

The Loop

July/
August
2023

£1.50



Appeal for Help!

This year's show is on Sunday 10th September at St James' CE VA Primary School and Biddenham Village Hall. For details see page 6. Here's where we need help.

Bottle Stall

The bottle stall will be back – but we need bottles! If you can donate one or more (un-opened and within their best before date) please contact Jane Knight on 07831 172320 in the period 1st- 8th September.

Cakes

Every year teas and cakes in the village hall make a significant contribution to the funds available for local groups and societies. If you can help by baking scones, cakes or biscuits (including vegan/gluten free) then please contact: maddy@cartersullivan.co.uk

Volunteers

The Committee work hard to arrange the Show, but we can't put it on without a significant number of volunteers to help over the Show weekend.

On Saturday we need help erecting the marquees, moving tables and chairs, and making the site ready. On Sunday we need help on the gate, with the raffle, in the village hall kitchen, manning stalls on the field and marshalling, followed by dismantling the site after the Show has ended.

If you have an hour or two to spare on the morning of Saturday 9th (between 9.30am and noon) or on Sunday 10th (between 10am and 5pm) please contact Jane Knight: jane@80klttd.co.uk

THANK YOU



Save the date:
Village Quiz
Saturday 30th September
7.00 p.m.
Biddenham Village Hall

'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, which may be edited, from residents and friends via email to loopeditor@gmail.com

Letter from the Vicar

Dear All

It was the end of winter and the snow drops had barely begun to wither. I was planning three months sabbatical, and I knew already exactly what I was going to learn. Of course that is not learning at all, so not surprisingly, a month and a half into the sabbatical and my thinking has taken me off in a completely unexpected direction.



I was looking at creativity, and I wanted to explore how often the best artists are the most fractured people. People who have experienced consistently difficult circumstances, conflict, poverty, mental illness, disability, and rejection for whatever reason are often the most creative of people. Those who bleed, bleed life and colour and it was my perception, and still is, that fractured people are the medium of new creation.

A few weeks ago, I went to see Mariia Yaramak and Izabella Ivashenco in their last concert in London. After the concert I was invited for a drink with some of Mariia's and Izabella's friends and a Ukrainian couple spoke to me over a beer; 'So you are a priest,' one of them said, 'well how can you believe in a loving and powerful God who would allow this to happen to ourselves and to our country?'

A couple of weeks later I visited New York and on the first day, I met an artist in New Jersey called Makoto Fujimura. He uses traditional Japanese techniques to produce extraordinary pieces of art, and his artwork speaks of his perception of what God wants to do with our fractured world. One of the traditional forms of art foremost in this is mind, it is the Japanese art of Kintsugi, mending broken pots using gold to emphasise the fractures. In Kintsugi that which is mended is far more beautiful than it was before it was broken.

In my conversation with him I talked about many personal experiences that I have had over the last three years in particular. He too talked about his experience on 9/11 with his family close to the centre of New York, when two civilian aircraft crashed into the twin skyscrapers of the World Trade Centre.

If you are mending a broken pot, it is easy to imagine from the pieces, the form that the pot takes. Repairing it is conceivable, but together there was an acknowledgement that dealing with the situations we face feels more like walking on broken glass than on fractured pots. Not only does mending the mess that we encounter seem impossible, but with every step it makes our feet bleed.

Makoto gave me some useful reading suggestions including a novel by Shusaku Endo, called *The Silence*. Makoto served as an advisor to Martin Scorsese in the film production of this. It raises the question of the 'Silence of God' in the face of human suffering. Makoto also spoke about the power of creativity and art, and how creativity and art helps us to participate in God's work to build a new creation. After my conversation with Makoto and his wife Haejin Shim Fujimura, he gave me a copy of a booklet he produced, and on the first page he wrote; 'To Eric, towards the New!'

On the other side of the river, I visited the archives of legendary New York street photographer, Joel Mayerowitz. He lives full time in the UK now but his archives are managed in New York by Annelia McGavin Godward who was kind enough to explain his images to me. Mayerowitz, like Fujimura has been heavily influenced by the events of 9/11. The site of the disaster, Ground Zero, was officially a crime scene, so immediately after the disaster, no press photographers were allowed, but Mayerowitz managed to forge his permission using his skills in Adobe Photoshop.

Mayorowitz uses photography to capture decisive moments on the street, where conflicts or events come together within the frame of a photograph, and within a fraction of a second. Often his images are surprising and filled with energy. Joel's artistic expression comes largely from his own human experience. He was brought up on the Bronx, with experience of 9/11, and also the experience of watching his own father's decline with dementia. He has quoted in his work some words from the Jewish Talmud; 'Do not reject the man who cannot remember his own name, because there is a place in the ark for broken tablets.'

The moments that Mayorowitz focusses on are captured within a frame, often he will use a frame within a frame to isolate elements of his images. Really the frame is a fundamental part of human nature. We value boundaries that place limits on behaviour, and those boundaries can work against our ability to be creative.

These boundaries define social orthodoxy, what is acceptable. Mental illness would have been viewed, and still is, in many cases, as something that takes one out of the frame of social acceptability. In New York I visited an exhibition of Van Gogh paintings. We were presented with extraordinary vibrant swirling images that are seen as Van Gogh's greatest works. The irony is that they were painted when he had been committed to an asylum for crazy people. As Don MacClean's wonderful song 'Starry Starry Night' points out to us, the colour that bled from Van Gogh's insanity is exactly what the world needed.

There is over a month to go in my exploration, but what has stood out for me more than anything over the last few weeks, is a warning to our religious sentiment. Religion's tendency to impose strict frames on people, seems to me to be at odds with God's intention for a new creation. In New York I took a picture of a couple, and one of the two was transgender. They were kind and offered me a coffee. I wish I had taken it, and reflected on what their experience of the church might be. One had a pair of jogging bottoms which has the words 'You are loved, you are valued, You are important, you are needed, you are worthy, you are beautiful.'

These may well have been Christ's words to us from the cross, written on the clothes of an outsider. If we do art, then we are attempting to restore God's new creation, and it seems to me that in our artwork or encouraging artwork, we should do all we can to empower those whose lives and images are outside our perception of the frame of grace. If we fail in this, then perhaps we might find ourselves in the same frame of unacceptability one day.

Towards the new.

God bless

Eric



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

Vicar Rev Eric Lomax Tel: 328452
rev.ejlomax@gmail.com

Churchwardens Laurie Hurn Tel 364251
Lois Nash Tel 961826

Verger Hilary Hurn Tel 364251

Treasurer Simon King treasurer@stjamesbiddenham.com

Organist/Choirmaster Adam Wright
www.stjamesbiddenham.com

St James's Barn—what is happening?

If you don't already know, St James's Barn is an attractive old barn conveniently located next to St James's Church. The Barn is a community space available to hire for parties, small events, and classes, with a capacity for up to 50 people. It comprises a main hall (which measures 12.4m x 5.3m), kitchen, two toilets, ramp access, baby changing & disabled facilities.

This month we wanted to share with you more information about Toddler Sense who are one of regulars using the Barn once a month on a Saturday afternoon.

So, what is Toddler Sense? Well, it was developed by Dr Lin Day and is specially designed to meet the development needs of toddlers. The main emphasis is on music, movement and mobility with each class meticulously constructed to excite toddlers' imaginations, to inspire learning, promote independence and support their co-ordination and physical development.

Each session has a unique theme, ensuring that toddlers will access a truly varied and stimulating learning experience, introducing them to a world of adventure. Imagine zooming through space, diving in a magical sea and partying like princes and princesses. Or would you like to swing through the jungle, be a firefighter, join the circus or hunt for dinosaurs?

Sounds interesting? Toddler Sense have their next session at the Barn on Saturday 8th July at 2-3pm, to book your space go to their website for more information on <https://www.toddlersense.com/bedfordshire/>

If you would like to hire the Barn for any type of event or find out more about the facilities it offers, or just share some stories with us at the Barn, please do contact us at stjamesbarnbiddenham@gmail.com

Jane and Rebecca

Biddenham History Society

The Biddenham History Society will be meeting on Monday, 3rd July from 2.30pm – 4.30pm in the Church Barn. Peter Applewhite has been researching the blue plaques on buildings around Bedford. Some of these commemorate people with a Biddenham connection. His talk is entitled 'Eight people behind the Bedford Blues'. I hope you will be able to come and hear what should be a fascinating presentation.

Biddenham book

If you are new to Biddenham and you do not have a copy of the village history 'The Village of Biddenham through the Ages', Mary McKeown still has a few copies left. She can be contacted on marypmckeown37@gmail.com.

Kathy Fricker

Alvan Davies

We are sorry to report the death of Alvan Davies of The Old Barns on Saturday 10th June. We send our condolences to Daphne and the family.

We hope to carry an obituary in the next edition of The Loop.



St James's Barn Biddenham MK40 4AS



Available for parties, events & classes for up to 50



With main hall (12.4m x 5.3m x 3m high), kitchen, two toilets, baby & disabled facilities & ramp access



With full use of the kitchen, crockery, glasses & cutlery. Chairs & tables for 48 adults as well as 15 children along with children's foam floor mats (covering 7x7m)



For more details contact stjamesbarnbiddenham@gmail.com OR
Jane – 07831 172320 /
Rebecca – 07769 944727



Chris held his annual pond dip earlier this month, with more water and hence a larger number of finds than were recorded in 2022. Three families (9 adults and 4 children) came and enjoyed recording their finds, which were dominated by water boatmen, followed by damsel and dragonfly larvae, with a pleasing number of very small pond snails. We assume that many of these new arrivals survived as eggs in cracks in the dry pond bottom during last year's exceptionally hot weather. There were many small newt juniors at the gills and back leg stage as well. Sadly, no sign of either frog or toad tadpoles and none of the children caught the prize of a pond scorpion, a specimen that Chris is always on the look-out for. If the pond keeps its water through this summer, the insect larvae will stay and get bigger for next year. Thankfully, after a long period of no rain after the Coronation, the recent heavy rain will have helped top-up the water level.

Sadly, we report 3 incidents of low-level anti-social behaviour at the Pond during May. Twice a small fire has been set, one with a petrol lighter found at the scene. Thankfully, the only damage was scorching of the grass, but with a prolonged period of dry weather, any fire could have serious repercussions for the environment. These events were then followed by the discovery of 2 large NO2 canisters with valves and balloons. We have reported these activities to the Police and the Parish Council and so far in June there have been no further incidents.

Further unplanned maintenance work was required at the Pond during June, after it was discovered that one of the jetties was wobbly and missing some bolts. It was immediately taped off to prevent access and has since been mended by two of our wonderful volunteers.



*Jetty repairs
Picture by Cathy Eckett*

As a reminder, our Summer Tea will be held on Sunday, 9th July in the Church Barn from 3.00pm and everyone is welcome to come along for a chat over tea and scones, to find out more about our work at the pond and see what pond life Chris will have under his microscope. We make no charge for this event, but we

welcome donations which all go towards the costs of conserving and maintaining the pond.

We look forward to seeing you.

The Pond Team

Contact Details

Chris Jones	chrishj49@gmail.com
Cathy Eckett-Brown	ceckett@gmail.com
Jane Knight	jane@80klt.co.uk
Jonathan Field	jfield21st@mail.com
Kris Hope	kristenhopebee@gmail.com
www.biddenhamvillagepond.wordpress.com	
www.facebook.com/biddenhamvillagepond	



Biddenham Gravel Pit Railway

The following article by AJ Warrington is from *The Industrial Railway Record*, February 1968. Thanks to David Smith for sending it in.

https://www.irsociety.co.uk/Archives/17/Beds_1.htm

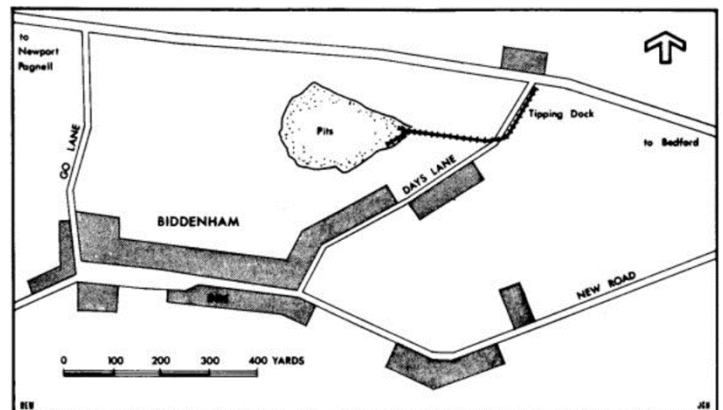
Biddenham gravel pit was owned by S.W. Jarvis & Son, a firm of stone and monumental masons in Alexandra Road, Bedford. In order to transport the sand and gravel to a point where it could be trans-shipped into carts for transport into Bedford, a 2ft 0in gauge tramway to the pit was laid down from the main Bedford to Northampton road where it made a junction with what was then a cart track known as Day's Lane, where the quarried material was unloaded, and ran in a south-westerly direction along the edge of the roadway for about 100 yards. It then turned due west, crossed the road on the level and continued down a slope for about 150 yards to the gravel pit where it forked into two short branches.

The sand and gravel were dug by hand and at one time about five or six men from Biddenham village were employed in the pit. The excavated material was loaded into steel side-tipping wagons which were then hauled three or four at a time by a horse to the tipping bank. There were at least six wagons in use in the pit and probably more.

In the scrapbook of the village, compiled by the Women's Institute in 1956, there is a pencil sketch of a "train" arriving at the tipping bank about 1926. This sketch shows a horse drawing three loaded wagons with a man in attendance. There is also an office of some sort shown, which may have been a weighbridge office. About 1925 two children were involved in a fatal accident. Apparently it was their habit to visit the line on Sunday afternoons when it was not in use, and push a wagon up to the top of the bank and ride down on it to the bottom. Unfortunately the wagon on this occasion tipped up and pinned them underneath.

The date of construction of the line is not known but it was certainly there by about 1920. The pit closed and the line was removed some time during the 1930s, but what became of the equipment is not certain. It has been said that it was moved to another Jarvis pit at Oakley Junction but it seems very doubtful if it was used there, if in fact it was ever taken there at all.

When I visited the site in 1961 virtually nothing remained, although it was not difficult to see where the line must have run. However, since then, a house has been built near the pit and the course of the tramway has been obliterated by the driveway. The site of the tipping bank is occupied by buildings belonging to the Royal Observer Corps, and the surrounding land was levelled by a bulldozer in 1963, so that all that now remain are the working faces of the pit in the field.



Café B

Café B has been serving Biddenham in various guises since the 1960s and is still going strong today. Originally set up as The Coffee Shop by Maudie Winnington-Ingram, and subsequently run by Glynnis Culverwell, it was taken on by Agnes Innes until Maggie Gardner took over the reigns a few years ago. We caught up with Maggie to find out more.

When is Café B?

It's held on the third Tuesday of every month at the Village Hall.

What made you decide to volunteer?

Due to business interests, Agnes was unable to continue running the café, so a message was circulated to see if anyone was interested in helping out. I went to have a look and decided to volunteer, along with Liz Watson, Judith O'Quinn, and Richard Harris. We talked about who was going to coordinate it and as the others were heavily committed in other voluntary roles, I offered to be the coordinator if somebody else could be treasurer. So, Richard said he'd be treasurer.

How many volunteers are there?



There's a core of eight people - myself, Liz Watson, Liz Hurford, Judith O'Quinn, Richard and Rosemary Harris, Julia Johnson and Jas Purewal.

What are the main objectives of Café B?

Getting people together. Usually 29-30 people come, but we have had up to 40 in the past. Everyone is

welcome - we have mums with children, people who are retired, all sorts of people. Last month, we had a customer who was just passing through and saw the Café B board on Main Road.

Who bakes all the cakes?

The volunteers normally bake all the cakes. But last month, one of our regulars, Angela, who likes baking, offered to bake a couple of cakes. In fact, she baked three, so it was lovely for us to have a month off cake baking.

Have you ever run out of cakes?

We did once, so we started making three cakes instead of two. If anyone wants a second slice, we just ask them to hold fire until the end.

What do you enjoy most about volunteering at Café B?

I'm a people person, so I love doing it. And it's the same with the others. We don't necessarily stay in the kitchen. We'll come out and sit with people and have a natter if we're not too busy.

How is it funded?

It's self-funding. It's run on a not-for-profit basis and every year it generates a very small surplus of around £100, which is donated to charity. This year we donated to the Disaster Fund.

Tell me about the books you sell at the Café

They are donated by people who attend the First Friday Lunch and Café B. People often bring them back after they've finished with them. Once a year, all those books go to the Biddenham Show book stall, which we also run. It's always popular and last year we made around £168.

What types of books do you prefer people to donate?

Fiction, non-fiction (such as cookbooks) and children's books in good condition all sell well.

Janet Field

Café B



Tuesday 18th July

Biddenham Village Hall

10.15 am - 11.45am

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

Home baked cakes

Book Swap

*Next cafés 15th August, 19th
September*

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CLASSES OPEN TO ALL

CLASS BIDDENHAM FLOWERS AND PLANTS

- 1 Asters x3
- 2 Cactus dahlias x3
- 3 Pompom dahlias x3
- 4 Decorative dahlias x3
- 5 3 Annuals (same)
- 6 3 Perennials (same)
- 7 Mixed flowers x3
- 8 Flowering pot plant
- 9 Foliage pot plant
- 10 Selection of herbs in a vase
Small flower arrangement 'Celebration' *max 25cmHx25cmWx25cmD*
- 11 *25cmHx25cmWx25cmD*
- 12 Large foliage arrangement *max 90cmHx60cmWx60cmD*
Colourful flower arrangement 'God Save The King' *max 90cmHx60cmWx60cmD*
- 13 *max 90cmHx60cmWx60cmD*

BIDDENHAM FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

- 14 Eating apples x3
- 15 Cooking apples x3
- 16 Pears x3
- 17 Carrots x3
- 18 Onions x3
- 19 Shallots x3
- 20 Runner beans x3
- 21 Longest runner bean
- 22 Potatoes x3
- 23 Cherry tomatoes x3
- 24 Standard tomatoes x3
- 25 Heaviest truss of tomatoes
- 26 Cucumber x1
- 27 Sweetcorn x3 cobs
- 28 Courgettes x3
Any other fruit not specified above - at least 3 of the same variety
Any other vegetable not specified above - at least 3 of the same variety
- 30
- 31 A Biddenham Whopper
Show Disaster: A fruit or vegetable which did not turn out as you would have hoped!
- 32

BIDDENHAM BAKE OFF

Biddenham Preserves

- 33 A jar of sweet preserve - jam, jelly, or marmalade
- 34 A jar of chilli chutney

Biddenham Baking

- 35 Red Velvet Cake (see website for recipe)
A Coronation cake decorated to reflect the occasion of the King's Coronation
- 36 Flavoured Sourdough Bread
Show Disaster: A bake which did not turn out as you would have hoped!
- 38

BIDDENHAM PHOTOGRAPHY

- 39 A Character of Biddenham (please ensure you have your subject's permission)
- 40 Heart of Biddenham
- 41 Local Hobbies
- 42 Biddenham Wildlife

Biddenham Show

Sunday 10th September

St James' CE VA Primary School & Biddenham Village Hall

This year's Biddenham Show will have something for everyone:

Circus Skills Workshop • Fun Dog Show • Human Fruit Machine • Bottle Stall • Bouncy Castle • Tennis Skills • Face Painting • Splat-the-Rat • Children's Fancy Dress • Book Stall • Traditional Games • Candy Floss & Ice Cream • Beer, Cider & Pimms Tent • Tea & Cakes • Hot Food Stalls • DJ • Craft & Gift Stalls • Plant & Bulb Stall • Gardening, Preserves & Baking Competitions • Arts & Crafts Competitions • Photography Competitions • Children's Competitions • Raffle • and more!

Entry forms and full details of entry rules (including specified recipes and exhibit sizes), eligibility, and logistics on the day of the Show are available on the Show website www.biddenhamshow.org or scan QR code below. A copy of the rules is on page 8 of this magazine. Please be sure to check these out.

We are very grateful that Taylor Brightwell and the Manor Hospital (part of Circle Health Group) will once again be sponsoring this year's show, and we welcome Dandara, who have this year agreed to sponsor the Circus Skills workshop.

Ongoing show updates are also available on the village notice boards and the Show social media sites:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/553681366825163>

Instagram: <https://instagram.com/biddenhamshow?igshid=NTc4MTIwNjQ2YQ>

We look forward to seeing you at the Show!

Jane Knight



Biddenham Show website

BIDDENHAM ART and CRAFT

Art

- 43 A painting in any medium
- 44 A still life sketch
- 45 Street Art on paper or canvas

Craft

- 46 An item of needlework 'Coronation'
- 47 An item of crochet 'Coronation'
- 48 An item of knitting 'Coronation'
- 49 A creative item made from clay
- 50 An upcycled / recycled item

YOUNG BIDDENHAM COMPETITION CLASSES

YOUNG BIDDENHAM GARDENERS (under 11)

- 51 Largest Sunflower Head (diameter of the seed head over the front of the flower (excluding the petals)
- 52 An arrangement of at least 2 herbs in an unusual container
- 53 Home Grown Floral Arrangement

YOUNG BIDDENHAM GARDENERS (11-16)

- 54 Largest Sunflower Head (diameter of the seed head over the front of the flower (excluding the petals)
- 55 An arrangement of at least 2 herbs in an unusual container
- 56 Homegrown Floral Arrangement

YOUNG BIDDENHAM BAKE OFF (Under 11)

- 57 Chocolate Toothpaste Tarts - 3 presented on a plate (see website for recipe)
- 58 Decorated Cup Cakes 'The King's Coronation' - 3 presented on a plate
- 59 Rocky Road Traybake - 3 slices presented on a plate
- 60 Show Disaster: A bake which did not turn out as you would have hoped!

YOUNG BIDDENHAM BAKE OFF (11-16)

- 61 Chocolate Toothpaste Tarts - 3 presented on a plate (see website for recipe)
- 62 Decorated Cup Cakes 'The King's Coronation' - 3 presented on a plate
- 63 Rocky Road Traybake - 3 slices presented on a plate
- 64 Show Disaster: A bake which did not turn out as you would have hoped!

YOUNG BIDDENHAM PHOTOGRAPHY (Under 11)

- 65 Heart of Biddenham
- 66 My Hobby
- 67 Local Wildlife
- 68 Biddenham Photo Collage (please submit to Biddenham Show Instagram page by 6pm Thursday 7th September)

YOUNG BIDDENHAM PHOTOGRAPHY (11 to 16)

- 69 Heart of Biddenham
- 70 My Hobby
- 71 Local Wildlife
- 72 Biddenham Photo Collage (please submit to [Biddenham Show Instagram page](#) by 6pm Thursday 7th September)

YOUNG BIDDENHAM ART and CRAFT (Under 11)

- 73 Mounted Pressed Flowers Picture
- 74 Street Art on paper or canvas
- 75 Decorated Happy Pebble
- 76 Coronation Creation - in any medium eg: Fimo, Play Doh
- 77 Coronation Creation - a model made from LEGO on a board 25cmx25cm max

YOUNG BIDDENHAM ART and CRAFT (11 to 16)

- 78 Mounted Pressed Flowers Picture
- 79 Street Art on paper or canvas
- 80 Decorated Happy Pebble
- Coronation Creation - in any medium eg: Fimo, Play Doh
- 81 Coronation Creation - a model made from LEGO on a board 25cmx25cm max



Competition Entry Rules Biddenham Show 2023

Eligibility

A class with restricted entry will be indicated.

Age for Young Biddenham Classes is at 1st September 2023

Entries

All entries must be submitted using our on-line form.

Gardening Entries

Entries will be judged by "Market" or "Garden" standards and not by Show standards which require special preparation of the entry.

Bake-Off Entries

Where a recipe is specified (via a link) entries will be judged by adherence to the recipe.

Photographic Entries

The Exhibitor is responsible for obtaining specific permission from any subject included in their photograph.

Biddenham Photo Collage Entries

Entries **must** be submitted to the Biddenham Show Instagram Page by 6.00pm Thursday 7th September, to allow time for the entries to be printed out.

Entry Fee

There is no fee for entries. However, to cover the cost of engraving the trophies we do ask that you make a voluntary donation.

Number of Entries

Exhibitors may enter up to 2 exhibits in any class.

Ownership

All exhibits must be the property of, and all produce must have been grown by the same competitor.

All entries must have been produced since the last Biddenham Show.

Staging Rules & Times

Entries must be brought to the showground on Sunday 10th September between 8.15 and 9.45 am.

Flowers, fruit, vegetables, and all Bake-Off entries to the field marquee.

Photography, Art & Craft entries to the village hall.

No exhibit may be removed before 4.00 pm. Exhibits remaining after 4.30 pm will be disposed of.

Note that we cannot accept entries after 9.45am, so to avoid disappointment please come earlier rather than later.

Judging commences at 10.00am, so all exhibitors must have left the marquee and village hall by then.

Judging

THE DECISION OF THE JUDGES IS FINAL



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Summer Promotion: Applicable on selected June 2023 to December 2023 sailings, as indicated; T2317, S2320, L2318 and L2319 are excluded. Applicable for new bookings made from 15/06/23 to 31/07/23, inclusive. Not combinable with any other offers unless otherwise stated. Offer is subject to availability and is capacity controlled. Bookings made via Tour Operators are excluded from all promotional offers. *Saver Fare Terms and Conditions apply.

Reverend John: before and after

Reverend John Missing, father of Henry who took the name Biddenham to Australia, was Curate at our St James's Church for some two and a half years from 1838 to 1840. As a younger man and before he took holy orders, John had studied at Magdalen Hall (now Hertford College), Oxford, matriculating in 1822 aged 28, somewhat older than might have been expected and I wondered what he might have been doing before then.

One of son Henry's obituaries in Australia in 1910 provided an answer: Father John, it said, '*was a soldier in early life, and embraced the profession of the ministry in times of peace - which (we are assured on good authority) hath its victories no less renowned than war*'. However, there are doubts about the accuracy of some of the information in those obituaries and so I sought but failed to find confirmation that John had been a soldier. But then, sometime later ...

... confirmation, I believe, 'appeared' in St James's Churchyard.

The 2012 history book of the village relates that a fine obelisk in the churchyard records the death of John McBride Missing, aged 29, and his father, the Rev John Missing MA, of Magdalen Hall, Oxford, curate of this parish '*a monument erected by many of his deeply attached friends*'. The obelisk is inscribed on three of its four sides but, given the effects of the passage of time, I'd been unable to read the great majority of what had been engraved so many decades earlier.



No mistaking this is Reverend John Missing's memorial

But then over three dull afternoons during 2021 the light must have been such and at such an angle that it was possible to decipher bit by bit a few of the words on the obelisk. They begin the inscription on the opposite side to that on which the name of Rev John Missing is incised large and remains clearly visible, and what could be read said: '*Having spent the early portion of his*

life in the military service of his country he then ...' confirming, it's reasonable to accept, that Reverend John was indeed a soldier before taking holy orders.

Back to 1840 when notices published of the death on 20th December of '*The Rev. John Missing, of Tavistock-street, New Town, Bedford.*' tell us that '*The reverend gentleman performed his duty to his congregation at Biddenham Church on the Sunday previous to his death.*' And that he had died: '*... after a few hours' illness, universally beloved and regretted*'. After John's death things take a rather Dickensian turn as sadly, despite all that had gone before and all John's exertions, his widow, Sarah, and family of three boys and three girls found themselves by 1843 destitute.

The Evening Mail of 8th September 1843 included on its front page a plea from the friends of the late Reverend John Missing '*in the firm hope that the call to raise his widow and fatherless children from their present state of helpless destitution will be promptly and cheerfully responded to*'.

It speaks of a gentleman benefactor who had long resided with the family and '*from whose payments the support of the family was principally derived*'. This gentleman had died a few months after Reverend John and since his death '*their resources were entirely and at once cut off. Since that period they have had no means of subsistence but what has been supplied by the unsolicited kindness of Christian friends.*'

The eldest boy (John McBride), it said, had been placed

with the help of friends on board a merchant vessel, and the eldest girl (Julia) in a clergy orphan school. A legacy of £3,000 had been left to the family by the gentleman who had long resided with them, but that was withheld due to a suit pending in Chancery, and it might be years, if ever, before it was paid.

'In the meantime, it is felt desirable to to raise a sum sufficient to relieve the present wants of the widow and family, and to place the widow in such a situation as may enable her, under the blessing of God, to provide for her own and her children's support.'

I haven't been able to identify the gentleman benefactor nor the outcome of the appeal. We do know though from the 1851 Census that Sarah, now aged 51 and a widow, was an annuitant so perhaps we can take it that financial help in some form must have arrived. The family was living in Fox Place, Plumstead, then in the County of Kent, with son John, aged 24, now a Master's Assistant in the Royal Navy (a post to which he had been appointed in 1848), William, aged 21, a Clerk in a Railway Office, and Ann (Susan Anna), aged 18, and Henry, aged 12, both scholars. Harriet Jessie, aged 16, was visiting the Simpson family, in Charlton, in the Plumstead district; and Julia, aged 20 was visiting the Reverend Frederick Edward Tuson and his family in Minety, Malmesbury, Wiltshire, her occupation shown as Governess.

By 1861 Sarah was living at 7 Sussex Place in Kensington with a lady boarder and a servant girl. She died nine years later in 1870, and was buried in Highgate Cemetery. Earlier in 1861, the Bedfordshire Mercury had recorded the death in Kensington in February of daughter Julia, aged 29, who too was buried in Highgate Cemetery.

There's more to tell you another day about what happened to Reverend John and Sarah's children, Henry's siblings, including a battle at sea, bankruptcy and friends in foreign royalty.

Peter Applewhite

With thanks to Trove for Australian newspaper extracts, for the British extracts to The British Newspaper Archive (www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk). Copyright The British Library. All rights reserved, and to the Biddenham Historical Trust 2012 for the extract from the 2012 village history book.

The Leprosy Mission

A big thank you to all those with Leprosy Mission collecting boxes who contributed to the grand total of £360.07 raised this year.

Anyone willing to have a Leprosy Mission collecting box in their home for their unwanted coins (to be emptied in May each year) or to make a donation please contact me on 01234 346550.

John Gardner

Nick Sleep
Proprietor

N.A.Sleep Plumbing & Heating

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Beds MK40 4BH

Tel: 01234 959472
Mob: 07990 598154
Email: nicksleep@live.co.uk



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.



Do you struggle with taking all your pills?

Bottles, boxes, sachets... it can take time to sort out your medication every day, and your health depends on you getting it right. If you struggle with sorting out your pills, there are two different options available to help you, by which your pills can be delivered ready sorted to your door, free of charge.

- **Dosette boxes** – your pills can be sorted into plastic blister packs on a weekly card. Ask your local pharmacist if they supply these. If they don't, you could try Bedford-based Smarta Healthcare, who will deliver to your home. Tel 01234 831768 or look at their website: smartahealthcare.co.uk
- **PillTime** – a new kind of packaging where your pills are sorted into a series of small recyclable bags on a roll, which you tear off rather like sheets of toilet paper. To find out more you can phone 0800 074 3303 or look at their website: pilltime.co.uk

Do You Have Painful Knees and Hips, but want to avoid an operation?

The NHS in Bedfordshire are among the first NHS Regions to offer a newly-approved treatment called APOS, which shifts the load off painful joints by correcting and retraining the way you walk. They do this by providing you with special shoes, tailored to your unique needs, which are adjusted every few months. The treatment is designed to postpone or even avoid the need for surgery. If you are interested, you need to start by phoning your GP and asking for a physiotherapist appointment, who can assess whether your condition is suitable for APOS treatment.

Are you worried about dementia?

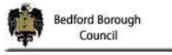
There is a big difference between normal forgetfulness and dementia. Signs of dementia include problems with language and understanding, forgetting how to do everyday tasks, repeating questions and changes in regular behaviour.

Getting a diagnosis can take some time, you need to start by making an appointment with your GP. There are several different types of dementia, and some respond to medication more than others, so it is worth getting tested. We are very lucky to have an excellent local charity called Tibbs Dementia Foundation who offer a full programme of activities and support. You can contact them by phone or email, or look at their website: 01234 210993 or 07483 951737. Email: contact@tibbsdementia.co.uk Website: www.tibbsdementia.co.uk

If you are caring for someone with dementia, Tibbs Dementia Foundation will also offer you help, support and information. Whatever you do, it is important to accept help from friends, talk about your feelings, and try to make time for your own needs.

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.)



Our eyes on the inside, a voice on the outside

Following on from Chris Jones's report in the April Loop on Supporting Prisoners I thought I should write something about the voluntary work that I do at Bedford Prison. I am a member of the Independent Monitoring Board (IMB). Boards are made up of over a thousand unpaid volunteers operating in every prison in England and Wales, and every immigration detention facility across the UK.

IMB members are the eyes and ears of the public, appointed by ministers to perform a vital task: independent monitoring of prisons and immigration detention. They report on whether the individuals held there are being treated fairly and humanely and whether prisoners are being given the support they need to turn their lives around. Each Board has a statutory duty to provide an annual report.

During my career as a Librarian working for Bedfordshire Libraries /Bedford Borough and based in Bedford Central Library I was responsible for managing the prison Library service. After retirement I applied to become a member of the IMB.

Have you ever wondered what it's like inside a prison? My visit starts when I show my ID at the prison gate and draw keys, giving me unrestricted access to all parts of the prison. First, I look at what has been happening in the prison over the last 24 hours. I might then head off to the segregation unit, so I can understand why those prisoners are there and check how they are being treated, before moving onto the prison wings where I interact with both prisoners and staff. Prisoners can write to us asking for help with a problem or approach us directly. People often ask me if I feel safe but I've always found prisoners easy to engage with; on the whole they are respectful and understand that we're there to support them and our presence can be reassuring. The physical conditions on the wings are also important. Are the showers working? Is the food edible? By talking to both prisoners and staff, I can check whether what I am being told is consistent with what I see and hear. I might also visit the Education Centre, Library, Healthcare Unit, kitchens (I can even taste the food), observe visits from families or attend a management meeting. Finally, I return to the IMB office to record what I've learnt from prisoners, staff and my own observations. I share this with my colleagues on the Board and the prison Governor, who we meet every month to discuss what we've found. Being an IMB member is a privileged position and hopefully what we do can and does make a difference.

HMP/YOI Bedford is a category B reception and resettlement prison for men aged 18 and over.

At present we have 9 members on the Board. We are seeking to recruit more. After an induction period Board members are expected to undertake around 2-3 visits a month and attend a monthly Board meeting. Flexibility will be considered where possible to accommodate work and care commitments. You need to work well as part of a team, be enthusiastic and open minded. Applications are invited from candidates who live within 30 miles of Bedford.

Please look at the IMB website or contact me for further information if you are interested.

Anthea Slark
07799 765744

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This month in the garden

The show gardens at Chelsea this year proved that you can have a lovely garden and still encourage wildlife. This was also borne out in the fabulous gardens in Biddenham that were open in June in aid of the Red Cross. I noted with interest the wild areas and the bug hotels in these stunning gardens some of which have been cultivated for more than 100 years. Many thanks for the hard work of the owners of these lovely gardens, you gave us such pleasure on a brilliant sunny afternoon.

There were more so called "weeds" in the less manicured show gardens at Chelsea this year. In my own garden I have always celebrated weeds and allowed many of them to grow with other plants just seeding around them. We now seem to be in a time when we are trying to be more sustainable, when we value biodiversity and do not seek to control everything. Encouraging the insects that pollinate our plants, decompose waste, take nutrients down into the soil and provide food for birds and animals is something which we in Biddenham should certainly seek to embrace. We can do our bit by providing a source of water, however small, growing single flowered plants (better for the pollinators), holding back on chemical sprays and not being too tidy in the garden.

July and August are the peak flowering months for most gardens when containers and hanging baskets come into their own and salad crops and summer vegetables abound. Keep deadheading the plants - its an almost daily activity isn't it? I try to use it as a peaceful time of "mindfulness" for a few minutes each day and then I don't feel stressed at the end of the week when it becomes overwhelming. Little and often is certainly best.

As well as enjoying my own garden I have been out and about visiting other gardens. The Elizabethan garden at Kenilworth Castle was such a delight a few weeks ago. You will be aware that Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, created the garden to impress Queen Elizabeth I when she visited the castle in 1575. A letter survives which provides an eyewitness account of the garden by Robert Langham at the time of the Queens's visit 'the fruit-trees, the plants, the herbs, the flowers, the change in colours, the birds fluttering, the fountain streaming, the fish swimming, all in such delectable variety, order and dignity'. In 2009 this letter together with the findings of extensive archaeology and research was used to recreate the garden which had been lost over the centuries. Brought to life again it now provides one of the most complete pictures of an Elizabethan garden. In the centre is a fountain showing ancient symbols of power and immortality. In early Elizabethan gardens the emphasis was on sweet smelling flowers, pinks and carnations and sweet Williams and the planting in the garden reflects this. If you are in Warwickshire Kenilworth Castle is well worth a visit.



Closer to home I have been catching up on the walled garden at Moggerhanger Park. The volunteers have worked so hard to bring this round and when I visited in June the bearded iris were in full swing. During July and August, when the flowers have faded is a good time to divide iris. Ease the plant out of the ground with a fork, pull the clump apart and throw away the oldest pieces from the middle of the plant. Divide up the healthy young material and cut the leaves down to half their height. Plant them back into the ground so that the rhizomes lie horizontally along the ground with only the roots and lower half buried. The top half of the rhizome needs to be exposed to the sun otherwise the plants will grow leaves but no flowers. Bearded iris need, of course, a warm position where they will be baked by the sun. Agapanthus

are also looking fabulous at this time of the year and need fertile, well drained soil in a sunny spot. With the long summer evenings it is lovely to be outside enjoying the evening scent of the *Lilium Regale*. I always grow these for their brilliant white blooms which shine out in the moonlight. Honeysuckle planted near the house and nicotiana provide more scented delights.



July and August are busy months in the garden. Give plants in containers and hanging baskets a weekly feed with a high potash solution. A liquid tomato feed is good but dilute it to half the strength recommended for tomatoes. Stop outdoor tomatoes by nipping out the very top of each plant leaving 5 trusses of fruit to continue developing and of course, continue to pinch out the side shoots. I guess your wisterias are like mine, running wild - cut back the whippy tendrils to 15cms long. This encourages the plant to build up lots of short, flowering spurs ready for next year. Prune lavender as soon as the flowers fade or you have harvested them for lavender bags - do people still make these? I remember making them with my grandmother when I was a child and I made them with my grandchildren. Word of warning - take care not to cut into the old wood of lavender bushes - if you do they die - I know from experience - one of my many disasters!

Now is the time to start taking cuttings of tender perennials - salvias, pelargoniums and penstemons. An open, gritty compost is good for this and keep them out of the sun whilst they root.

Well lots to do - but whatever you are doing - whether it be tending your plot and hoping your efforts will bring success at the Biddenham Show, relaxing with friends or visiting some of our stunning gardens locally or further afield have a lovely summer and I will see you again in September.

Linda Truscott

BIDDENHAM GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

Would you like a day out to a stunning house and garden?

The BGA is organising a trip to

ELTON HALL AND GARDENS Near Peterborough

To include a guided tour of the house during the morning and an opportunity to explore the gardens in the afternoon.

Thursday 6th July

Leaving Biddenham Village Hall at 9 am
Returning to Biddenham at approx. 5 pm

There are a few places remaining on the coach. Please contact Linda Truscott tel: 01234 270747 for further details

Biddenham Parish Council

The Parish Council met on Tuesday 20th June 2023 at the Pavilion. Present at the meeting were Parish Councillors Peter Chase, Harry Fowler, Chris Gee, Aaron Melvin and Francia Slade. Also present were the Clerk, David Brough and myself.



I'd like to thank all of those involved in preparing, printing and distributing the June edition Loop which was delivered to every household in the parish. I believe it was well worth the investment and, subject to my fellow councillors' views, it may be something we want to repeat on a periodic basis.

The first point of business was to co-opt additional Councillors to the Parish Council as following the May elections the Parish Council had three vacancies. It was really good to see that we had more applications than places available. Perhaps putting an advert in the Loop that was circulated this month helped to raise awareness for residents. So, although we were in the happy position of having enough candidates to fill our vacant roles, it did mean that we would have to decide who provided the best fit of skills to build on and complement those already on the Parish Council. To aid our decision making each candidate provided a short-written statement and made a brief address to the Members present. I am pleased to report that after careful consideration Caroline Cross, Laura Simmonds and Simi Otukoya were co-opted as Parish Councillors. I'd like to welcome them to the Parish Council and also say thank you to those who also applied; we value the interest everyone showed in working with us to represent our community.

Now with a full complement we moved onto the other items of business on the agenda. I am pleased to report that following three quotations we agreed on a supplier to provide and install a replacement flag pole. I'm sure regular readers will recall the shameful vandalism to our previous pole. The new pole means not only can we resume flag flying we can now fly two flags from the one pole. As a reminder the Ukrainian flag was flown as a show of support for Ukraine but also as a means of recognising the great work being done in the community to support the victims of the war.

It was great to learn that an application had been submitted by our Clerk to the Borough Council's Climate Change Fund for support with installing solar panels on the pavilion roof. The application was a lot of work so thanks to our Clerk for pulling it all together.

Of interest to those concerned with speeding in Biddenham Turn the Borough Council will shortly be erecting a column to enable a solar panel and our Speed Indication Device to be installed. The current arrangement requires a regular change of the batteries which is inefficient and time consuming for those who volunteer for this task. We also agreed to some minor maintenance works – re-sanding and varnishing of a bench at the pond, fixing the paving slab at the war memorial that was damaged when the flagpole was vandalised, repairing the Day's Lane gate leading to the Pavilion field, repairing the Pavilion door lock and fitting an extension to the CCTV system to cover this door. Small items I know but they do get noticed.

On a more local level concern was raised with dog fouling in the Cowslip Meadow. If you do see dog fouling, please report it to the Borough Council on 01234 718060. Your report should, if you know, include the time window of when it is happening and a description of the offenders and the dogs. They can then target patrols. If any area generates lots of complaints it is more likely that enforcement visits will be made! Following a suggestion, the Parish will explore providing additional signage to

remind people to pick up their dog's poo.

Lastly, I do urge all readers to make sure they do raise issues with the Parish Council. We may not be able to solve all the issues raised but we can be a helpful voice encouraging those who have the responsibility to take action.

Date of the next meeting

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 18th July 2023 at 7.30pm at the Pavilion in Deep Spinney and all are welcome. Please note there will be no meeting held in August. Have a great summer holiday.

Stewart Briggs
Chair



Varnishing the bench in memory of former clerk, Alison Southern at the Pond.

North Bedfordshire Ramblers

Join us for a walk

Come and join us for a walk. We walk every Saturday afternoon approx. 6 miles and Saturdays twice a month in morning for approx. 12 miles

July is a bit different – A picnic on 1st and figure of 8 on 8th (morning, afternoon or all day walk)

July walks

1st am followed by a picnic, Ampthill Park
8th am Riseley Fox and Hounds, (morning only or all day),
8th pm Riseley Primary School
15th pm Silsoe Church,
22nd am St Ives Park and Ride
22nd pm North Crawley Church
July 29th pm St Neots

For full details of all these walks and for August walks see

<https://www.ramblers.org.uk/north-bedfordshire>

Contact; Margaret Sawyer 07780933729

Facebook; North Beds Ramblers

COMING SOON!!!

BEDFORDSHIRE
FESTIVAL OF AUTUMN WALKS

9th – 17th SEPTEMBER

More details to follow

RAMBLERS
Bedfordshire

Bedford Guided Walks

On Sunday 21st May we decided to take advantage of the warm weather and joined one of Bedford Borough Council's Guided Walks. The theme of the walk was 'Movers and Shakers' and our guide, Christine, took us on a fascinating tour which provided insights into some of Bedford's influential historical figures, as well as some of their beautiful former homes.

The walk kicked off outside Bedford Prison where we learnt about the significance of the prison layout and the achievements of progressive Victorian era prison governor, Robert Evans Roberts, who introduced the concept of taking photos of each inmate to create an effective prisoner record system. This system was quickly adopted by other prisons and continues in use today.



Adelaide Square

The walk continued to the New Town areas including the whitewashed 'cottages' of Adelaide Square which, although now a bit rundown, retain many of their original features including porticos, castellated towers, and Anglo-Indian style architecture. The best example now houses the Bedford headquarters of the Women's Institute.

From there we headed to The Crescent with its well-preserved Georgian villas, including the former home of astronomer, Charles Piazzi Smyth, who built an observatory in his back garden.

The walk ended in Lansdowne Road at the childhood home of Apsley Cherry-Garrard, who was a member of Captain Scott's Terra Nova expedition. He subsequently wrote about his experiences in his book, 'The Worst Journey in the World'.



Our tour guide really brought Bedford's historical movers and shakers to life with lots of (often humorous) anecdotes and her knowledge of some of Bedford's most beautiful architecture.

Former home of Charles Piazzi Smyth in The Crescent

How to book

Bedford Borough Council organises several different themed walks, led by qualified members of the Bedford Association of Tour Guides. Walks take place at 11.00am on Sundays and Wednesdays, Adults £3, Children £1.50 and can be booked through The Higgins Bedford website: www.thehigginsbedford.org.uk. Walks cover one to two miles and last from 90 minutes to two hours at a gentle pace.

Janet Field

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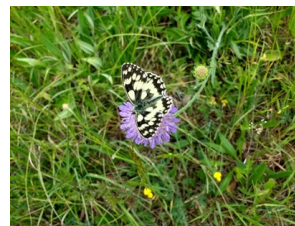
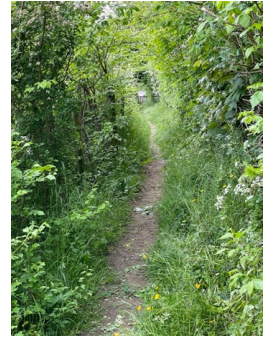
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Biddenham Conservation Volunteers

Conservation work in Biddenham continues with volunteers tackling summer tasks that avoid disturbing nesting birds. Following the heavy rains in late Spring, recent weather dried up the puddles on footpaths while supporting the rapid growth of encroaching vegetation. Volunteers tackled some of this by cutting back a stretch of the path from Branston Way to the concrete road from Church End. Other footpaths have also been cleared although the vegetation grows back quickly in this heat. You may have seen new footpath signage that BCV installed to ensure that public rights of way are clearly marked and visible.



Marbled White Butterfly photographed by Jane Moore

The weekly butterfly surveys that began in April have continued. There were frequent sightings of Holly Blues and Orange Tips earlier in the month but by mid-June these had all but disappeared to be replaced by vast numbers of Meadow Browns and the first sightings of Marbled Whites. Anyone wishing to join these weekly surveys as a guest is welcome. Please contact Gilly Cowan if you are interested in surveying butterflies.

For the second year, a wild flower survey was carried out in Cowslip Meadow by Volunteers. The objective was to determine if the species identified last year are still flourishing and if there is an absence of anticipated species. This data serves to monitor the health and biodiversity of the meadow. A report of the survey will be made available in due course.

Look out for information on future tasks on <http://biddenham.org.uk/biddenham-conservation-volunteers/>. New members are always welcome.

For more information contact Chris Jones chrishj49@gmail.com or Gilly Cowan gillycowan@btinternet.com

Mobile Library

The Bedford Borough mobile library visits three locations in Biddenham every other Thursday morning, as well as Great Denham Community Hall every other Saturday afternoon.



If you don't already have a library card, to enjoy use of the library and borrow books, you will need to show proof of ID with your name and address, eg: driving licence or utility bill.

Dates for July & August Biddenham

Thursdays: 13th, 27th July, 10th, 24th August
St Joseph's School 10.00 to 10.40am
Three Tuns 10.45 to 11.05 am
Church End 11.10 to 11.25am

Great Denham

Saturdays: 8th, 22nd July, 5th, 19th August
Community Hall 2.20 to 2.40pm

Janet Field



Andrew Charles
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We have moved to -
6 Ison Close, Biddenham, Bedford
01234 325938

Biddenham Cricket Club



As we reach the half way point of the cricket season we are pleased to have seen some rain at long last. Happily this has not caused the cancellation of any matches. After a month in America, Ross Cunningham has returned to captain the senior team in the Bedfordshire County league Division 1. Sam Kumar did a very good job in captaining the side during Ross's absence – the team has now won 3 out of the 6 matches played so far. Only two of these matches have been played at Biddenham so this will mean six home matches in July and August.

All the junior teams have enjoyed some success and the recent good weather has meant that all the Monday training sessions have been held and matches have gone ahead as scheduled. No games have been cancelled due to lack of players which is encouraging.

With school holidays approaching soon the junior season will effectively come to a close at the end of July. Time perhaps to put on record the hard work and dedication of the organisers, coaches and assistants who

have given their time generously to enable the junior section of around 80 youngsters to function so well. The main contributors are Rob and Katie Featherstone, Jagtar Singh, Nick and Katie Ulvert, Julian Krishna, Angus McIntyre, Lee Butterworth and Chris Spurgeon.

Details of July and August's home fixtures are included below.

Richard Fone

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

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

Contact numbers:

Chairman	Glenn Taylor	07778 479479
Junior Chairman	Chris Spurgeon	07707 771606
Cricket Secretary	Richard Fone	07818 678697
Safeguarding Officer	Katie Ulvert	01234 954133
100 Club	James Gardner	07928 478563

BIDDENHAM CC HOME MATCHES - JULY AND AUGUST 2023

Date	Day	Home Team	Away Team	Start Time
02-Jul-23	Sunday	Sunday League XI	Eggington Foresters CC - Sunday 1st XI	13:00
04-Jul-23	Tuesday	Under 13 B	Queens Park Youth Cricket, Beds - Under 13	18:00
09-Jul-23	Sunday	Sunday League XI	Letchworth Garden City CC - Sunday 1st XI	13:00
11-Jul-23	Tuesday	Under 13	Bedford CC - U13 County A	18:00
13-Jul-23	Thursday	Under 15	Harrold CC - Under 15	18:00
16-Jul-23	Sunday	Under 9	Ickwell CC - Under 9 B	10:00
16-Jul-23	Sunday	Under 11	North Crawley CC - Under 11	10:00
18-Jul-23	Tuesday	Under 13	Olney Town CC - Under 13	18:00
23-Jul-23	Sunday	Under 9	Kempston Hammers CC - Under 9	10:00
23-Jul-23	Sunday	Under 11	North Crawley CC - Under 11	09:30
23-Jul-23	Sunday	Sunday League XI	Potton Town CC - 1st XI	13:00
25-Jul-23	Tuesday	Under 13 B	Harrold CC - Under 13 B	18:00
27-Jul-23	Thursday	Under 15	Olney Town CC - Under 15	18:00
30-Jul-23	Sunday	Sunday League XI	Queens Park Westfield CC, Beds - Sunday 2nd XI	13:00
01-Aug-23	Tuesday	Under 13	Harrold CC - Under 13	18:00
06-Aug-23	Sunday	Sunday League XI	New Bradwell CC - Sunday 1st XI	13:00
11-Aug-23	Friday	Bedfordshire U13 Girls	Northamptonshire	13:00
13-Aug-23	Sunday	-	Local Doctors Match	14:00
20-Aug-23	Sunday	Sunday Friendly XI	Luton Caribbean CC - Friendly XI	13:30
27-Aug-23	Sunday	Sunday League XI	Ickwell CC - Sunday 1st XI	13:00



**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/>



newbombay.co.uk



Peter's Picturehouse In July

Date: **Tuesday 4th July 2023**
Time: **Doors open 7:00pm, Film starts 7:30pm**
Location: **Biddenham Village Hall**

To reserve your seat: **Email (see below) or call/text 07818 878491 and leave a message with name, number of tickets and a contact number. 56 seats available.**



Ticket price: **£5**

Certificate: **12A**

Remaining unreserved seats will be available on the door.

Card payments are now available for tickets and purchases at the film.

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

Coming soon...

Tues 1st Aug

Downton Abbey: A New Era (PG)

Peter's Picturehouse

King Charles III's Coronation in May has inspired us to look back at his grandfather's ascension to the throne and, on Tuesday 4th July, we are showing *The King's Speech* (12A). His appearance in this film produced Colin Firth his first Academy Award for Best Actor in 2011 and, with many other notable actors including Geoffrey Rush, Derek Jacobi, Helena Bonham-Carter, Timothy Spall and Michael Gambon, the film won four Oscars.

It tells of the new King's struggle to make speeches without stammering and the help he received from a non-medically trained speech therapist. The film was an international success being praised for its visual style as well as the screen play. We hope you will want to come and see it on our big screen in the Village Hall, meet up with friends and have a drink or an ice cream on a summer's evening.

As always, it is best to ring or email in advance to reserve your ticket. The ticket cost is £5 at the door with cash or credit payment possible. Doors open at 7.00pm for the film showing to start at 7.30pm.

Moving on to our film that shows on Tuesday 1st August, we have selected the film *Downton Abbey: New Era* (PG), which was showing in UK cinemas from April 2022. This is a sequel to the film that came out in 2019 which was popular when we showed it at Peter's Picturehouse in March 2020. This film involves a wedding and a film crew coming to Downton and reviews mention escapism, unexpected kindness and beloved characters... come and join us in August to see!

To reserve tickets for either film: phone/text/email : **07818 878491** or peterspicturehouse@gmail.com.

Please give name and contact number with number of tickets that you require and state which film you wish to see.

Rose Houghton



Peter's Picturehouse In August

Date: **Tuesday 1st August 2023**
Time: **Doors open 7:00pm, Film starts 7:30pm**
Location: **Biddenham Village Hall**

To reserve your seat: **Email (see below) or call/text 07818 878491 and leave a message with name, number of tickets and a contact number. 56 seats available.**



Ticket price: **£5**

Certificate: **PG**

Remaining unreserved seats will be available on the door.

Card payments are now available for tickets and purchases at the film.

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

Coming soon...

Tues 5th Sept

TEC

CPR Training



A Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) awareness session was held for residents at Biddenham Village Hall on Friday 19th May. A cardiac arrest can happen to anyone at any time, and knowing how to perform CPR and operate a defibrillator can help save lives.

The purpose of the training was to teach residents how to perform effective CPR on adults, children, and babies with the aid of different sized simulation dummies and, in the event of a cardiac arrest, how to access and operate one of

the village defibrillators.

Location of defibrillators



Biddenham has three defibrillators situated at the entrances of the Village Hall, St James's Church and the Pavilion.

Great Denham has a defibrillator at the Sports Pavilion, one on a post at Carnoustie Drive and one at the Community Hall.

They are each housed in a large yellow metal box secured with a keypad. In the event of an emergency, users are required to call 999 or 112 for the keypad code.

Janet Field

Biddenham Gardeners Association

No dig Gardening

Well, who would have thought that a talk on "No-Dig" gardening would be so riveting - but it absolutely was. From the moment Russell Atwood started his presentation we were captivated. Russell is a very experienced gardener and a retired Biology teacher. We understand that he has been cultivating his allotments (he has 3) for over 25 years. He is secretary of his allotment society in Kettering - he used to dig but not any more. As soon as he uttered the words "No digging means no watering" he had our attention. He is clearly a convert but he suggested that we try the no-dig method on a patch of our own garden or allotment as an experiment. Russell gardens on clay and for him this method really works.

So this is how it happens. Think of the layers of a lasagna. In fact Russell calls it 'lasagna gardening'. Build up the levels on top of the soil with various layers of mulch, a horizontal compost heap if you like. The mulch smothers the weeds and the worms do the digging. With this method the soil has more carbon as with digging carbon dioxide is released. Farmers plough the fields to provide aeration but at the expense of soil carbon. Russell went on to say that traditionally the land was double dug in the winter as labour was plentiful on the large estates; he suggested that it gave the large work force something to do. Charles Dowding is the no-dig guru of today and Russell recommended his website and YouTube videos.

How to start. On a patch of land, however weed infested, put down a layer of cardboard or newspaper to exclude the light. The vegetation underneath, without light, cannot photosynthesize and therefore dies, providing mulch. The next layer should be wood shavings, grass cuttings, tree shavings, pulled weeds or straw - a green, vegetative layer. Word of warning - be wary of leaves - they blow away and should be composted first and some seed heads, for example those of docks should be avoided. A good mulch layer will be about 15 cm in depth. The best time to start the 'lasagna' is in early winter so that by the spring it will be easier to make a hole through the mulch and through the cardboard to plant the plants. This no-dig method is a way of changing weeds into an asset. However there are some downsides and Russell mentioned these. Cardboard insulates the soil and so temperatures just above the soil level will be slightly lower than for areas which do not have cardboard and therefore tender plants may be more at risk from frosts. The soil does become soft and crumbly over time so may need to be compacted a

little. But overall the benefits appear to outweigh these disadvantages.

This was a master class in how to present and engage with an audience, including leading us in a couple of songs at the end. If you were unable to attend this meeting, you really missed a treat. Many thanks to Russell for an excellent presentation which certainly gave us food for thought.

Please join us in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm on Tuesday July 18th for Cheese and Wine. A short business AGM will be followed by a talk from Jo Roberts about the Forest of Marston Vale. As always visitors will be very welcome; £5 on the door. There will be no meeting in August. We resume meetings in September.

Linda Truscott

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

www.biddenhamgardenersassociation.org.uk



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Events in Great Denham

Every Friday at the Community Hall, Great Denham – The Great Swan pop-up Pub – from 6.30pm.

Saturday 1st July – Summer Sizzler event at the Community Hall, Great Denham – 2.00pm to 6.00pm

Children's cinema – 1st Friday of each month, term times only

Great Denham Parish Council meetings

Monday 3rd July at 7.30pm, Community Hall

Monday 4th September at 7.30pm, Community Hall

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**

7th July, 4th August, 1st September

Quilting & Sewing Group



Biddenham Village Hall
10.30 a.m.

Last Friday of each month

Pop in and see what goes on



100 CLUB May draw



The winners were:

1st	Georgina Hayton	32
2nd	Roxhana Patel	8
3rd	Maureen Sackett	318

Drawn by Wendy Fox



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

No Fear Duplicate Bridge

Biddenham Village Hall
Fridays at 2.30pm (improvers)
Sundays at 6.00pm.
Contact Bernard Henry 07866 456769 or
bahenry0309@gmail.com

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

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

Monday		
Story & Crafts, Little Dinosaur Studio	9.30-10.30am	Church Barn
Cha Char Chimps	10.00am	Village Hall
Angie Pearl Yoga	10.00-11.00am	Pavilion
Ukrainian Clothing Evening	5.30-7.30pm (1 st in month)	Church Barn
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
St James's Book Club	2.00-4.00pm (1 st in month)	Church Barn
Peter's Picturehouse	7.00 for 7.30pm (1 st in month)	Village Hall
Street Dance	5.15-6.45pm	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		
Ukrainian Community Coffee Morning	10.00am-12noon 1 st & 3 rd in month)	Church Barn
Kensington Ballet	9.30-11.00am	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
This Girl Can Fitness	6.30-7.15pm	Pavilion
Boxercise	7.30-8.15pm	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
Cook Stars Juniors	4.00-5.15pm (term time)	Church Barn
Baby Ballet	5.00-6.00pm	Pavilion
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
Fit Flamingo Yoga	10.05-11.00am	Church Barn
First Friday Lunch	12.15pm (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	6.30-8.00pm	Pavilion
Saturday		
Pregnancy Yoga	9.30am	Village Hall
Baby Ballet	8.30-12.30pm	Church Barn
Oakley Football	9.00am-12.30pm	Pavilion Field
Socatots	9.45-11.15am	Pavilion
Family Crafts, Little Dinosaur Studio	2.30-3.30pm (last of the month)	Church Barn
Lucy Hunt School of Dance	1.00-3.00pm	Pavilion
Toddler Sense	2.00-3.00pm (1 st or 2 nd of the month)	Church Barn
Sunday		
St James's church service coffees	11.00am-12noon	Church Barn
Taekwondo	11.30am	Village Hall
No Fear Bridge	5.30-8.30pm	Village Hall
St James's Revive	7.00-8.00pm (3 rd in month)	Church Barn

July

- Sat 1 Jul Summer Sizzler, Great Denham Community Hall, 2.00-6.00pm, see p17
 Sun 2 Jul **All Age Worship, All Saints, 10.00am**
All Age Worship, St James's, 10.00am
Holy Communion, All Saints, 11.15am
- Mon 3 Jul Biddenham History Society, Church Barn, 2.30-4.30pm, see p3
 Mon 3 Jul Great Denham Parish Council, Community Hall, 7.30pm, see p17
 Tue 4 Jul Peter's Picture House, Biddenham Village Hall, 7.00pm, see p16
 Thu 6 Jul Biddenham Gardeners Association trip, see p11
 Fri 7 Jul First Friday lunch, Biddenham Village Hall, 12.15pm, see p18
 Sun 9 Jul **Said Holy Communion, All Saints, 9.00am**
Holy Communion, St James's, 10.00am
Evening Prayer, St James's, 6.00pm
- Sun 9 Jul Pond AGM, Church Barn, 3.00pm, see p4
 Sun 16 Jul **Holy Communion, All Saints, 10am**
Morning Worship, St James's, 10am
- Tue 18 Jul Café B, Biddenham Village Hall, 10.15-11.45am, see p5
 Tue 18 Jul Biddenham Gardeners Association, Biddenham Village Hall, 7.30pm, see p17
 Tue 18 Jul Biddenham Parish Council, Pavilion, 7.30pm, see p12
 Sun 23 Jul **Said Holy Communion, All Saints, 9am**
Holy Communion, St James's, 10am
- Fri 28 Jul Quilting & Sewing Group, Biddenham Village Hall, 10.30am, see p18
 Sun 30 Jul **Service of Wholeness & Healing at St James's, 10.00am**
Choral Evensong at St James's, 6.00pm

August

- Tue 1 Aug Peter's Picture House, Biddenham Village Hall, 7.00pm, see p16
 Fri 4 Aug First Friday lunch, Biddenham Village Hall, 12.15pm, see p18
 Sun 6 Aug **All Age Worship, All Saints, 10.00am**
All Age Worship, St James's, 10.00am
Holy Communion, All Saints, 11.15am
- Sun 13 Aug **Said Holy Communion, All Saints, 9.00am**
Holy Communion, St James's, 10.00am
Evening Prayer, St James's, 6.00pm
- Tue 15 Aug Café B, Biddenham Village Hall, 10.15-11.45am, see p5
 Sun 20 Aug **Holy Communion, All Saints, 10am**
Morning Worship, St James's, 10am
- Fri 25 Aug Quilting & Sewing Group, Biddenham Village Hall, 10.30am, see p18
 Sun 27 Aug **Said Holy Communion, All Saints, 9am**
Holy Communion, St James's, 10am

September

- Fri 1 Sep First Friday lunch, Biddenham Village Hall, 12.15pm, see p18
 Sun 3 Sep **All Age Worship, All Saints, 10.00am**
All Age Worship, St James's, 10.00am
Holy Communion, All Saints, 11.15am
- Mon 4 Sep Great Denham Parish Council, Community Hall, 7.30pm, see p17
 Sun 10 Sep Biddenham Show, see pp1,6,7,8

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

For Mobile Library dates see page 14
 For North Beds Ramblers Walks see page 12
 For Cricket Club fixtures see page 15

The Loop

Editor	Jean Gambold	loopeditor@gmail.com	Tel 349849
Reporter & Proof Reader	Janet Field	loopreporter@gmail.com	
Advertising	Clare Sugars	loopadverts@gmail.com	Tel 637281
Subscriptions & Distribution	Rosemary & Richard Harris	loopsubs@gmail.com	Tel 210434
Church Liaison	Laurie Hurn		

All September 2023 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 16th August please.

The views expressed in 'The Loop' by various community groups do not necessarily represent the views of St James's Church or the Parochial Church Council. The Editor reserves the right to edit submissions to fit editorial style.