students got involved in a unique way, with a #Plantyourpants activity acting as a fun method of testing life in the soil. On their first day, the students buried some cotton pants to dig up again on their last day. The more the pants had decomposed over the weeks, the better the life in the soil.

The vineyard has also been building links with Biggleswade Adult Centre. During the planting days in May, a couple of their service users came to help plant vines. The vineyard planting days saw other Vineyard volunteers and Ivel Valley Conservation Partnership volunteers come together to prepare the vines for a busy summer of activity.

The vineyard has an Open Day on Sunday 11th September. Book online at:

<https://wardenvineyard.org.uk/event/open-day-2022/>
Warden Abbey Vineyard,
Bedford Rd
Biggleswade SG18 9LS



Biddenham Conservation Volunteers

It's good to report on progress in all areas except maybe finding sites to work on in the Autumn, but we keep enquiring. Recently 4 new members have signed up and that is great news.

During the summer, we have continued to work in Cowslip Meadow and that has included flower and tree surveying as well as cutting a fire break around the edge. There is also a management plan being written to help put our ideas in context. This will be shared with our partners Bedford Borough Council and the river meadow shepherds who also have an interest in the field.

Elsewhere work has been done on footpaths cutting back and improving surfaces. While this is not necessarily a conservation task, good walkable footpaths make all the village more accessible and may improve biodiversity.

We have also been watering new trees in Deep Spinney and are pleased to note that local residents have now taken on this task.

A group of us had a meeting recently to discuss the best form of governance for BCV and will be reporting soon on our plans along with our Autumn work schedule.

Do please get in touch.

Chris Jones 211759
chrishj49@gmail.com

Gilly Cowan
gillycowan@btinternet.com



Geoff Lill of BCV cutting a fire break in Cowslip Meadow following concerns about wildfires.

Photo Val Fitzhugh



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Church End Open Gardens

The Open Gardens in Church End, organised by the Friends of St James in July, proved to be a wonderful occasion as over 140 visitors were able to enjoy the beauty of the ten gardens. We were blessed with fine weather. The owners of the ten gardens gave everyone a warm welcome and answered questions about their gardens. What made the gardens so interesting was the difference in design and the variety of plants and vegetables, and we were able to learn so much from them. A bonus was having tea and cake in the churchyard, kindly organised by John and Nancy Barkas, and also a chance to buy a nice selection of plants.

It was such a pleasure to visit the gardens. The garden of Jan and Cliff Page is one of the most interesting smaller gardens that you can visit with its imaginative design, including a seating area with a beautiful vista of a lovely array of interesting plants. Edwin and Peta Martin have some colourful hollyhocks in their front garden and a wild flower garden in the back garden with some very well maintained vegetable plots owned by two other people. Susie Patel's garden is already well established with flower borders and vegetables, and she is creating more borders for cut flowers to use in her business.



Tony Wood's garden

The garden of Tony Wood is beautifully designed and a particularly attractive feature is the ponds and water features with the restful sound of the running water on a hot summer's day. Pippa Jones has produced a very colourful garden with imaginative planting in pots - lupins, petunias and lobelia, making a striking combination in a large pot.



Pippa Jones' garden



Mary and Pat McKeown have a very effective front garden with a beautiful pond and seating for them to enjoy, and the back garden has cleverly shaped borders to give a pleasing effect.

Francis and Kathy Galbraith have a garden with a history going back to the 16th century and Francis showed an album of photographs of some of the previous owners, including some of the village lace makers.

As you approached the front garden of Wendy and David Richardson, you were very impressed by the colour and variety of plants in front of the house and their back garden has been beautifully designed by Wendy with interesting shapes and clever planting.

Christopher and Mary Dawes have a colourful garden

including hanging baskets and a rockery. Christopher explained the irrigation system which helped him to maintain his flowers and vegetables.

Hugh and Debbi Clifton have a very restful, country garden with lovely fruit trees, raised beds and an eye catching pond and water feature.

We are very grateful to the owners of the gardens for being so welcoming to those who visited them. We are pleased that the Friends of St James' were able to we raise £931 from the Open Gardens.

Paul Fricker



The Martin's garden



Susie Patel's garden



The Dawes' garden



The Clifton's garden and plant stall



It's official – our region is suffering from drought, and the Village Pond, being fed by ground water, rainfall and run-off is completely dry. For those people new to the village,



this is a reasonably regular occurrence, and the water will slowly return. Although the pond looks unsightly, the wood piles, undergrowth, stones, and vegetation all help to sustain life in and around the pond during these dry periods. Unfortunately, now the pond is dry the mares tails have started to take hold and

they are very difficult to remove. We hope to organise a work party to try and remove some of them before the water returns. We also have another session of reed clearance taking place over two days at the end September (26th and 28th), which should improve the look of the pond once the water returns.

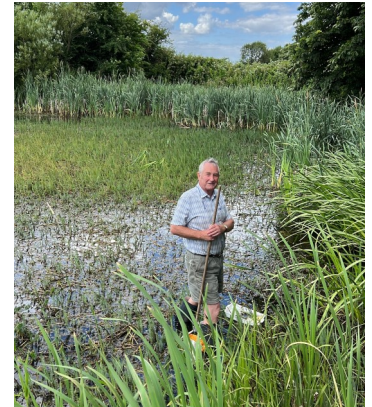
Another effect of the drought is that the vegetation is tinder-box dry, and it would take very little for fire to take hold and destroy habitat. Common sense dictates that lighting a fire would be a high-risk activity, but this is exactly what someone has recently done (see photograph). Thankfully the fire was lit on a slab and no harm occurred this time, but it could have been such a different story.

Perhaps you remember back to August 2020 when the fire brigade was called to deal with a fire at the western side of the pond, and this was during normal summer conditions.

We urge everyone to be extremely careful when out in the countryside and to not light fires of any sort, including barbeques, and to avoid dropping matches or cigarette butts.

Since our last report, Chris held his annual pond dip at the end of June and 5 adults, and 3 children attended.

Although the water level was low, at least there was some water to dip into. The finds were slightly disappointing, but everyone had a good time dipping, as can be seen by the smiles on the faces of Liz and William Waugh.



Please look out for us at this year's Biddenham Show – we will be in the Village Hall, so please come and have a chat and see what Chris has on display when you go to the hall for tea and home-made cake.

If you wish to support the work that we do, the process of becoming a Friend is very easy. Just send an email to Jane Knight (details below) and a standing order form will be sent to you. The minimum contribution that we request is £5 per household, although we of course welcome larger subscriptions.


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.

Please be mindful of the risk of fire when you visit the pond. Thank you.

The Pond Team

Photos by Jane Knight and Cathy Eckett-Brown






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Biddenham History Society

We had great pleasure welcoming Hugh Clifton to talk to the Biddenham History Society on 4th July. He had researched three generations of the closely related families who lived at Ampthill Park in the nineteenth century and some of their fascinating relations who had led very colourful lives. Many of their adventures were not what might be expected from the stereotypical Victorian! Hugh certainly succeeded in his aim of bringing his characters to life.

The inhabitants of Ampthill Park that Hugh discussed were firstly James Parke, later Lord Wensleydale, who died in 1868 and his wife, Cecilia, who died in 1879. James was a very good example of social mobility. His father was a Yorkshire hosiery. James got a good education at Macclesfield Grammar School and Trinity College Cambridge and went on to become a highly respected High Court judge and owner of Ampthill Park. James's daughter, Alice, also lived at Ampthill Park even after her marriage to Bill Lowther. She had seven children including three daughters, Mary, Mabel and Mildred. She visited Wrest Park with her family and was a talented amateur artist, producing a lovely water colour of a beech tree in Ampthill Park which Hugh showed us on one of his slides.

Alice's husband, Bill Lowther, was fluent in German and French and also spoke Italian. He was a diplomat and served as an attaché in several European capitals and later became an MP. He visited Biddenham, as he was a friend and colleague of Charles Wingfield, and attended Charles Wingfield's wedding. He lived at Ampthill Park until 1879 when he moved to Suffolk, passing Ampthill Park to his sister, Augusta, who had married Gerard Noel and had two infant sons, Gerard and Henry.

Gerard and Augusta were an interesting couple and Hugh successfully brought them to life. Augusta was a determined lady who, unusually, had proposed marriage to Gerard. She told her great niece about this and she wrote the story down. Augusta also ensured that the food at Ampthill Park was not boring. She had a handwritten recipe book including her aunt's signature dish, Raby eggs, which was served in December 1881. Hugh has tried this dish and says it is delicious – eggs are hard boiled, halved and the yolks removed. Minced chicken and ham are placed in the egg whites with a pinch of salt. The crushed yolks are sprinkled over the egg whites with chopped pistachios, and truffle flavoured olive oil is then drizzled on top to complete the dish.

Gerard was a quieter personality, very tidy and precise; everything had to be in its proper place. However, he had had excitement before he married and came to Ampthill Park. He has left an account of his journey in 1853 to America, Mexico and the West Indies and his ascent of Popocatepetl in 1854.

Hugh supplied much fascinating information about the Lowther family, Bill and Augusta's relations. Their uncle, William Lowther, a close friend of the Prince Regent, interviewed Napoleon after his capture at Waterloo. There is a record of this meeting which Hugh recreated with the help of Paul Fricker, playing Napoleon. Lowther spoke fluent French and acquired the nickname of 'Bad' as he had three French mistresses, all opera singers, and children by all of them. He spent every summer in Paris, so he could have two or three weeks with each of his French families.

Bill and Augusta's parents, Cecil and Ella Lowther, were just as interesting. Cecil, on the surface, seemed very different from his brother, being a soldier, M.P. and keen sportsman. However, Hugh has discovered that when stationed in Norwich as a hussar aged 17, he had an affair with a servant, Elizabeth Thompson. Their son, Frederic, ended up being convicted of embezzlement and was transported to Australia in 1847.

Ella Lowther was a brilliant horsewoman. She managed

to hunt side saddle and matched her husband in her love of sport. However, Hugh has found out that at a hunt ball she met up with a wealthy Scotsman, Walter Little Gilmour. A love story was forged on the hunting field and Hugh has obtained evidence that Ella's daughter, Constantia, born 9 years after her last previous confinement, was fathered by Little Gilmour.

Other interesting relations of the Ampthill Park residents were Ella's brother, Robert, the Earl of Harborough, who devoted himself to a life of pleasure and earned the nickname 'The Naughty Earl' and Aunt Caroline, who not only introduced her niece, Augusta, to Raby Eggs but also was discovered by her husband, Lord Powlett, in her bedroom in the arms of the Duke of Wellington.

Finally, Hugh told us about Hugh Lowther, the cousin of Henry and Little Gerard, and grandson of Cecil. He took up the craze of race walking, known in slang terms as 'wobbling' that came from America. He challenged the American star, Weston the Walker, and won the walking race up the Great North Road from Kensington to the Ram Jam Inn. He also challenged an American heavyweight boxing champion and said, 'I left the Yankee feeling groggy'. He inherited Lowther Castle and became known as the Yellow Earl as he painted everything he owned yellow, including 20 Rolls Royces. He spent lavishly and died in 1944.

Hugh not only brought his characters to life, but he also gave us many places to look out for on our travels, such as Ampthill Park, Wrest Park and the Ram Jam Inn, which we shall see in a new light. Hugh's anecdotes, dramatisation of the meeting between Napoleon and William Lowther, and his excellent choice of illustrations were all much enjoyed.

The next meeting of the Biddenham History Society will be on Monday 19th September from 2.30pm – 4.30pm in the Church Barn. We look forward to Peter Applewhite revealing more about his researches into Biddenham. As he wrote in the July/August edition of The Loop, he has discovered yet another Biddenham in Australia it 'is neither town nor village, nor farm, but does have an historical connection to our Biddenham.' All will be revealed within a presentation on 'Missing Links: tales of disaster, murder, plague, fire and poetry'.

Kathy Fricker

Trees for Streets

Trees for Streets and Bedford Borough Council joined forces last Summer to help local residents get involved in funding the planting of many more new street trees in the area.

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Peter's Picturehouse In September

Date: Tuesday 6th September 2022

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

Location: Biddenham Village Hall



Tickets available
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Certificate: 12A

To join our mailing list, or for further information, send an email to
peterspicturehouse@gmail.com

Coming soon...
Tues 4th October
Tues 1st November

Operation Mincemeat (12A)
The Duke (12A)

Peter's Picturehouse

We are very pleased that our film choices are going down well and that the popularity of films at Peter's Picturehouse is continuing to increase.

We show a film on the first Tuesday of each month in Biddenham Village Hall at 7.30pm. Tickets on the door are priced £5. There's a chance to catch up with friends and neighbours before the film from 7.00pm and in the interval, and hot and cold drinks and ice creams are for sale too. Please do join us for one of our autumn films, listed below.

On Tuesday 6th September the 2022 Certificate 12A film, *Phantom of the Open*, is being shown. It tells the true story of Maurice Flitcroft, a crane operator, gaining entry to The British Open Golf Championship, qualifying in 1976 despite never playing a round of golf before. Starring Sally Hawkins, Mark Rylance and Rhys Ifans, this is a heart warming story of an ordinary man who pursues his dreams in a moving comedy drama.

We look forward to welcoming you on the first Tuesday of each month. Make a note in your diaries of our upcoming films now so that you don't miss them! If you would like a reminder of the films or more information, do send an email to: peterspicturehouse@gmail.com

Tues 6th September *Phantom of the Open* (12A)
Tues 4th October *Operation Mincemeat* (12A)
Tues 1st November *The Duke* (12A)

Rose Houghton

Did you know?

Following on from our last Loop Did You Know?, we have found out through our research into the archives of The Loop, that in mid 2003 it was determined that the Barn needed to have a refurbishment in order to meet new health and safety standards.



It was estimated that the refurbishment costs would total around £40,000 to bring the Barn up to standard along with providing vital disabled access. So fund raising began and one of the main focuses was a 'Save Our Barn' recipe book. One of our current regulars at the Barn, Anthea Slark, shared a copy of the recipe book with us, which contains a range of great recipes for all occasions. So we thought we would share Anthea's recipe:

Mittagessen

This is very much a Main Course soup so could also have been inserted under Meat Dishes:

100 g (4 oz) smoked bacon, de-rinded & chopped
550 g (194 lb) potatoes, peeled and cubed
100 g (4 oz) carrots, diced
2 celery sticks, cut into half inch lengths
1 medium leek, cut into half inch lengths
175 g (6 oz) ham sausage, diced
Half teaspoon mixed herbs
salt and pepper
1.1 litre (2 pints) chicken stock

Fry the bacon in a large saucepan until the fat runs. Toss the vegetables in the fat and continue frying gently for 3 to 4 minutes. Add all the other ingredients, cover and bring to the boil. Simmer gently for 1 hour.

The recipe book sold over 500 copies and raised a valuable £3,000 towards the total refurbishment costs, with copies of the book making their way to Norway, Sweden, Canada and the USA. Well done to Fran Moxon and Rosemary Harris for pulling this valuable effort together for the Barn.

If you would like to hire the Barn or find out more about the facilities it offers, please contact us at stjamesbarnbiddenham@gmail.com

Jane and Rebecca



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Biddenham Gardeners Association

Annual General Meeting

The AGM took place on 19th July. Paul Fricker, Chair, welcomed all members and guests present. Paul went on to outline the many highs of the Association during the year.

We were able to keep going from September 2021 to February 2022 via Zoom thanks to the tremendous efforts of Paula Church who hosted the meetings and managed the technology so well. Since then, we have had good attendances in the Village Hall with a number of new members and guests each month. Paul went on to praise all the committee for their hard work and commitment to the Association and all members and guests for their enthusiasm and support.

Ralph Harding presented the financial report for the year to 31st December 2021, which was accepted by those present. Brian Cheyne was thanked for auditing the accounts.

Ralph Harding, Treasurer, Paula Church, Secretary and Josie Duchenne are standing down from the committee and Janet Bird is relinquishing her role of Visiting Speaker Secretary, but will remain on the committee. All were thanked by Paul for the huge contribution they have made to the Association.

The following were elected to the committee:

Charles Duchenne Treasurer

Gilly Cowan

Jan Page

Ron Bessey

Website Administrator

Paul Fricker, Linda Truscott, Janet Bird, Liz Hurford and Marie Willis have agreed to remain on the committee for the following year and all of the above were accepted by those present at this meeting. There was approval for Paul and Charles to be the signatories for the BGA account at Natwest.

Gilly Cowan reminded everyone that the newly planted trees in Biddenham do need watering and asked everyone to play their part in this. Liz Hurford reminded everyone about the Biddenham Show on 11th September. There was one question from the floor concerning the roles and responsibilities of the new committee. This will be discussed at the first committee meeting in September.

Everyone was reminded of the date of the next BGA meeting on 20th September when Jan Perrone will help us to get our houseplants thriving. In October, Nick Bailey (Gardeners' World presenter) will be talking about 365 days of colour in the garden.

Everyone then enjoyed the cheese and wine. Many thanks to Liz and her helpers for providing such a lovely spread.

Linda Truscott

New members and visitors are always welcome. For more information contact: Linda Truscott: 01234 270747
www.biddenhamgardenersassociation.org.uk

Nick Sleep
Proprietor

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St James's Church Barn

Church End,
Biddenham, MK40 4AS



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Capacity for up to 50 people

Comprises a main hall, kitchen, two toilets,
ramp access, baby changing & disabled facilities



Contact us for further details
(email preferred contact method)

Email: stjamesbarnbiddenham@gmail.com

Tel: Jane – 07831 172320 OR Rebecca – 07769 944727

First Friday Lunch



Soup, sandwich or baked potato,
pudding and a drink,
on the first Friday of every month
in Biddenham Village Hall
from 12.15pm
£8.00

Draw for 2 free lunch tickets every month
Book swap

Numbers limited - booking essential:

email firstfridaylunch@outlook.com
or text/leave a message on **07412 559584**

2nd September, 7th October

No Fear Duplicate Bridge

Biddenham Village Hall Fridays at 2.30pm (intermediate),
Sundays at 6.00pm.

Contact Bernard Henry 07866 456769 or
bahenry0309@gmail.com

100 CLUB June draw

The winners were:

| | | |
|-----|------------------|----|
| 1st | Rosemary Harris | 98 |
| 2nd | Jon Gambold | 1 |
| 3rd | Shabnum Siddique | 60 |

Drawn by Gloria Clarke

July draw

The winners were:

| | | |
|-----|----------------|-----|
| 1st | John Watson | 44 |
| 2nd | Stephen Gilder | 36 |
| 3rd | Julia Johnson | 509 |

Drawn by Janet Ross



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 |

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

The Church Barn is available for parties, small events and classes, with a capacity for up to 50 people. Comprising a main hall, full kitchen use, two toilets, ramp access, baby changing and disabled facilities. To check availability contact our Booking Officers via email on stjamesbarnbiddenham@gmail.com (preferred contact) or

Jane 07831 172320

Rebecca 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 | 10.00-11.30am | Pavilion |
| Gentle Yoga | 2.00-3.00pm | Pavilion |
| Storm Martial Arts | 7.00-8.00pm | Pavilion |
| Guides | 7.15pm Termtime | Village Hall |
| Tuesday | | |
| Over 50s fitness | 10.00-11.00am | Pavilion |
| Mum & Baby Yoga | 10.30am Termtime (except 3 rd in the month) | Village Hall |
| Café B | 10.15am-12noon (3 rd in month) | Village Hall |
| Cook Stars | 10.15-11.00am Termtime | Church Barn |
| Peter's Picturehouse | 7.00 for 7.30pm (1 st in month) | Village Hall |
| HIT Fitness | 7.00-7.30pm | Pavilion |
| Biddenham Gardeners Association | 7.30pm (3 rd in month) | Village Hall |
| Country Dancing | 8.00pm (2 nd & 4 th in month) | Village Hall |
| Zumba | 8.00-9.00pm | Pavilion |
| Wednesday | | |
| Coffee morning for Ukrainian Community | 10.00am-12noon | Church Barn |
| Kensington Ballet | 10.00-11.00am | Pavilion |
| Baby College | 10.00am, 11.00am & noon Termtime | Village Hall |
| Handbell Ringer Practice | 2.30-4.30pm | Church Barn |
| Table Tennis | 2.00-4.00pm | Pavilion |
| HIT Fitness | 6.30-7.30pm | Pavilion |
| Adult Yoga (Beginners/Improvers) | 7.00-8.00pm | Village Hall |
| Thursday | | |
| Under 5's | 9.30-11.30am | Village Hall |
| Line dancing | 9.30-11.30am | Pavilion |
| Oasis | 9.00am-12noon (1 st & 3 rd in month) | Church Barn |
| U3A Handbell Ringers | 2.00-3.30pm | Church Barn |
| Pregnancy Yoga | 7.00-8.30pm | Village Hall |
| Fetch Puppy Club | 7.30-8.30pm | Pavilion |
| 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 | 2.15-4.15pm | Pavilion |
| No Fear Bridge (intermediates) | 2.30pm | Village Hall |
| St James's Choir Practice | 7.00-8.30pm | Church Barn |
| Storm Martial Arts | 7.00-8.00pm | Pavilion |
| Saturday | | |
| Pregnancy Yoga | 9.30am | Village Hall |
| Bedford Ballet | 9.30-11.40am | Church Barn |
| Oakley Football | 9.00am-12.30pm | Pavilion Field |
| Socatots | 9.45-11.15am | Pavilion |
| Lucy Hunt School of Dance | 2.00-3.30pm | Pavilion |
| Toddler Sense | 2.00-3.00pm (last of the month) | Church Barn |
| Sunday | | |
| St James's Explorers | 10.00-11.00am | Church Barn |
| St James's coffees | 11.00am-12noon | Church Barn |
| Taekwondo | 11.30am | Village Hall |
| No Fear Bridge | 5.30-8.30pm | Village Hall |
| Revive | 7.00-8.00pm (3 rd in month) | Church Barn |

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

September

- Fri 2 Sep First Friday lunch, Biddenham Village Hall, 12.15pm, see p18
 Fri 2 Sep Bell ringing for Peter Culverwell, St James's Church, 5.30-6.30pm, see p1
 Sat 3 Sep Bulky waste collection, Biddenham, see p2
 Sat 3 Sep Ukraine in Music and Song, St James's Church, 7.30pm, see p1
 Sun 4 Sep **All Age Worship at All Saints, 10.00am**
All Age Worship at St James's, 10.00am
Holy Communion at All Saints, 11.15am
 Mon 5 Sep Flower survey, Cowslip Meadow, 10.00am, see p12
 Tue 6 Sep Peter's Picture House, Biddenham Village Hall, 7.00pm, see p16
 Sat 10 Sep Bulky waste collection, Great Denham, see p2
 Sun 11 Sep **Said Holy Communion at All Saints, 9.00am**
Holy Communion at St James's, 10.00am
Evening Prayer at St James's, 6.00pm
 Sun 11 Sep Biddenham Show, see pp4-5
 Sun 18 Sep **Holy Communion at All Saints, 10.00am**
Morning Worship at St James's, 10.00am
Revive: Coffee/Bible/Fellowship, Church Barn, 7.00pm
 Mon 19 Sep Biddenham History Society, Church Barn, 2.30pm, see p15
 Tue 20 Sep Café B, Biddenham Village Hall, 10.15-11.45am, see p12
 Tue 20 Sep Bedford National Trust Association, Addison Centre, Kempston, 2.15pm, see p8
 Tue 20 Sep Biddenham Gardeners Association, Biddenham Village Hall, 7.30pm, see p17
 Tue 20 Sep Biddenham Parish Council, Pavilion, 7.30pm, see p6
 Sun 25 Sep **Said Holy Communion at All Saints, 9.00am**
Holy Communion at St James's, 10.00am
Explorers, Church Barn, 10.00am
 Fri 30 Sep Quilting & Sewing Group, Biddenham Village Hall, 10.30am, see p18

October

- Tue 4 Oct Peter's Picture House, Biddenham Village Hall, 7.00pm, see p16
 Fri 7 Oct First Friday lunch, Biddenham Village Hall, 12.15pm, see p18
 Sun 9 Oct Harvest Festival, Church Barn, 3.30-5.00pm, see p3
 Tue 18 Oct Nick Bailey at Biddenham Gardeners Association, Biddenham Village Hall, 7.30pm, see pp1, 3 & 17

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

The Loop

| | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|------------|
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All October 2022 articles, preferably by e-mail in Word format, to **loopeditor@gmail.com**
 or to 22 Day's Lane and adverts to **loopadverts@gmail.com**
 by **Wednesday 21st September** 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.