

# The Loop

March  
2023

£1.50

## Marking a year of war in Ukraine

A vigil was held in Bedford town centre on Friday 24th February to mark a year since the Russian invasion of Ukraine. A memorial service was also held at St James's with a congregation of over 100 people.

Unfortunately the Ukrainian flag flying at Biddenham war memorial has been stolen for the second time, along with another flag outside one of the cottages in Main Road. Work is in progress to make the flagpole more secure before a new flag is hoisted.



## Parish Administrator required

St James's Church is looking for somebody to take on the part time paid role of parish administrator. The right person will be responsible for ensuring church and community events are advertised on social media, service sheets are produced and other tasks required by the vicar for the good of the church are performed. If you are interested, please contact the vicar by email: [Rev.ejloxmax@gmail.com](mailto:Rev.ejloxmax@gmail.com)

## Loop subscription reminder

If you haven't yet paid your Loop subscription for 2023 please do so soon, otherwise you won't receive any more magazines. The details for payment are in last month's magazine or contact: [loopsubs@gmail.com](mailto:loopsubs@gmail.com).

## Church bell ringing

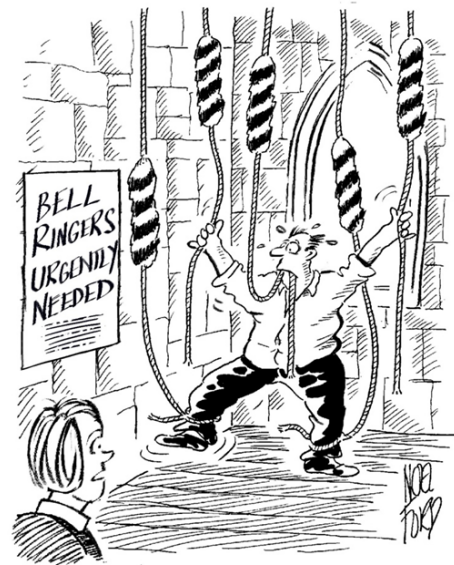
Regular bell ringing at St James's stopped around five years ago, mainly due to the retirement of some of the band and a lack of new ringers taking their places.

However, each Friday in March, between 8.00pm and 9.15pm, the bells of St James's Church will ring out again across our village.

The people who ring bells are called campanologists and St. James's church is hosting the band from Oakley, who are having some maintenance work done in their tower.

Bell ringing has been talked about quite a lot in the media recently, particularly with the impending coronation of King Charles III in May. If you enjoy what you hear and would like to get involved, then come along on any Friday in March at 7.30pm for a tour of the bell tower and to ask any questions you may have about how to get started.

Simon Smith  
Tower Captain  
01234 342454



"Ready when you are, George..."

For more information go to <https://ringforthequeen.org/learning-to-ring/>

'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](mailto:loopeditor@gmail.com)

# Services for Easter

## Sunday 2nd April

9.00am Palm Sunday Service All Saints  
10.00am Palm Sunday Service St James's

## Monday 3rd April

7.00pm Holy Communion All Saints

## Tuesday 4th April

7.00pm Holy Communion St James's

## Wednesday 5th April

7.00pm Holy Communion All Saints

## Thursday 6th April

6.00pm Maundy Thursday Holy Communion, All Saints

7.00pm Maundy Thursday Holy Communion, St James's

## Good Friday; 7th April

10.00am - 12 noon Children's service and activities, St James's

12.00 noon Good Friday Reflection St James's

12.45pm Good Friday Reflection All Saints

1.30pm Good Friday Reflection St James's

2.15pm Good Friday Reflection All Saints

3.00pm Good Friday Reflection St James's

## Easter Sunday, 9th April

7.30am Lighting of the Easter candle, All Saints

8.00am Lighting of the Easter candle St James's

9.00am Holy Communion Easter Service All Saints

10.00am Easter Communion, St James's

## 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
Reader	Sue Richards	
Churchwardens	Laurie Hurn Lois Nash	Tel 364251 Tel 961826
Verger	Hilary Hurn	Tel 364251
Treasurer	Michael Hurford	Tel 271746
Organist/Choirmaster	Adam Wright	
	<a href="http://www.stjamesbiddenham.com">www.stjamesbiddenham.com</a>	

# Letter from the Vicar

Dear All

As I am writing this, we have just had a memorial service for the anniversary of the start of the war in Ukraine. This has been the focus of a lot of my attention over the last twelve months and I have found myself deeply connected with the narrative of those who have been displaced by this terrible war. Carried with this is also a deep sense of responsibility for those we have tried to serve in the Ukrainian community. The Ukrainian people have been extremely gracious and respectful to us and as they have been absorbed so deeply into our community, I was reminded the other day of how we must continue to be gracious in our responsibility to serve them. One friend the other day, herself from Ukraine, reminded me of a quote by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, in his extraordinary book *The Little Prince*: "You become responsible forever for that which you have tamed."

Responsibility lies at the heart of my reflection this year on Lent. I was reminded of the responsibility given to Abraham that he would be used for the purpose of blessing all the families of the earth. It would seem, however that actually the people of Israel became more introspective.

God set Israel free from slavery in Egypt and they consequently established, according to the narrative, a 40 year nomadic existence in the Wilderness. Eventually they ended their journey by passing through the river Jordan into the promised land. At the heart of this promised land the Temple was constructed in Jerusalem and that became the tabernacle (house) of God.

In the New Testament, we read the stories of John the Baptist and the Baptism of Jesus. John did not invent Baptism. If anybody wanted to become a Jew, the Pharisees would have asked that gentiles mirrored that journey of Israel from the wilderness into the promised land. This they would do by passing through the Jordan. That was symbolic of God's liberation of his people. One could not become a Jew without this.

John's baptism of Jesus turns this on its head. Jesus, by going into the waters of the Jordan, does not move from the wilderness to the city of God, but rather Jesus emerges from the Jordan and sets off in the wrong direction into the wilderness. There, like with Israel's 40 years, Jesus spends 40 days in the place of chaos and shadows.

As we, disciples of Christ, follow Jesus, we too are called to be risk takers. We walk with Jesus into the wilderness of chaos and shadows. We go with Jesus to meet the lost, the broken, the rejected, the fallen. That is the mission of the church during Lent. It is not to give up chocolate or alcohol, but rather to give up the status of piety and self-righteousness and instead become scandalised by embracing the broken and untouchables. We agree to go out into the wilderness to bring the Gospel to the poor, heal the broken-hearted, bring sight to the blind and bring liberation to the captives (Luke 4:18).

We are called to take a different route to the religious expectations by risking the scandal of unacceptability and going out from our tabernacles into the wilderness to confront the power and temptation of the wilderness.

God bless.

Eric





# Biddenham Conservation Volunteers

Biddenham conservation volunteers have been out again this month.

Tree planting has been our most recent activity in Cowslip Meadow while we wait for the season to move us forward into other activities. The trees were supplied by The Forest of Marston Vale so we thank them for supporting community planting on the fringe of their area. We have planted most of the trees in a gap to promote noise reduction from the bypass and others alongside the top hedge as amenity trees.

Before that our enthusiastic team constructed a 'dead hedge' over a number of sessions by the footpath near the church. The material was all sourced from cut coppice and the uprights were enthusiastically sharpened before being put in to stabilise the material. This kind of construction can provide a protective site for small animals to move about or provide a wind break for the nearby hedge.

Our programme can be seen on the Biddenham Parish Council website: <http://biddenham.org.uk/biddenham-conservation-volunteers/>

We are always open to your suggestions for tasks and continue to add our own to the schedule.

Do come and join us for fresh air and activity in the open air.

Chris Jones [chrishj49@gmail.com](mailto:chrishj49@gmail.com)  
Gilly Cowan [gillycowan@btinternet.com](mailto:gillycowan@btinternet.com)



*Biddenham Conservation Group have been planting lots of new trees recently in Cowslip Meadow but this old Cedar tree in the churchyard needed some restoration of its own. Photo by Val Fitzhugh.*

## Sophie Applewhite-Rees

We are sorry to report the death of Sophie Applewhite-Rees. We hope to carry a tribute in next month's Loop.

We send our sincere condolences to Sophie's family and friends.

In support of THE FRIENDS OF ST JAMES

# QUIZ NIGHT

Includes FISH & CHIPS + GLASS OF WINE!

DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?

TICKETS **£15**  
On The Door  
(£12 for members)

**SATURDAY 18TH MARCH**  
7:30pm | Biddenham Church Barn MK40 4AR

Please book by Mar 11 so we can order your fish & chips! email [FOSQuiz@mail.com](mailto:FOSQuiz@mail.com) or call Peter Leverkus on 01234 353662

## Save the date

Save the date for the 2023 Biddenham Show which will be held on Sunday 10th September at St James' CE VA Primary School on Main Road, opposite The Three Tuns pub.

The show will feature games, entertainment, circus skills, a bouncy castle, a wide variety of stalls, animal petting corner, food and drink concessions, including the beer and Pimms tent and tea and cakes in the Village Hall.

As with previous years, there will be lots of



competitions to suit all ages: children's fancy dress, gardening, bake-off, preserves, flower arranging, fruit and vegetable growing, arts and crafts, photography, and the popular Fun Dog Show.

As well as a great day out for all the family, the Biddenham Show is an important fundraiser for the local community and, like last year, it aims to support local groups and societies.

Special thanks to Daniel Anderson who designed this year's fantastic new Show logo.

Janet Field



## Bedford National Trust Association

The next meeting is  
"A Virtual Tour of Royston Cave"  
By Nicky Paton

2.15pm on Tuesday 21st March at  
the Addison Centre, Kempston, MK42 8PN  
Everyone is welcome. There is no need to  
book in advance.

There will be a small entrance fee.  
For further information ring Betty Thomas on  
01480 860 421

## Biddenham History Society

The Biddenham History Society will be meeting for a Memories session on Monday 20th March from 2.30pm – 4.30pm in the Church Barn. I hope that during the winter months you have found interesting objects or photos relating to Biddenham's history or memorabilia relating to Queen Elizabeth II's Coronation in 1953 that you would be prepared to bring along to the meeting to talk about and show everyone.

Another date to put in your diaries is Monday May 15th from 2.30pm – 4.30pm in the Church Barn, when Janet Field has invited one of the Veterans who worked at the Royal Observer Corps on Day's Lane to come to talk to us. John Shere has called his talk 'The Royal Observer Corps Above and Below Ground.' He will share his memories with us and bring along some of the equipment that was used by the Corps in their work.

I hope you will be able to attend these meetings.

Kathy Fricker

Need some help  
with your  
**trees?**

**STS**  
Simply Tree Services

- All aspects of tree maintenance to BS3998
- All hedge work undertaken
- Tree removal and stump grinding

☎ **01234 765 000**

☎ **07866 554 673**

[enquiries@simplytreeservices.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@simplytreeservices.co.uk)  
[www.simplytreeservices.co.uk](http://www.simplytreeservices.co.uk)

Fully NPTC qualified staff and all work is covered  
by comprehensive public liability insurance

## Host a street party for the King's coronation



The UK will celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III with a three-day bank holiday weekend from Saturday 6th May to Monday 8th May. So, it's a great opportunity to organise a street party.

Over the Queen's Platinum Jubilee bank holiday weekend in 2022, street parties were held across Biddenham and Great Denham - see The Loop July/August 2002 for photos: <http://biddenham.org.uk/documents/the-loop-july-august-2022/>

Bedford Borough Council has confirmed they will once again waive all usual fees for closing streets to enable people to host street parties.

Mayor Dave Hodgson said: "We want to make it easy for local residents and communities to organise a street party and celebrate this special occasion."

Anyone planning a street party can find lots of useful tips, ideas and guidelines, as well as details of how to apply for a street closure over the coronation weekend on the Council web site: <https://www.bedford.gov.uk/coronation>.

Janet Field

**Nick Sleaf**  
Proprietor

**N.A.Sleaf Plumbing & Heating**

7 Ison Close  
Biddenham,  
Beds MK40 4BH

Tel: 01234 959472

Mob: 07990 598154

Email: [nicksleaf@live.co.uk](mailto:nicksleaf@live.co.uk)







As a committee we would like to send our heartfelt condolences to Peter, Pat, Dan and all their family for the passing of Sophie Applewhite-Rees. Peter was the long-time Chair of the Friends of the Biddenham Village Pond and when he retired, his daughter, Sophie, joined us. She sadly had to resign for health reasons, but while she was with us, she made sure that we were properly fed and watered at our work mornings and Summer Splash events. She will be missed by us all.

While we all come to terms with this tragedy, nature is constantly changing around us and our pond is no different, as it continues to be a place for quiet contemplation and reflection. It is lovely to see that water has returned, although the level is not as high as we would like, to sustain the pond through the summer. We look forward to the return of the ducks and moorhens and hope that they are successful in raising new families.

As the first signs of spring are appearing, we are planning our spring Work Morning which is taking place on Saturday 11th March, meeting at the pond at 10am with the aim of finishing by noon, so please do put the date in your diary and come and help us if you can. For more details, please see our poster on page 13. The more volunteers we have the more we achieve in our two hours.

This year, our summer Splash and AGM will be on Sunday 9th July (and not June as in prior years) so please make a note to join us for tea and scones at the Church Barn. More details nearer the time.

The Pond can be found behind the Manor Hospital and the footpath that will take you to it is at the junction of Main Road and Gold Lane, where there is a signpost with a kingfisher. Alternatively, it can be reached from the footpath behind St James's Church along the ancient Coffin Path that takes you across the fields and back to the village.

#### The Pond Team

#### Contact Details

Chris Jones	<a href="mailto:chrishj49@gmail.com">chrishj49@gmail.com</a>
Cathy Eckett-Brown	<a href="mailto:ceckett@gmail.com">ceckett@gmail.com</a>
Jane Knight	<a href="mailto:jane@80klt.co.uk">jane@80klt.co.uk</a>
Jonathan Field	<a href="mailto:jfield21st@mail.com">jfield21st@mail.com</a>
Kris Hope	<a href="mailto:kristenhopebee@gmail.com">kristenhopebee@gmail.com</a>
<a href="http://www.biddenhamvillagepond.wordpress.com">www.biddenhamvillagepond.wordpress.com</a>	
<a href="http://www.facebook.com/biddenhamvillagepond">www.facebook.com/biddenhamvillagepond</a>	



## R J GASCOYNE THE PLUMBING, HEATING AND GAS COMPANY

Boiler changes, system upgrades,  
bathrooms, fault finding, servicing,  
maintenance, gas safety & landlord  
certificates, repairs, all heating,  
plumbing, drainage and gas work  
undertaken.

All from a friendly, reliable, trustworthy  
and professional engineer.

Contact Ryan on  
TEL: 07980 209587  
or EMAIL  
[ryangascoynephg@gmail.com](mailto:ryangascoynephg@gmail.com)



## W&H PEACOCK AUCTIONEERS & VALUERS



## Auction Sales & Valuations

Valuation, collection and auction service  
of individual items through to complete  
property and commercial clearances.

Call for a free no obligation quote or  
email [info@peacockauction.co.uk](mailto:info@peacockauction.co.uk)

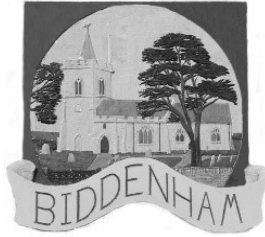
SALE ENTRIES NOW INVITED  
[www.peacockauction.co.uk](http://www.peacockauction.co.uk)

Eastcotts Park,  
Wallis Way,  
Bedford, MK42 0PE

# 01234 266366

# Biddenham Parish Council

The Parish Council met on Tuesday 21st February at the Pavilion. Present at the meeting were Parish Councillors, Peter Chase, Karen Cotton, Chris Gee, Harry Fowler and Krzys Osuch. Apologies were received from Irina Madan-Sau and Francia Slade. Also present were the Clerk, David Brough, myself and our Borough Councillors, Jon Gambold and Roger Rigby.



I am pleased to report that at this meeting the Parish Council agreed to co-opt Aaron Melvin to the vacant Councillor position. Aaron lives on the St Mary's estate in the Parish and brings a range of skills to the Council. On behalf of us all we welcome him into his new role.

At the meeting the Clerk provided an update on various projects that mostly seem to sit with Borough Highways. One project 'in progress' is the provision of double yellow lines along part of Gold Lane. Apparently these are to be done concurrently with planned Duck End Lane restrictions. The Parish is just waiting for a date for the work. In the same area Borough Highways will install a column so that the new Speed Indication Device purchased by the Parish can be installed on it. Again, the Parish is waiting for a date for this work.

As the new development north of Bromham Road progresses the Parish Council have been asked for their view on the street naming for the development. The proposal put to us is to continue with the Scottish theme adopted for the estate off King George Avenue (which is in Queens Park Ward). This theme was in recognition of the 17,000 Scottish territorial soldiers who arrived in Bedford in mid-August 1914. After spending nine months in the

Borough preparing, they went to fight on the Western Front. Interestingly, the Foster Hill Road cemetery has a memorial area remembering 33 Highland Division men who succumbed to a disease which affected the Division during the winter of 1914/15 while in the Borough. It is well worth a visit.

A request for grant funding was also approved. The £621 approved will enable the Biddenham Conservation Group to continue their sterling work helping to maintain important green spaces in and round the village. A further sum, up to £200, was approved to enable the group to buy plants to help thicken the hedge line between the Bromham Road service road and Bromham Road (in the vicinity of the new roundabout), filling in some of the obvious gaps.

The meeting also discussed the problem of parking near schools. Main Road came up again with reports that drivers were now using the green space adjacent to the pub car park to get onto Main Road avoiding parked vehicles. This is not only dangerous, but also shows a disregard for our local area. We will contact the landowner's Agent asking him to work with us to see how this can be prevented. Another problem is the parking of vehicles outside Biddenham school. We already have many bollards in place and while further bollards will deter the parking they won't improve how the street looks. We, therefore, agreed to explore whether some additional trees in new locations, together with the replacing of some existing bollards with new trees, would achieve the desired outcome while improving the look of the area.

In my last report I mentioned the Parish was developing a process to assess projects against which we could use the additional income to be received via the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). I am pleased that we have now agreed how projects will be assessed for the new funding and this will be posted on our website for all to see. Please do take a look.

Finally, I hope many of you will have noticed the new trees (purchased under the 'Trees for Streets' programme) have been planted in the last week or so; as has the memorial tree for our former Councillor, Graham Bates. I hope future generations will benefit from this work.

### Date of the next meeting

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 21st March at 7.30pm at the Pavilion in Deep Spinney and all are welcome.

Stewart Briggs  
Chair

## A L & G ABBOTT

Funeral Directors

~ Established 1832 ~

WITH YOU WHEN IT MATTERS MOST

A small and independently trading funeral directors who are proud to have served the local community for over 180 years and will continue to do so with the highest standards of care, respect and dignity. We now offer a Bereavement Listening service to our families.

A L & G Abbott is run with family values at the very heart of the business.

- 24 Hour Personal Service
- Private Chapels of Rest
- Funeral Plans
- Home Arrangements

T: 01234 843222

150 Bedford Road, Kempston, Bedfordshire, MK42 8BH  
[www.abbott-funerals.co.uk](http://www.abbott-funerals.co.uk)    [support@abbott-funerals.co.uk](mailto:support@abbott-funerals.co.uk)



*The tree at King's Corner commemorating Graham Bates' service to Biddenham. It is an Acer Freemanii 'Autumn Blaze' which should show spectacular colour in the future.*



## Dee Dite

*Dee died on 28th December at the age of 82 and her funeral was held at St James's on 26th January. We are grateful to Dee's daughter, Louise, and son in law, John Olphin, for these reflections on her life.*



## Farewell to Mum

A bright light went out of all our lives when Dee passed away so suddenly. She was a real live wire and, despite her arthritis, was always out and about. She loved her role fundraising and organising events for the Bedford and Kempston Conservatives and made so many good friends over the years. In mum's career she was also PA to our next door neighbour, Dudley Peacock, and worked for the President of the Bedford School Old Boys club.

It is a great comfort to my brother and I that she passed peacefully in her sleep, but the shock of losing her is hard to deal with. She was a wonderful mum and a kind and thoughtful friend.

Mum was always regaling us with tales of her life. She first met Dad when they were both working on the Bedfordshire section of the M1 in the early sixties. She described him as a very tall, blond and very tanned man who had just arrived back from a year in Africa building roads in the bush. When Dad first took Mum out for dinner he had to turn down the roof on his Austin Healy to accommodate mum's beehive. They married in 1961 and I came along four years later. Dad was a Civil Engineer working for John Laing and was very ambitious. He arrived home one day to tell mum he had been promoted, but it meant moving from Dunstable to Carlisle! Mum was slightly worried as I was only four months old and she didn't drive. We were one of the first houses to be occupied on the new John Laing housing development, but she took it all in her stride and was soon making friends with other young mums and setting up a play group and babysitting circle.

My brother, Alistair, arrived during our time in Carlisle and life changed dramatically. He was a little horror! One day, when mum was on the phone in the hall, my brother took everything out of the fridge, including a dozen eggs, and he and the dog were paddling round in the mess. Ali and our Beagle dog, Crofty, were in cahoots causing all sorts of trouble. Every picture we have of Ali as a toddler is of him holding his biscuit above his head being pursued by the dog!

Mum used to have two favourite phrases – 'wait 'til your father gets home and hears about this' and alternatively 'don't tell your father about this;' for example when she reversed the car round the drive wearing the 1970s essential fashion accessory of cork wedges – and unable to press the brake hard enough, bumped into the side of the house. Needless to say, as soon as Ali heard dad's key in the door, he ran up to tell him exactly what mum had done! However, later on in life, mum loved visiting Ali in London. She loved buzz and excitement and the unusual and unique places he took her to.

Mum had a great capacity for fun and, in the summer holidays, when our cousins, Gail and Shelley, came to stay, she would bundle us all into her little Ford Anglia and take us swimming or to the zoo. She even overlooked the mess when our cousins taught us how to make life-size papier-mache animals.

I know so many of you will miss Dee's friendship and for me the thing I will miss most is her love and her guiding hand.

## Son-in-law itis

I first met Dee in 2013 when I started to date her beautiful daughter, Louise, who since our marriage has enabled me to spend time getting to know and love Dee.

During this time, our families came together and with Dee's family being quite small, she really enjoyed it when she was introduced to the madness that is the Olphin family. I am pleased to say that she fitted right in! She loved seeing how her extended family were doing and regularly took part in birthday celebrations, BBQ's, music nights and family parties.

We had so much in common as we had both lived in Biddenham. She adored her life and friends in Biddenham and I could see how sad she must have been when she moved away.

From the stories Dee has told me, she certainly did live a full life herself. I could tell that she was madly in love with Bob, her husband of many, many years and missed him dearly. But even when he was taken from her, Dee picked herself up and lived a very active life.

I was thinking how I could let you know more about Dee in a short space of time, so I decided to highlight five words that show what an amazing woman Dee was from my perspective.

### **Generous. Dee was a generous woman.**

Dee was always involved in helping out someone and, ever since I have known her, she was actively involved in the Bedford and Kempston Conservatives Association. She loved organising events, raffles, hog roasts, hosting a dinner for ministers and future prime ministers and those tricky quiz nights! Dee was a real giver of her time for anyone who needed help and, in my opinion, she lived the phrase 'giving is better than receiving'.

### **Family. At the heart of everything Dee did was family.**

She absolutely adored Louise and Alistair and was always recounting stories of the time they spent growing up as Louise has just highlighted. When I joined her family she welcomed my children Adam, Olivia and Joshua with open arms and we have spent some real fun times together.

### **Fun. Dee always wanted to have fun.**

She always had the capacity to introduce fun into a conversation. She would always have a smile and a glint in her eye. She always helped set up the mother-in-law jokes for me and we had many a laugh when she got caught out. Did you notice that she had started to walk on the lean as I had pulled her leg so much! I told her that the lean was called son-in-lawitis and she said she didn't know it was a real condition. Gotcha Dee!

### **She was a real fighter.**

I regarded her as the bionic woman as she had two replacement knees, one replacement hip, had been through the windscreen of a car in an accident and more recently broke her arm during Covid. Dee really struggled with the broken arm, but her indomitable spirit got her through the pain and frustration and I remember taking her to see her consultant after she had been in a sling for 10 weeks with her saying: "I don't care what he says, I am walking out of the hospital without this sling!" And she did.

### **Dee was a Trekkie!**

It may surprise you to find out that Dee was a real Star Wars and Star Trek fan. She loved sci-fi and many a time we would invite her over to watch the premiere of these movies. She absolutely loved them. Who would know?

One thing was very constant with Dee and that was how much she loved Louise and Alistair and how proud she was of both of you. I am sure she would want me to tell you: "Mourn me but also love, live and laugh." Just as she did.

Dee, till we meet again, "May the Force be with you."

# Troubled times

As 1891 dawned, trouble lay ahead for the Biddenham station in Queensland named, as we've seen, after our village in Bedfordshire.

The growth of trade unions in Queensland increased during the 1880s as trade and labour councils played a greater role in mediating disputes between workers and employers.

However, the Depression of the 1890s, with falling wool and metal prices and loss of foreign investment, led to the breakdown of industrial relations and a series of major strikes.

Pastoralist employers imposed wage reductions of between 15% and 33% or 'freedom of contract', hiring non-union labour, or both on shearers in 1891 and the shearers went on strike, which brought trouble to the door of sheep stations, including Biddenham.

The shearers were clearly not impressed by their employers.

Below the eye catching headline 'Disgraceful scenes at Oakwood and Biddenham' in the Brisbane Courier in April 1891 the paper printed Police Inspector J Stuart's report of 3rd April, sent from Augathella to the Commissioner of Police in Brisbane.

Sheep runs in the Biddenham and Oakwood stations were extensively fired and Inspector Stuart wrote of arrests of unionists made on 28th, 30th and 31st March.

Following the unionists on the road to Augathella 'All the gates they passed through, except those immediately at Biddenham station, they had taken off their hinges, broken up, piled against the gate posts, and burned. They also cut and destroyed as much fencing as they could possibly get at conveniently,' the Inspector wrote.

'When passing Biddenham station, in the hearing and presence of a number of respectable women who live in houses near the main road, some of the mob made use of the most revolting and disgusting language, and conduct; indeed their conduct was more that of fiends than men, continued the Inspector.

'When we reached Biddenham station, in consequence of the heavy state of the country, the horses ridden by the Mounted Infantry were knocked up, but Mr Peddle, with his usual thoroughness, had fresh horses in the yard for them, and it was not long before we were again after them.'

There were many other reports in newspapers: 'They appear to have vented their ill-feeling at the neighbouring station of Biddenham, but on arrival at Augathella, where it became necessary, in the face of 200 unionists, to read the Riot Act, fourteen were arrested for arson and conspiracy.' The Riot Act was read by Captain King accompanied by thirty police and Mounted Infantry men.

These and later events, including the 'brilliant ride of Captain King to Biddenham following unionists' and an attempt in May to burn a wool shed at the Biddenham station, were later the subject of a debate in July in the State Legislative Assembly.

Looking a bit further into the background and the shearers' strike itself, working conditions for shearers were not good. But as the wool industry grew, so did the number and influence of shearers.

By 1890 the Shearers' Union had tens of thousands of members and that year laid down a new rule which prohibited members from working with non-union workers. The Pastoralists formed their own Federal Council to

counter the strength of the union.

The tipping point came when, at Logan Downs station, the shearers were asked to sign a contract that would reduce the power of their union. On 5th January 1891 the shearers announced a strike until their demands were met:

- maintaining existing rates of pay;
- protecting workers' rights and privileges;
- just and equitable agreements; and
- exclusion of low cost Chinese labour.

The strike quickly spread and resulted in large camps of striking workers. Queensland was on the brink of civil war and thousands of armed soldiers protected non-union labour and arrested strike leaders.

The strike, though, was poorly timed for maximum effect on the shearing season (winter). The summer was wet and when the union workers ran out of food, they were forced to come to terms.

Thirteen union leaders were charged with sedition and sentenced to three years in gaol. They were released in November 1893.

Banjo Paterson's song, *Waltzing Matilda*, an unofficial Australian anthem, was written about the era of the shearers' industrial disputes in Queensland and New South Wales following perhaps the most violent strike, in 1894.

For us, Inspector Stuart in his report happily revealed another name associated with the Biddenham station Mr Peddle, who it transpired was the man to whom John Holdsworth Macfarlane sold the station in 1884.

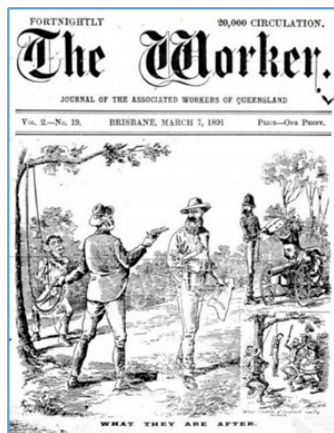
Jumping forward to 1903, John George Andrews Peddle died in Rockhampton, Queensland, aged 57, after six years as Executive Officer of the Central and Northern Pastoral Employers' Association. A report of his death recorded that he was born in Somersetshire, England, and was around 20 years of age when he migrated to Australia, where his life was 'wholly given to the pastoral industry. First in New South Wales mainly in the Riverina district, and then for the remainder in Queensland. His Queensland life was spent between Biddenham Station, in the Warrego district, which he held for many years and Rockhampton, ...'

Mr Peddle had owned Biddenham station jointly with a Mr Freaan, a newspaper report in 1884 revealed, and they 'seem determined to make the place a model homestead' unlike most of the other stations in the neighbourhood which 'have knocked off making improvements'. J W Freaan and J G A Peddle had arrived in Brisbane in August 1883 having sailed from Sydney on the ASN Company's *Egmont*; and a few months later had bought some Tasmanian sheep in 'The first of what it is hoped will prove to be a series of annual sales of pure merino sheep ...'. Mr Freaan otherwise remains a mystery.

As far as we can judge, the station moved from the ownership of Peddle and Freaan into the hands of the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Company around 1897, remaining with that company until 1906, when the company sold it to Robert Darvall Barton of whom more next time, when we will also talk about Mary Poppins. Yes, that Mary Poppins!

Peter Applewhite

{With thanks to Trove for the Australian newspaper extracts}



(www.qhatlas.com.au/  
Collection of Liz Huff



'Freedom Without Dishonor': the thirteen union leaders released (Public domain)



# New life for toaster through Bedford Repair Café

One of our favourite wedding presents was a chrome Dualit toaster. We loved its classic industrial design.

Over the years, it worked hard and travelled hard, but was showing distinct signs of age.

Whilst it was great for thin-sliced bread, anything thicker ended up wedged in its narrow slots. Years of trying to dislodge crumpets and teacakes with the handle of a wooden spoon had taken their toll on the elements.

Eventually, we replaced it with a new toaster which can toast anything, thick or thin, at twice the speed of the Dualit. And our faithful wedding present was consigned to a box, together with the new elements we had bought, but never got round to fitting.

So, when we found out about Bedford Repair Café on Facebook, we decided to see if there was still hope for it. This quarterly pop-up repair shop is held at different venues across Bedford and is run by local volunteers who can repair anything from household appliances to bikes, toys and clothes. Repairs are free of charge, but donations help towards venue hire. They also set up a pop-up café so you can enjoy refreshments while you wait.



We booked a slot at the January pop-up Repair Café at Queen's Park Academy. Volunteers, David and Bert, started by asking about the age of the toaster and what was wrong with it. Then they set to work dismantling it.

The great thing about Bedford Repair Café is they don't just fix things; they show you how to do the repairs yourself so that you will be confident of having a go should they break again in the future.

We had great fun as David and Bert showed us how to access the innards and identify which elements were broken. We removed the faulty ones and they showed us how to fit replacement parts. It was a fiddly job and thankfully the spare parts came with a handy 6.5mm spanner as none of David and Bert's spanners were small enough. We learnt how to clean and improve the connectors and when we had finished, they carried out a PAT test for us. After all these years, it was once again in full working order.

It now toasts perfectly - but we prefer our more efficient replacement model with its multi settings. So, our dear old Dualit will shortly begin a new life at our daughter's university flat.

Janet Field

**FROM JUST  
£7.50  
PER MONTH\***

\*Based on 5 annual treatments with a lawn size up to 400m<sup>2</sup> when paying by Direct Debit

**HELP YOUR LAWN TO THRIVE, NOT JUST SURVIVE**

Over the last 35 years our love for lawns has continued to grow. Our ground-breaking Lawn Treatment Programmes keep your grass looking its best all year round, ensuring your lawn receives the love and attention it deserves.

**START YOUR LAWN CARE JOURNEY TODAY**

- Get an instant free quote at [greenthumb.co.uk/measure](https://greenthumb.co.uk/measure)
- Contact us today to discuss our innovative Lawn Treatment Programmes

*Join our nation of Lawn Lovers*

Email: [bedford@greenthumb.co.uk](mailto:bedford@greenthumb.co.uk)  
Call: 01234 709345  
Visit: [greenthumb.co.uk](https://greenthumb.co.uk)

**GreenThumb**  
LAWN TREATMENT SERVICE

# Andrew Charles

HAIRDRESSING LTD

We have moved to -  
6 Ison Close, Biddenham, Bedford

01234 325938

# Café B



*Tuesday 21st March  
Biddenham Village Hall  
10.15 am - 11.45am*

*Selection of teas, coffees,  
hot chocolate and juice  
Home baked cakes  
Book Swap*

*Next cafés 18th April, 16th May*

## Be wary of Nottingham Knockers

Recently a young salesman knocked on our door claiming to be an ex-criminal looking to turn his life around by taking part in a local rehabilitation scheme. He asked if we would like to buy goods he was selling from a large holdall.

It's the second time this has happened and several residents in Biddenham and Great Denham have also reported similar incidents.

These bogus salesmen are part of the so-called 'Nottingham Knockers' scam.

### What are Nottingham Knockers?

Nottingham Knockers originated in Nottingham, hence the name, and sell over-priced, low quality goods door-to-door. They sometimes present a fake ID to show they are part of a rehabilitation programme. However, they are not part of any recognised scheme.

They are reportedly looking for burglary targets by finding out who lives in the house, particularly if the occupant is vulnerable, and whether they hold sums of cash at home as they only accept cash payments.

### What to do if they call at your home?

- Be wary of buying anything from doorstep salesmen
- Never let them into your home
- If concerned, contact the police by calling 101

Both times they have called at our home we have politely but firmly said "no" and they have gone away without incident. We then alerted neighbours of their presence in the area through our street WhatsApp group.

For more information about Nottingham Knockers: <https://www.oprepeat.co.uk/nottingham-knockers/>

Janet Field

Join us for our  
**PAWSOME  
AFTERNOON TEA**  
SAT 25 MARCH

Bookings between  
1:30pm & 3pm

The Purrfect way to spend an afternoon  
£9 Adults  
£4 Children

Scan the QR code or visit  
[https://bit.ly/Pawsome\\_Mar23](https://bit.ly/Pawsome_Mar23)  
to register your place



## Events at Great Denham Community Hall

### 25th March – Pawsome Afternoon Tea.

Bookings at 1.30pm and 3pm. See poster alongside for booking details.

### Parish Council Meetings

Monday 6th March at 7.30pm at the Community Hall  
Monday 3rd April at 7.30pm at the Community Hall

To keep an eye on events at Great Denham go to:  
[www.greatdenhamcommunityhall.co.uk](http://www.greatdenhamcommunityhall.co.uk)



Great Denham Community Hall  
86 Saxon Way  
Great Denham  
MK40 4GP







## This month in the garden

Did you take part in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch at the end of January?

For many years I have recorded the birds in the garden on the appointed day with children and grandchildren - quite often having little to report as the birds seem to know we are recording them and go elsewhere for the day. I wasn't going to take part this year, but on the Sunday morning I looked out of my office window and there on the front lawn were a flock (10 in all) of Redpolls pecking up the seeds that had fallen from the silver birch catkins. I had seen them a couple of weeks before hanging upside down on the branches of the birch taking the seeds. I was so pleased that they were back - birch seeds being their favourite food according to my RSPB bird book. I couldn't miss the opportunity to record them so I sat down with pencil and paper and noted the other birds - robins, blue tits, black birds, sparrows and of course, pigeons that stopped by during the hour.

What joy these birds bring during the cold winter months and they need all the help they can get from us as, I understand from the RSPB website, that over the last 50 years we have lost more than 38 million birds in the UK and even house sparrows are now on the UK Red List for birds. The blue tits have been investigating the bird box in my front garden. For several years they took up residence, but not for the last couple of years. It is in a good position and within a short flying distance of the oak trees on King's Corner where they can harvest the caterpillars to feed their young - but they are quite picky so they may seek nest boxes elsewhere.

I am writing this in the second week in February on a wonderful bright sunny morning and I guess, like me, you have been marvelling at the fabulous sunsets.

My garden is becoming a great delight with drifts of snowdrops behind the pond and under the silver birch trees. In the autumn I planted lots of new miniature iris, plus planting out the ones that I had grown in pots the previous spring - they never do well if left in the pots, but planted into the ground they get a new lease of life. Some daffodils are starting to show their colour and the tulips are peeping through. I wish I could grow aconites, but they don't like my garden. My daughter has thousands in her garden in Cambridge. They spread out from under the trees and onto the lawn. Each year, with her permission, I dig up loads but they do not do well with me.

I said that I would report back on the amaryllis that I had saved from last year. I was very late potting them up but I am pleased to report that one has a fat flower bud. Yesterday afternoon I went out into the garden to inspect my pots and tubs and they were so dry. I spent the next hour watering them well. It was mild and frost free so an ideal opportunity. The narcissus in my cutting pots were all in bud so the water will help them along and soon I will be picking them for the house. Camelia and chaenomeles buds were showing their colours. There was so much to see in the garden and so uplifting - what a lovely time of the year with the promise of everything to come. Staying positive is something we all need to do in these globally challenging times.

So, gardening jobs for March. Seed sowing begins in earnest and it is a good idea to cover the soil with a cloche

or polythene for a week or so before sowing outside to help warm up the soil. But salad crops, vegetable and hardy annual flower seeds can be sown in a green house. Don't be too hasty as the middle of the month is fine when the light levels are better and the nights are less cold. Pinch out the tips of early sown sweet peas to encourage side shoots. Plant summer flowering bulbs such as lilies, gladioli, and crocosmia. This year I am growing ranunculus for the first time. I am going to start them off in pots in the plant house. Now is the time to start off dahlia tubers under cover in a shallow tray of moist compost. They will start to shoot in a few weeks and then you can take cuttings. Divide snowdrops that have finished flowering but are in full leaf. A good time also for planting new snowdrops in the green (when they are in leaf). Finish pruning roses and also prune the spring flowering shrubs such as forsythia, cutting back to strong young shoots. Pruning at this time gives the plant time to develop growth for next year's flowers. But most of all, keep providing fresh water and food for our feathered friends who, in turn, will continue to visit our gardens and forage for the creatures that destroy our crops later in the year, so it's a win-win.

Linda Truscott



**FARM SHOP**  
Manor Farm, High Street, Stagsden, Beds  
(01234) 822330  
[www.brownsofstagsden.co.uk](http://www.brownsofstagsden.co.uk)

**HOME REARED & LOCALLY PRODUCED**  
MEAT, POULTRY, GAME, SEASONAL VEGETABLES, EGGS & MILK.  
**HOMEMADE** PREMIUM QUALITY BURGERS & SAUSAGES  
**REGIONAL** CHEESES, HAM, PIES, JAMS, SAUCES, OILS & MORE  
Tuesday - Thursday 9am - 5pm, Fri 9am - 6pm and Sat 9am - 4pm



**“We saved 50%\* on our household costs when we moved to Elderswell”**

Our new build retirement properties are well insulated and energy efficient. Not only do they reduce your bills and create a warm enjoyable space to live in, but they also lower your carbon footprint too.

**Spend less, live more.**

Get in touch to find out about our special offers tailored to you.

**Call us now to start saving 01234 817 753**  
[www.elderswell.co.uk](http://www.elderswell.co.uk)

\*Research information from Home Builders Federation 2022

  
**Elderswell**  
Inspired in Bedfordshire





# Photo ID will be needed to vote in person at the May elections

From May 2023, voters will need to show an accepted form of photographic identification (photo ID) in order to receive their ballot paper(s) to cast their vote in a polling station at:

- UK Parliamentary general elections
- Recall petitions
- local elections in England
- local referendums in England
- Police and Crime Commissioner elections in England and Wales

This means that you will need photo ID for the local Mayor and council elections on Thursday 4th May.

Most people will already have an acceptable form of ID; a valid passport or a driving licence. You can find the full list of acceptable documents by going to the Bedford Borough Council website.

If you don't have a suitable document, or you don't want to use it, you can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate up to six days before polling day. You can apply online or on paper to Bedford Borough Council. Full details are given on their website.

These new rules do not apply to Postal Voters. If you are already registered you will receive your Postal Vote in the usual way.

## Timeline for the May elections

Registration to vote deadline - 12 midnight on Monday 17th April

Postal vote application deadline - 5.00pm on Tuesday 18th April

Proxy vote application deadline - 5.00pm on Tuesday 25th April

Voter Authority Certificate application deadline - 5.00pm on Tuesday 25th April

Polling day - Thursday 4th May

Count - Friday 5th May



## New playground opens off Gold Lane

Saxon Park at Gold Lane now has a new seating area and a playground for children under 12 years old. It is at the corner of Peacock Lane and Dovecote Drive near the entrance to the estate.



## More trees for Biddenham



As mentioned in the Parish Council report, more trees have been planted on the verges in Biddenham. There are new trees at King's Corner and on Biddenham Turn as well as in Deep Spinney.

Unfortunately, several of the trees planted by the developers in St Mary's did not survive the adverse weather conditions last year. New trees have been planted and several residents have volunteered to look after them.

*Left: St Mary's replacement trees being planted*

*Right: New trees in Deep Spinney*





## MP's 'Town Hall' meeting 30th March at Biddenham Pavilion

Richard Fuller, MP for North East Bedfordshire, will be holding a town hall meeting in Biddenham at 5.30pm on Thursday 30th March. Town hall meetings are open meetings where a wide range of topics are discussed and all are welcome to attend.

Richard says: "At my town hall meetings across the constituency I discuss a great many issues of national and local importance including topics as varied as East West Rail, our NHS, and freehold property and service charges – which I have been working on with numerous local Councillors, including your own Councillor Jon Gambold.

'This town hall meeting is an open invitation, and you do not need to make an appointment to attend. Please do come and share your views with me about any issue you would like to raise with me as your Member of Parliament.'

The meeting will be held at Biddenham Pavilion, Deep Spinney MK40 4PZ..

You can contact Richard at any time on [richard.fuller.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:richard.fuller.mp@parliament.uk)



Richard Fuller (left) has recently been in discussions with Michael Gove, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities of the United Kingdom about the issues around service charges on recently built properties.

## First Friday lunch and Quilting & Sewing Group date changes for March and April

It's Good Friday on 7th April when the First Friday lunch would usually occur. The lunch has been moved to Friday 31st March.

The Quilting & Sewing Group have moved their meeting to Friday 24th March.

## Handbell ringing at St Paul's

Three members of Biddenham Handbell Ringers, Anthea Slark, Jackie Bland and Lesley Gillett, are in the team which will be performing in St Paul's Church, Bedford on Saturday 20th May.

More details below.



Handbell Ringers of Great Britain  
East Anglian Regional Team  
**Handbells in Concert**  
Musical Director Aidan Fozard  
Saturday 20th May 2023 7pm  
St Paul's Church  
Bedford MK40 1SQ

35 musicians and over 300 instruments  
Featuring guest soloists from the Bedfordshire  
Woodwind Academy Flute Ensemble

Enjoy arrangements of well known  
tunes and original handbell music

Tickets available on the door:  
Adults: £12  
Concessions: £10  
Juniors (under 18): Free

For further information visit: [ear.hrgb.org.uk](http://ear.hrgb.org.uk)  
Tel: 01992584761 / Mob: 07534434900  
Facebook: search for EARBells

HRGB is a registered charity  
298945 (England) - SC038918 (Scotland)



The Biddenham Village Pond Spring Work Morning

Saturday 11th March

10am to 12 noon

All welcome – Meet at the Pond

(Children should be over the age of 9 and accompanied by an adult responsible for their activity)

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

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

# Biddenham Cricket Club

The Club's Annual General Meeting was held at the Biddenham Pavilion on Sunday 19th February with 12 members attending.

Reports were received on the 2022 season reflecting the success of the Junior section in terms of numbers and participation and also the Senior Sunday League side that performed well in the Bedfordshire County League Division 1 reaching the divisional play-off in September, losing to Caldecote. Ross Cunningham captained the side very capably and also achieved the distinction of being the player of the season out of all the teams in the division.

Biddenham was awarded the fair-play shield for the division based on reports from the panel umpires.

The club continues to be grateful for the support it receives from the Biddenham Parish Council and pavilion manager Deborah Slade. We also appreciate the co-operation of David Brough, Parish Clerk, in enabling any day-to-day issues to be resolved quickly and efficiently.

The meeting moved on to elect the club's committee - the full list of club officers for 2023 is as follows:

Chairman	Glenn Taylor
Vice Chairman	Dr TJ Gill
Youth Chairman	Chris Spurgeon
Secretary	Richard Ebbs
Club Captain	Gary Linton-Walls
Saturday Captain	Currently Vacant
Sunday League Captain	Ross Cunningham
Club Safeguarding Officer	Katie Ulvert
Cricket Secretary & Treasurer	Richard Fone
Parish Council Liaison(s)	Glenn Taylor & Chris Spurgeon
Membership Secretary	Will Lowerson

The club will run five junior teams in 2023, U9s, U11s, two U13 teams and one U15 team. All teams have fixtures in the Bedfordshire Youth League. In addition, the club has the ambition to field Development teams (a mixture of seniors and juniors) in the Bedfordshire Midweek League and also some Sunday friendly fixtures in the second half of the season. Details of all the club's home games will be included in future issues of The Loop.

As always, the junior training and significant number of matches to be played before the end of July require detailed preparation and planning. We are very lucky to have a committed group of volunteers under the supervision of Chris Spurgeon. With the numbers of juniors we have, all help is much appreciated.

If anyone feels that they would like to become involved in helping with the junior section of the club, please contact me or Chris Spurgeon. A separate DBS certificate from the England and Wales Cricket Board will be required to be obtained by anyone wishing to become involved. This is now a much-improved online process and details can be provided on how to access this.

Richard Fone

Club news, details of how to join, 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 be entitled to 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	07739 286783
100 Club	James Gardner	07928 478563

## What's happening at the Church Barn?

So, as we progress through 2023 we thought we would share with you some details about the groups that regularly use the Barn.

First, we thought we would tell you about our newest regular at the Barn, Shelby, who lives in the village and runs Little Dinosaur Studio which is a childminder service. Shelby has started to run a monthly Family Craft Session for children aged under six years. The sessions are based on free-flow activities including painting, collaging, colouring, playdough, junk modelling and books. Tea and coffee are available for the adults.



The sessions started in December where the children got to make Christmas decorations, and last month the children came together to make crowns, hearts and lots of playdough objects.

The sessions run on the last Saturday of every month from 1.30-2.30pm and if you want to join in the fun you can book via the following link: <https://bookthatin.com/Book/little-dinosaurs-studio>

If you would like to hire the Barn 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](mailto:stjamesbarnbiddenham@gmail.com)

Jane and Rebecca

**NEW BOMBAY**

**01234 218 218**

ORDER ONLINE AT  
[www.newbombay.co.uk](http://www.newbombay.co.uk)



# Do you know who these dancers are?

Bedfordshire Archives has recently been given some photographs of Folk Dancers in Biddenham, probably dating back to the 1930s, but I have so far been unable to find anyone who knows anything about them.

The deposit also includes some certificates for Folk Dance. Biddenham Women's Institute had certificates for Country Dancing from the Bedford Eisteddfodd in 1927, 28, 29 and 30. Biddenham 'Odds and Ends' and Biddenham Folk Dance Class had certificates for Country Dance from Bedfordshire Competitive Musical Festival in 1933, 34, 38 and 39.

There is a formal photograph of the Folk Dance Class with a trophy (right) on which the members are partly identified, but they certainly not all the same people as the ladies in dance dress.

If anyone can shed some light on who these dancers are or help date the photos I would be very grateful. You can email me on [loopeditor@gmail.com](mailto:loopeditor@gmail.com) or call on 01234 349849. Thank you.

Jean Gambold



*Biddenham Folk Dance Class (undated)  
L-r Bessie West, Mrs West, Mrs Manning, Miss Ebbs  
Edie Church (?), Val Stringer/Mrs V. Dowler (?), Mrs  
Burton, Miss Marjorie (?) Burton*



*But who are these ladies?*








Bedford's Leading Cruise Specialists

## Select Travel Holidays

*Home of Cruise Select*

24A Mill Street, Bedford



# Looking to set sail in 2023?

## Make Select Travel Holidays, Home of Cruise Select, your Port of Call!





We are your local award-winning leading cruise specialists - experts in cruise for over 20 years!

Come to us for friendly, personalised service & impartial advice - all at no extra cost, and we can even help you save money on your cruise too. We work with a huge variety of cruise lines, including P&O, Royal Caribbean, Celebrity, Fred. Olsen, and more - including river, expedition, and luxury cruise lines too

- if it floats, we can help find your perfect holiday!

**Pop into our shop on Mill Street, Bedford, or contact us today.**

*Contact us today!*  
01234 326778  
[sales@selecttravelholidays.co.uk](mailto:sales@selecttravelholidays.co.uk)

[www.selecttravelholidays.co.uk](http://www.selecttravelholidays.co.uk)



BOOK WITH CONFIDENCE  
ABTA & ATOL protected







# Peter's Picturehouse

On Tuesday 7th March our film is 'Top Gun: Maverick' (12A), starring Tom Cruise and Miles Teller. The film was released in 2022 and is set 30 years after its predecessor. Maverick returns to the US Navy Strike Fighter Tactics Instructor programme to train a group of younger pilots. Maverick is forced to confront his fears and the ghosts of the past. The film was nominated for six academy awards amongst many other nominations and is described by critics as having dazzling fighter-jet sequences and impeccable filmmaking.

Doors of the Village Hall open at 7pm and the film will start at 7.30pm. We have an interval and hot and cold drinks and ice creams will be on sale. Tickets are on sale for £5 on the door and the seating in the hall for the film is limited to 56. We look forward to seeing you.

And in April our film is 'Living' (12A).

If you would like to be on our mailing list to be reminded of films coming up in the future, please do send an email to [peterspicturehouse@gmail.com](mailto:peterspicturehouse@gmail.com).

Tues 4th April 2023 Living (12A)

Tues 2nd May 2023 The Lost King (12)

# Family film show

As a new event, Peter's Picturehouse plans to show a film in the afternoon on Monday 10th April (Easter Monday) to appeal to a younger audience during the school holidays.

We invite you to come and watch Roald Dahl's 'Matilda the Musical' (PG), released in December 2022 as a brand-new take on the Tony and Olivier award-winning musical. The film tells the story of an extraordinary girl with a vivid imagination who dares to take a stand to change her story, with miraculous results.

Popcorn will be available, and we will be selling ice creams and soft drinks before the film starts and during the interval, approximately one hour into the film. Doors of Biddenham Village Hall open at 2pm for the showing to start at 2.30pm

Places are strictly limited so, to avoid disappointment, please phone or text using the details below to guarantee your place(s). All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. The ticket price of £5 will cover an adult with accompanying children.

To reserve your place phone or text: 07900 218900.

Rose Houghton



## Peter's Picturehouse In March

Date: **Tuesday 7th March 2023**

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

Location: **Biddenham Village Hall**



Tickets available on the door price: **£5**



Certificate: **12A**

To join our mailing list, or for further information, send an email to [peterspicturehouse@gmail.com](mailto:peterspicturehouse@gmail.com)

**Coming soon...**

**Tues 4th April 2023**

**Tues 2nd May 2023**

**Living (12A)**

**The Lost King (12)**



## SPECIAL FAMILY Peter's Picturehouse In April

Date: **Monday 10th April**

Time: **Doors open 2:00pm, Film starts 2:30pm**

Location: **Biddenham Village Hall**



Tickets **MUST** be booked in advance by calling or texting **07900 218900**. Please state no. of adults and no. of children who will be attending.



Certificate: **PG**

Tickets **£5** to cover one adult and accompanying children. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

To join our mailing list, or for further information, send an email to [peterspicturehouse@gmail.com](mailto:peterspicturehouse@gmail.com)



## Green bin collections are back!

Green bin collections resume on Wednesday 8th March and the bins will be collected fortnightly with the orange recycling bins.



# Biddenham Gardeners Association

## Inspiring gardens

Many of us gain great enjoyment from visiting gardens large and small throughout the year. Paul Fricker, our Chair of BGA, is no exception and we were so pleased that he agreed to share with us some of his stunning photos of the most beautiful inspirational gardens

The first one was Aston Pottery Garden in the Cotswolds which brought back many happy memories as we went there on a BGA outing several years ago and were bowled over by the fabulous borders, the lovely pottery, excellent restaurant and the energy and enthusiasm of the owner - time for a return trip maybe.

The second garden was more local. Many of us have visited The Swiss Garden, created by Lord Ongley in the 1820s and designed in the then fashionable 'Swiss Picturesque' style. But who knew that this garden was floodlit before Christmas as part of the Christmas Illuminations? The photos were just WOW!

Paul then went back to 2018 when he and Kathy stayed with some American friends in Florida and they were able to explore several gardens with a subtropical feel. Many of the houses and gardens had been bought by very wealthy people who had travelled the world seeking out exotic plants. These gardens, including The Leu Gardens and the Bok Tower Garden, are now open to the public.

Paul's photos included the Wetlands with beautiful images of roseate spoonbill, great egret and tricoloured heron which drew gasps from the audience - they were so beautiful and needless to say there was also a photo of an alligator - synonymous with this area.

Paul, who had spent six years living and working in Hong Kong, showed photos of the park in the heart of Hong Kong - a tranquil space contrasting completely with the surrounding high-rise buildings. The photos of the various orchids were just lovely.

Paul went on to showcase six different gardens in the west country.

He started off with Knightshayes near Tiverton. This is a National Trust Garden with beautiful mature trees. Lying within a medieval priory is Cannington Walled Garden, which is now owned by Bridgewater and Taunton College for students studying horticulture. The students maintain the garden which includes a potager garden with complementary planting to keep pests at bay. Greencombe house and garden are on the edge of Exmoor near to Porlock on the north Somerset coast. The azaleas and rhododendrons were just fabulous and Paul had taken some wonderful photos of large patches of erythronium lilies which are part of the national collection.

Dunster Castle in north Somerset provided the opportunity for photos of stunning views of the Quantock Hills and Exmoor. The gardens of Hestercombe were laid out by Gertrude Jekyll and are very typical of her style. Paul and Kathy had visited the garden when it was floodlit as part of the Christmas illuminations. The final garden was RHS Rosemoor near Bideford. Beautiful rose gardens, cottage gardens, Mediterranean garden, exotic garden, wild flower meadows and a stumpery were all captured by Paul

What a wonderful journey through fascinating gardens. Thank you Paul - we appreciated the time and effort involved in producing a really lovely presentation - totally relaxing and inspirational and for those of you who were unable to be with us - well you missed a real treat!

Please join us next month on Tuesday 21st March at 7.30pm in the Village Hall when we will be joined by the owners of Plantagogo. Vicky and Richard Fox are specialist growers of Heuchera, Tiarella and other perennials and they have won a Gold Medal for their display at Chelsea Flower Show every year since 2009. They will be travelling down from Cheshire and are

certainly well worth listening to. They will have a selection of high quality plants for sale so if you wish to buy please bring cash. The meeting will be open to all members, new members and visitors. We look forward to seeing you then

Linda Truscott

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

[www.biddenhamgardenersassociation.org.uk](http://www.biddenhamgardenersassociation.org.uk)

## Red Cross Open Gardens returning for 2023

Red Cross Open Gardens Sunday 4th June  
Gardens large and small wanted.

If you would like to open your garden for this good cause please contact Liz Watson on [liz4watson@aol.com](mailto:liz4watson@aol.com)

### 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](mailto:stjamesbarnbiddenham@gmail.com) OR  
Jane - 07831 172320 /  
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](mailto:firstfridaylunch@outlook.com)  
or text/leave a message on **07412 559584**

3rd March, 31st March, 5th May

## Quilting & Sewing Group



Biddenham Village Hall

10.30 a.m.

Last Friday of each month

*Pop in and see what goes on*



The March meeting of the Quilting & Sewing Group will be on 24th March.

## 100 CLUB January draw



The winners were:

1st	Shabnum Siddique	60
2nd	John Rooke	125
3rd	Kate Jones	475

Drawn by Angela Chappell



**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 (intermediate)  
Sundays at 6.00pm.

Contact Bernard Henry 07866 456769 or  
[bahenry0309@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.biddenhampavilion.co.uk). Contact details for regular events are also there.

### Great Denham Community Hall

[www.greatdenhamcommunityhall.co.uk](http://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](http://www.biddenhamvillagehall.org.uk)    [www.biddenhampavilion.co.uk](http://www.biddenhampavilion.co.uk)    [www.stjamesbiddenham.com](http://www.stjamesbiddenham.com)

<b>Monday</b>		
Cha Char Chimps	10.00am	Village Hall
Yoga	10.00-11.30am	Pavilion
Gentle Yoga	2.00-3.00pm	Pavilion
Ukranian Clothing Evening	5.00-9.00pm	Church Barn
Storm Martial Arts	7.00-8.00pm	Pavilion
Guides	7.15pm Termtime	Village Hall
<b>Tuesday</b>		
Over 50s fitness	10.00-11.00am	Pavilion
Mum & Baby Yoga	10.30am Termtime (except 3 <sup>rd</sup> in the month)	Village Hall
Café B	10.15am-12noon (3 <sup>rd</sup> in month)	Village Hall
Peter's Picturehouse	7.00 for 7.30pm (1 <sup>st</sup> in month)	Village Hall
HIT Fitness	7.00-7.30pm	Pavilion
Biddenham Gardeners Association	7.30pm (3 <sup>rd</sup> in month)	Village Hall
Country Dancing	8.00pm (2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> in month)	Village Hall
Zumba	8.00-9.00pm	Pavilion
<b>Wednesday</b>		
Ukrainian Community Coffee Morning	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
<b>Thursday</b>		
Under 5's	9.30-11.30am	Village Hall
Line dancing	9.30-11.30am	Pavilion
Oasis	9.00am-12noon (1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> in month)	Church Barn
U3A Handbell Ringers	2.00-3.30pm	Church Barn
Cook Stars Juniors	4.00-5.15pm (term time)	Church Barn
Pregnancy Yoga	7.00-8.30pm	Village Hall
Fetch Puppy Club	7.30-8.30pm	Pavilion
<b>Friday</b>		
Pilates	8.30am & 9.30am	Village Hall
Jo Jingles	9.30am-12.30pm	Pavilion
Fit Flamingo Yoga	10.00-11.00am	Church Barn
First Friday Lunch	12.15pm (1 <sup>st</sup> 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
<b>Saturday</b>		
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
Family Craft Workshop	1.30-2.30pm (last of the month)	Church Barn
Lucy Hunt School of Dance	2.00-3.30pm	Pavilion
Toddler Sense	2.00-3.00pm (2 <sup>nd</sup> of the month)	Church Barn
<b>Sunday</b>		
St James's Explorers	10.00-11.00am	Church Barn
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 <sup>rd</sup> in month)	Church Barn

For details of events at Great Denham Community Hall please visit [www.greatdenhamcommunityhall.co.uk](http://www.greatdenhamcommunityhall.co.uk)

## March

- Fri 3 Mar First Friday lunch, Biddenham Village Hall, 12.15pm, see p18
- Sun 5 Mar **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 6 Mar Great Denham Parish Council, Community Hall, 7.30pm, see p10
- Tues 7 Mar Peter's Picture House, Biddenham Village Hall, 7.00pm, see p16
- Sat 11 Mar Biddenham Pond Work Morning, 10.00am-12.00noon, see p5 & 13
- Sun 12 Mar **Said Holy Communion at All Saints, 9.00am**  
**Holy Communion at St James's, 10.00am**  
**Evening Prayer at St James's, 6.00pm**
- Sat 18 Mar Quiz Night, Church Barn, 7.30pm, see p3
- Sun 19 Mar **Holy Communion at All Saints, 10.00am**  
**Morning Worship at St James's, 10.00am**  
**Revive: Coffee/Bible/Fellowship, Church Barn, 7.00pm**
- Mon 20 Mar Biddenham History Society, Church Barn, 2.30pm, see p4
- Tue 21 Mar Café B, Biddenham Village Hall, 10.15-11.45am, see p10
- Tue 21 Mar Bedford National Trust Association, Addison Centre, Kempston, 2.15pm, see p4
- Tue 21 Mar Biddenham Parish Council, Biddenham Pavilion, 7.30pm, see p6
- Tue 21 Mar Biddenham Gardeners Association, Biddenham Village Hall, 7.30pm, see p17
- Fri 24 Mar Quilting & Sewing Group, 10.30am, Biddenham Village Hall, see p13 & 18
- Sat 25 Mar Pawsome Afternoon Tea, Great Denham Community Hall, see p10
- Sun 26 Mar **Said Holy Communion at All Saints, 9.00am**  
**Holy Communion at St James's, 10.00am**  
**Explorers, Church Barn, 10.00am**
- Thu 30 Mar 'Town Hall' meeting, Biddenham Pavilion, 5.30pm, see p13
- Fri 31 Mar First Friday lunch, Biddenham Village Hall, 12.15pm, see p13 & 18

## April

- Sun 2 Apr **Palm Sunday service at All Saints, 9.00am**  
**Palm Sunday service at St James's, 10.00am, see p2 for all the Easter services**
- Mon 3 Apr **Holy Communion, 7.00pm, All Saints**
- Mon 3 Apr Great Denham Parish Council, Community Hall, 7.30pm, see p10
- Tue 4 Apr **Holy communion, 7.00pm, St James's**
- Tues 4 Apr Peter's Picture House, Biddenham Village Hall, 7.00pm, see p16
- Wed 5 Apr **Holy Communion, 7.00pm, All Saints**
- Thu 6 Apr **Maundy Thursday Holy Communion, 6.00pm, All Saints**
- Thu 6 Apr **Maundy Thursday Holy communion, 7.00pm, St James's**
- Fri 7 Apr **Good Friday**  
**Children's service & activities, 10.00am - 12 noon, St James's**  
**Good Friday Reflection, 12.45pm & 2.15pm, All Saints**  
**Good Friday Reflection, 12.45pm & 3.00pm, St James's**
- Sun 9 Apr **Easter Sunday**  
**Lighting of the Easter Candle, 7.30am, All Saints**  
**Lighting of the Easter Candle, 8.00am, St James's**
- Sun 9 Apr **Easter Communion, 9.00am, All Saints**
- Sun 9 Apr **Easter Communion, 10.00am, St James's**
- Mon 10 Apr Peter's Picture House Family Film, Biddenham Village Hall, 2.00pm, see p16

### 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

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 April 2023 articles, preferably by e-mail in Word format, to [loopeditor@gmail.com](mailto:loopeditor@gmail.com) or to 22 Day's Lane and adverts to [loopadverts@gmail.com](mailto:loopadverts@gmail.com) by **Wednesday 22nd March 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.*