

# The Loop

September  
2023

£1.50

## New service times at St James's and All Saints

Before my Sabbatical I had become conscious that our current pattern of services took me away from 50% of the services held at St James's Church. I have, therefore, adjusted the services to the following:

### 1st Sunday

All Saints 9.00am Said Holy Communion (The vicar)  
St James's 10.00am All Age Worship (The vicar)

### 2nd Sunday

St James's 9.00am Said Holy Communion (The vicar)  
St James's 10.00am Lay led worship  
All Saints 10.00am Holy Communion  
St James's 6.00pm Sung evensong

### 3rd Sunday

All Saints 9.00am Holy Communion  
St James's 10.00am Holy Communion

### 4th Sunday

All Saints 9.00am Sung Holy Communion  
St James's 10.00am Holy Communion (First part led by lay leader of worship, second part led by vicar)

### 5th Sunday

St James's 10.00am Joint service of healing and wholeness  
Eric Lomax

20 23

**BIDDENHAM**  
village show

with opening by...  
THE  
**HIGH SHERIFF OF  
BEDFORDSHIRE**

**£2.50**  
UNDER 12's  
FREE

**SUNDAY 10th SEPTEMBER**  
12pm - 4pm

St James' CE VA Primary School - Main Road  
Biddenham

*For details see page 6*



## County cricket at Biddenham

A match between Bedfordshire Under 13 Girls and Northamptonshire Under 13 Girls took place at Biddenham on Friday 11th August in perfect weather.

The photo shows both teams preparing for the start of the match which was won by Northamptonshire.

'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](mailto:loopeditor@gmail.com)



# Letter from the Vicar

Dear All

I have come back from my Sabbatical and the first thing I have been confronted with is two weddings and two funerals. I so wanted to lie about this and call it four weddings and a funeral, but no there were two of each.

I was thinking about that lie, and how it could potentially grow. What if I had written that down and one of my treasurers came to me and said; 'Er Eric, you said in your Loop article that there were four weddings and a funeral, yet we have only received fees for one. What has happened to the money from the other three?' Would I admit to the lie or would I have had to lie again to cover my tracks?

'Hold on,' you might say to me, 'you have just said you did two weddings, then you just said your treasurer has only received fees for one. What about fees for the other one?'

This time it was not a lie. Vicars have, for pastoral reasons, the legal right to waive fees, so if there is a genuine pastoral or financial reason for waiving the fees, I can do that, and people can get angry about it, but it is just the way it is.

I love weddings. To me, they are healing occasions, and I often say in my wedding address to the bride and the groom that it is wonderful in Church seeing people joined together when so much in our world is falling apart, but yes, there were only two weddings.

At one of the weddings, the couple opted for the frequently misunderstood I Corinthians 13, in which St Paul talks about love. In the previous chapter, he was addressing a group of arrogant church leaders in Corinth who believed that they had special God given gifts like knowledge, prophecy and the language of angels (tongues). Paul puts his thumb on this arrogance right away and points out that everyone in the community has talents that are all as significant as one another. He says that if you have these gifts but there is no love, then those gifts are actually worthless. He then says that love is patient and kind, it is not arrogant or rude, it does not insist on its own way, it is not about deception but it is about truth.

I have pondered lies and truth for some time. Of course trust is vital in relationships. Truth is important for those who live as partners

My mum was an artist and she used to spend her money on materials for her creativity. That was her special talent, but my father did not approve of her buying paints or

brushes. She would lie, but often out of necessity. In some ways I felt that his demand for truth was not loving to her because he had not created for her the environment where truth was possible. Tolstoy, the Russian author, wrote a small narrative about a man who had to steal the drugs his wife needed from a pharmacist because he did not have the power of wealth to keep her alive. In much of our society, the politics of wealth and power remove the freedom for people to be honest and that is an issue of social justice. In this context, it is not the liar who is at fault but the oppressor, because ethics are not simply diametric opposites, because the context is always different and manipulated by different forces.

I brought my children up on lies, because the power of story is rich and magical. I told them about the elves at the bottom of the garden, the fairies that took their teeth to build their towers, and the man in the red suit who brings them gifts on Christmas morning. I hid them from the truth that has been faced before and since by the children of the holocaust, Hiroshima, Bosnia, Rwanda, Aleppo and Ukraine because, as I have discovered to the cost of so many people I have talked to, truth can be destructive and crushing.

Novels are a kind of lie, but so much literature serves the purpose of releasing us from the incarceration of truth. Many biblical scholars will direct us to a view that many of the narratives of scripture are filled with mythological stories that cannot be said to have any physical truth, but nevertheless mask a deeper truth. They would say that talking about the story of Eden, of the ark, of Babel, of the parables of Jesus, and of the Christian apocalyptic narrative of revelation, as simply historical or predictive truth, is not only naive but also dangerous.

Perhaps God speaks a richer kind of truth to us if we recognise first the limitations of these stories, and only then can we find their true treasure.

Am I saying then, that we should lie? Certainly we are told in the commandments that we should not. It is also true, however, that the lie, the myth or the fiction, is gentler and kinder. It can be subject to love which, in the New Testament, defines the law of Moses; it can be more effective than facts in leading us to the deeper, unfathomable truths about God.

The Austrian philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein told us that that of which we cannot speak, we must be silent, but sometimes the language of poetic fiction is able to provide us with a new and vivid window on truth. Wittgenstein also explored the limitations of our language, truth or lie, and reminded us that our language is only a mask in front of the incomprehensible reality of our world. What is constructed within us and beyond us, our words cannot begin to explain.

Truth is, of course, important but Jesus, knowing how inexplicable truth is to us, said; 'I am the way, the truth, and the life'. Truth is always subject to his divine nature, the power of love.

In a simple sentence, assuming your partner is a woman, if she asks you if she looks fat in her new dress, regardless of what the truth is, it is probably better not to say 'yes.'

God bless.

Eric

## Craft & Gift Fair in aid of Save the Children

You are invited to pop along to our first event held at Biddenham Pavilion on Sunday 8th October, open to the public 10.00a.m. - 3.00p.m. with free admission, though a donation in the Save the Children buckets would be appreciated.

There will be a variety of hand made goods and gifts not found on the High Street why not start your Christmas shopping early and find that all important gift.

Brenda Lyons



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

Vicar	Rev Eric Lomax rev.ejlomax@gmail.com	Tel: 328452
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Verger	Hilary Hurn	Tel 364251
Treasurer	Simon King	<a href="mailto:treasurer@stjamesbiddenham.com">treasurer@stjamesbiddenham.com</a>
Organist/Choirmaster	Adam Wright	<a href="http://www.stjamesbiddenham.com">www.stjamesbiddenham.com</a>



# Biddenham Conservation Volunteers

The recent unsettled weather has not interrupted BCV activities. Four footpaths in the village were cleared of encroaching vegetation however, with so much rain followed by warm sunshine, some of them will soon require further attention. Butterfly surveys continue. These have proved to be so popular we have been pleased to have guests joining us on some occasions. Volunteers often take photographs of butterflies they have never seen before.

Cowslip Meadow has turned into a beautiful wild flower meadow which lent itself to another qualitative flower survey. Several new species were found compared with the previous survey this year. The results of the survey will be compared with those of earlier years to gauge the health and diversity of the meadow. A report of the surveys will be available on our page on the Parish Council website: <http://biddenham.org.uk/biddenham-conservation-volunteers/>

As autumn is now in sight and bird nesting draws to an end, BCV has planned several tasks for the coming months. One of the first tasks will be to check the areas in Cowslip Meadow where encroaching blackthorn was reducing the size of the meadow to see if it has regrown and requires further control to allow those areas to be mowed. At the same time, the newly planted trees in the meadow will be checked for viability. Another task is to build a hibernaculum in the wet area towards the north end of the meadow. Hopefully, this will provide shelter for amphibians and reptiles over the winter. More dead-hedging will be built within the wooded part of the meadow to protect young hedging in a number of places.

New volunteers are always welcome. If you enjoy the outdoor life and are keen to help with conservation work, please let us know by e-mailing: [gillycowan@btinternet.com](mailto:gillycowan@btinternet.com) or Chris Jones at [chrishj4@gmail.com](mailto:chrishj4@gmail.com).

Gilly Cowan

## Flagpole replaced - Tommy is on the way

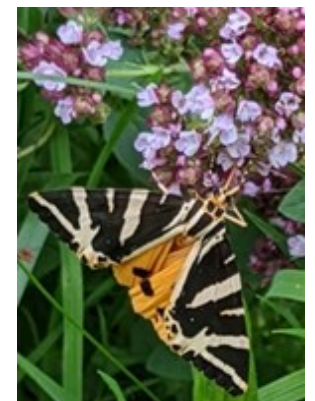
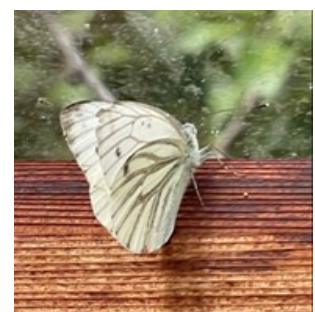
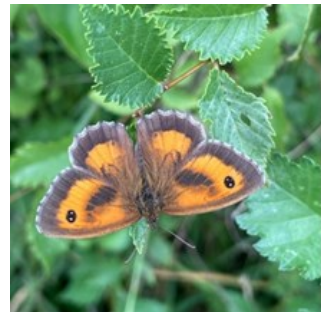
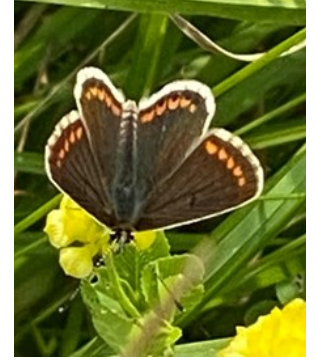
Walkers past the war memorial in Biddenham will have seen that a new, more substantial flagpole has been erected.

Tommy is still looking a little sad and the decision has been made to replace him, also with a more substantial piece. It should be in place in plenty of time for Remembrance Day.

Jean Gambold



*Jon Gambold at the new flagpole*



*Butterfly surveyors and some of their finds*



During June, Chris held a pond dip for the 10th Bedford Christ Church Brownie Pack. The weather was perfect, and everyone had a wonderful evening, experiencing nature 'close up.' The Brownies were all very interested in the finds that were made.

On Sunday 9th July, we held our annual Summer Tea and AGM, welcoming some 30 Friends and supporters, who enjoyed tea and a variety of scones, kindly provided by the Committee. During the AGM the accounts for the year ending 31st December, 2022 were

*Picture by Mary Cope*

adopted, and Chris as Chair and the rest of the committee were all reappointed. Chris gave an entertaining summary of our challenges and achievements during the previous



*AGM pictures by Kristen Burchill*

year and thanked everyone for all their support. During the event we received donations of £108.70, all of which will be used to fund our work during 2023/24.

On a table at the back of the Barn we had our usual display of pond inhabitants, and we were very pleased to find some alderfly larvae among the weeds. These are very seasonal and have not been recorded in our pond before. We were also able to show many volvox tumbling about under the microscope. These fascinating plants exist as a globe made of silica with offspring moving cyclically inside the structure causing the whole plant body to move as if to swim in the water. Do look them up as they are described as 'One of the seven micro wonders of the world' and it is great that they live in our pond.

In contrast to last year, this summer has not been hot so the pond has thankfully not dried out. We hope that water will remain until the autumn rains. In the meantime, we are having ongoing discussions with the Manor Hospital to try and improve the amount of water that we are able to harvest from their roof.

As you will have seen when you pass by, weed remains a constant problem in the pond. The weed helps to keep the heat off the surface of the water, reducing evaporation but, on the flip side, plants transpire water back into the atmosphere. Weed will always be a problem, but we try to keep it under control so, in October, TCV (The Conservation Volunteers) are returning for another session of reed and weed clearance.

We would like to thank our volunteer mowers, who do a great job in keeping the pond area a pleasant place to sit and while away a few minutes.

If you missed our display of pond life at the Barn, we have another pond display at the Biddenham Show (10th September). We will be in the entrance to the Village Hall, so please come and have a look on your way to the teas and cakes. We will have microscopes and children's activities and hope to see as many of you as possible.

**Date for your diary** – we are holding our Autumn work morning on Saturday 11th November, 10am to noon. All welcome to come and help.

We look forward to seeing you.

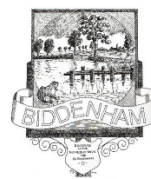
The Pond Team

### Contact Details

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<a href="http://www.biddenhamvillagepond.wordpress.com">www.biddenhamvillagepond.wordpress.com</a>	
<a href="https://www.facebook.com/biddenhamvillagepond">www.facebook.com/biddenhamvillagepond</a>	



*Ducks and frogs abound!*



## The Biddenham Society

### 58th Annual Lunch and AGM

**Many of you will be aware that we hold the Biddenham Society AGM in November / December of each year. For a variety of reasons, we are going to postpone it this year until the end of January or the beginning of February so please watch for a post on this in the coming months. Thanks.**

*Celebrating and preserving Biddenham's beauty and heritage*

# Biddenham History Society

On 3rd July, we were treated to an excellent presentation by Peter Applewhite which he entitled 'Eight people behind the Bedford Blues.' He quickly informed us that his talk was nothing to do with rugby, but instead was discussing the blue plaques which are to be found on some buildings in Bedford to commemorate the link between the location and a famous person or event. There are apparently over 40 blue plaques, but Peter told us about nine of them: the eight became nine as he wanted to discuss an artist and his daughter.

Peter began with some music from the film 'Chariots of Fire'. This was the entrée for Harold Abrahams, whose plaque is at 30 Rutland Road. He was born in Bedford in 1899 and had some of his education at Bedford School. He took part in the 1924 Summer Olympics in Paris and won a gold medal in the 100 metres. He later carved a piece off the medal to make a wedding ring for his wife, Sybil.

A blue plaque in St John's Street commemorates William Buckingham VC. He had a very tough start to his life as his mother fell on hard times and William was in the workhouse. He eventually joined the army and served with the Leicestershire Regiment. A gallant rescue earned him a VC which was presented to him by King George V in 1915. Unfortunately, he went back to the Western Front in the spring of 1916 and was killed in the later stages of the Battle of the Somme, in September 1916. He has no known grave. As Peter said, a hard start and a sad end.

Many of us have seen the plaque on St Peter's Green to commemorate Frederick Gustavus Burnaby who was born in 1842 in the old vicarage for St Peter's Church where his father was Rector. He had his early education at Bedford School and became a larger than life character – literally as he was 6 feet 4 inches tall and weighed 20 stone as an adult. He mastered ballooning, spoke seven foreign languages, joined the Royal Horse Guards and travelled in Russia and Central Asia. In 1884, he was killed by a spear going through his throat as he took part in a mission to rescue General Gordon.

Peter then moved on to a plaque at number 40 de Parys Avenue. This is where the artist, Dora Carrington, lived when she attended Bedford High School before winning a scholarship to study Art at the Slade. Her life was not a happy one; she was involved in complex relationships before shooting herself in 1932. It was not until the 1970s that her work achieved the critical appreciation it deserved and a retrospective was held at the Barbican. Many of us recognised her painting of Bedford Market in 1911.

Bedford has close links with Polar Exploration. Peter drew attention to two plaques linked to Polar Explorers. Apsley Cherry Garrard, who was born at 15 Lansdowne Road, went on the expedition to the South Pole with Captain Scott, and helped to collect Emperor Penguin Eggs with Dr Wilson. He did not go on the final journey to try to reach the Pole, but he did write about his experiences in 'The Worst Journey in the World'. He suffered great mental anguish because he was not on the fatal part of the expedition and did not recover from his experiences. The other polar explorer, Aeneas Lionel Acton Mackintosh, did not come home. His plaque is on 43 Beverley Crescent where he lived with his mother and siblings when he attended Bedford Modern School. In 1914, he was invited to join Shackleton's Trans Antarctic Expedition to help set up supply depots. He was one of those in 1916 who did not return home alive.

Peter ended his presentation with information about two more artists and an entertainer. The artists were Henry John Sylvester Stannard and his daughter, Theresa Sylvester Stannard, and the plaques are at 64 and 68 Spenser Road where they lived and had studios. They painted many lovely water colours including the rose garden at Biddenham House. Theresa also had one of her paintings chosen as the royal Christmas card in 1938.

Finally, Peter told us about another plaque on de Parys Avenue, this time at number 59, to commemorate Kenneth Alfred Western. He became part of the Music Hall Act known as the Western Brothers, though Kenneth and his partner, George, were not actually brothers. They had considerable success in the 1930s: Edward VIII was one of their fans and Peter played us a snippet from one of their hits 'Play the Game You Cads'. They entertained troops around the world during World War Two, but they suffered from declining interest in Music Hall after the war. It was in the post war period that Kenneth lived on de Parys Avenue. Peter ended by highlighting a connection between his family and the Westerns: in 1993, his daughter, Victoria, married Paul Western, a second cousin twice removed of Kenneth Western.

We all thoroughly enjoyed Peter's very well researched talk which included Biddenham connections. We will be spending the summer walking round Bedford, finding the blue plaques and appreciating their significance in the light of the knowledge we have gained.

The next meeting of the Society will be on Monday 9th October from 2.30pm – 4.30pm. Jean Fullerton, who has written her autobiography and several novels, will give a talk entitled: 'Put that light out – the ARP in World War Two'. Jean is a very good speaker and she has done a lot of research on WW2 for her books. I hope you will be able to come and hear her talk.

Kathy Fricker

*Members of the audience had some questions for Peter after the presentation, which he could not answer at the time. The answers are on page 12.*



*Averil Watson (l) with Sara Russell of Tibbs.*

## Afternoon tea for Tibbs

The rain may have put paid to a planned charity afternoon tea in the garden of Biddenham Lodge on 8th August, but the lure of tea and homemade cakes was enough to ensure a good turnout when the event was moved to the Village Hall at the last minute.

The event raised over £500 for Tibbs Dementia Foundation through the sale of tea and cakes, second-hand books, plants and a raffle.

Tibbs provides a range of cognitive and physical stimulation activities for people in all stages of dementia, as well as support for their family carers. Services include music therapy, physical activities, and social opportunities to support people to live well with dementia.

Janet Field

A colorful poster for 'Halloween Spooktacular Events' at Great Denham Community Hall. The poster is divided into three vertical sections with a purple, orange, and green background. The top section says 'Halloween Spooktacular Events At Great Denham Community Hall'. The first section (purple) is for 'Tuesday 24th October Creepy Crafts', with sessions from 11:00-12:00 and 13:00-14:00, and a price of £2 per child. The second section (orange) is for 'Friday 27th October Monster Mash', with sessions from 14:30-16:00 and 17:00-18:30, and a price of £3.00 per child. The third section (green) is for 'Friday 3rd November Freaky Film', with doors open at 5:30pm, a price of £1.50 per child, and a note that the ticket includes a drink and popcorn. At the bottom, it says 'Come to all three events for only £5.50 per child' and 'Children must be accompanied by an adult at all events - no charge for under 2's accompanying an older sibling'.



# Biddenham Show

## Sunday 10th September

### St James' CE VA Primary School & Biddenham Village Hall

#### Show time

The annual Biddenham Show will be held on Sunday 10th September at St James' CE VA Primary School on Main Road and in the Village Hall on Nodders Way. Entry fee: £2.50 per person / Under 12s: Free

#### Children's Fancy Dress – 12.30pm

The High Sheriff of Bedfordshire will officially open the Show at 12.20pm. He will then judge the Children's Fancy Dress competition. This year's theme is 'Kings & Queens'.

#### Attractions

The Show will have something for the whole family (including dogs):

*Circus Skills Workshop • Fun Dog Show • Human Fruit Machine • Bottle Stall • Bouncy Castle • Tennis Skills • Face Painting • Splat-the-Rat • Children's Fancy Dress • Kid's Corner • Traditional Games • Book Stall • Teddy Tombola • 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!*

#### Fun Dog Show - 1.30 to 3.00pm

The Fun Dog Show will take place on the school field. Dogs need to be pre-registered for each class at the entry table by the dog arena and must be kept on a lead.

Rosettes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each class and the Wendy King Cup will be awarded to the overall winner. Entry fee: £2 per class per dog:

- Cutest Puppy
- Best Young Handler (under 12)
- Best Veteran (over 7yrs old)
- Smiliest Face
- Handsomest Dog (Male)
- Prettiest Dog (Female)
- Waggiest Tail
- Best Rescue
- Best in Show (chosen from all winners)

#### Competition entries drop off - 8.15 to 9.45 am

There will be lots of opportunities for adults and children to win trophies and certificates in the Gardening (flowers and produce), Kitchen (baking and preserves), Art & Craft, and Photography competitions.

Please refer to the Show web site (QR code below) for details of classes, competition recipes, guidelines, and entry forms. All entries must be submitted to the Show grounds by 9.45 am on the Show day.

#### Volunteers needed

The Show is run entirely by volunteers and anyone who can help out will be warmly welcomed. If you can spare an hour or two to help run a stall or help with set up on Saturday or clearing up at the end of the Show, please contact: [jane@80kLtd.co.uk](mailto:jane@80kLtd.co.uk). The following help is needed:

#### Saturday volunteers (9.30am to 12 noon)

- Erect marquees
- Move tables & chairs
- Mark out the grounds & site prep
- Sunday volunteers (9.30am to 5pm)**
- Man the stalls
- Help on the gate
- Sell raffle tickets
- Serve tea and cakes
- Dismantle the site after the show

#### Stall donations

**Teddies** This year there will be a Teddy Tombola. If you have any soft toys in new or nearly new condition, please drop these off at *The Three Tuns* or contact Abi: 07813 160887

**Cakes** Calling all bakers! The tea and cakes stall in the Village Hall makes a significant contribution to funds for local groups and societies. If you can help by baking cakes, scones, or biscuits (including vegan and gluten-free), please contact: [maddy@cartersullivan.co.uk](mailto:maddy@cartersullivan.co.uk)

**Bottles** The popular bottle stall requires lots of bottles. If you have bottles (unopened and within their sell-by date) that you can donate, please contact: [jane@80kLtd.co.uk](mailto:jane@80kLtd.co.uk)

**Books & DVDs** If you have any books and DVDs in good condition (no textbooks or out of date manuals please), please drop these off at the Village Hall or at the First Friday Lunch on 1st September

#### Sponsors

Special thanks to Show sponsors, *Taylor Brightwell* and *The Manor Hospital* (part of the Circle Health Group), Fun Dog Show sponsor *Bentley Grange Care Home* and Circus Skills sponsor, *Dandara*.

#### Programme

It is no longer feasible to deliver a Show Programme to every home in Biddenham. However, a limited run of printed Programmes will be available at Café B, First Friday Lunch, Peter's Picturehouse, Biddenham Gardeners Association, Church Barns, the Village Hall, and The Three Tuns.

Ongoing updates to the Show Programme and full

<i>Programme</i>	
<b>12 noon</b>	– <b>Gates Open</b>
<b>12.20pm</b>	– <b>Formal Show opening by High Sheriff</b>
<b>12.30pm</b>	– <b>Children's Fancy Dress Competition</b>
<b>1.30-3pm</b>	– <b>Fun Dog Show</b>
<b>3.00pm</b>	– <b>Awarding of Trophies</b>
<b>3.30pm</b>	– <b>Raffle</b>
<b>4.00pm</b>	– <b>Close</b>

details of how to enter competition are available online via the Show social media sites:

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

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

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

Janet Field



*Biddenham Show website*

# Hash House Harriers

## 'Drinking club with a running problem'

*Whilst walking in the countryside have you ever noticed blobs of white powder dotted along footpaths or white circles and crosses where footpaths intersect? Or spotted runners disappearing into the distance with front runners calling: "On On!"*

*These are the Hash House Harriers and the strange markings are made by the 'hare' to indicate their cross-country trail. Often mistaken for illicit marks to target property, they are harmless, bio-degradable markings that are non-poisonous to pets, wildlife, and livestock.*

*We caught up with hashers, Geoff and Deb Lill, to find out more.*



### What are the Hash House Harriers?

They were founded in Malaysia in the 1930s as a cross-country run which ended at the Selangor Club (known as the Hash House) in Kuala Lumpur.

There are branches all over the world and the different branches are called kennels. The Bedfordshire kennel is the H5 - Hare and Hounds Hash House Harriers. There is no membership fee, just a nominal charge of £2 per hash, and anyone can join in.

It's based on Hare and Hounds or paper chase. A hare sets a trail marking out the route with flour for the runners and walkers to follow. We abide by the Countryside Code and inform farmers, the police, dog walkers, and the local pub in advance.

It always starts and ends at a pub. So, it's known as a 'drinking club with a running problem'. We're there to drink but we go for a run beforehand, so we've earned our drink at the end.

### Is it a race?

No, far from it. Some walk it. It's very much a sociable club, so to fox the fast runners when they get to a circle in the trail that's a check that means the trail stops. So, they have to check out all the different junctions to re-find the trail. When they find it, they shout: "On On." Sometimes it takes quite a long time to find the right trail again and this enables the back markers to catch up. The perfect hash brings everybody, walkers, and runners, to the end point (usually a pub) at the same time.

### What's your criteria for setting a trail?

Find a pub, ideally use public footpaths rather than roads, and lay a circuit that's around three miles for the walkers and about four or five miles for the runners.

### What are hash handles?

We all get given silly handles (nicknames). The kennel gives you the handle after you've done 10 runs. They say by then they know more about you than your mother and father did. Sometimes they're clever names, and sometimes they're awful. If you complain about your handle, they'll give you a worse one. From then on, you're always referred to by your handle.

I'm Jammers and Deb is Jam Tart. As we're organising the September hash weekend event, it's called the Jamboree.

### What is the September Jamboree?

This takes place every two years and the next one is on 8th-10th September.

We were members of Chard hash in Somerset before we moved to Biddenham. In 2021, we organised a joint weekend hash for Chard and H5. We set a run from Biddenham to Bromham to Stevington, Pavenham, Oakley, Clapham, back to Bromham, then home - seven runs, seven pubs, and seven pints (a pint in each pub) over the weekend. The Sunday run was just a short hangover run

around Bedford Golf Course.

Deb didn't drink at the event. She was the 'ambulance' and followed the hash in the car to pick up any casualties.

### What do you enjoy most about the hash?

It's friendly, sociable, non-competitive and it's good exercise. I like a beer, I enjoy running and it's got all the components of a good night out.

It's lovely because we find new pubs, new country areas, and it's great for walking the dog. We generally bring our dog, Taittie, sometimes on the lead or if its open fields we let her go. She loves it and sometimes she runs with the runners.

### How can new people get involved?

Just go to the H5 web site: [www.h5hashers.org.uk](http://www.h5hashers.org.uk) for details of the location of the next hash, and just turn up. We meet on Sundays at 11.00am at the designated pub car park and run for an hour, back by 12.00 noon, go to the pub, have a couple of pints, and leave at 1.00pm. Everyone is welcome!

Janet Field

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# PCC Treasurer retires after 25 years



*Michael Hurford moved to Biddenham with his family in 1996 and has volunteered on the Parochial Parish Council (PCC) ever since. In June, he stepped down as treasurer after over 25 years. We caught up with him to find out more.*

## **What brought you to Biddenham?**

I'm married to Liz and after we both obtained our accountancy qualifications, we went to Canada for two years. When we came back, we couldn't settle in Leeds where we hail from, and I got a job in Hemel Hempstead. Then the business moved to Biggleswade and as we were planning for our two daughters to go to school in Bedford, we moved to Biddenham.

## **How did you get involved in the PCC?**

Shortly after we moved here, I went to church and within a matter of weeks I was approached by the then vicar, Richard Sutton. He asked if I would be willing to stand as secretary of the PCC as the secretary was moving up to become treasurer. I went to meet the PCC and one thing led to another. That was back in 1997. I served as secretary for about 12 years and then took over as treasurer.

## **What is the main role of the PCC?**

The PCC is responsible for the running of the church, the church yard and day to day requirements of the church. There's also the Ukrainian appeal which is organised by the PCC, but also involves people from outside the church, to help the relief effort.

## **What have you enjoyed most about being treasurer of the PCC?**

The camaraderie and the support of the church and working with various church wardens over the years. It's a nice, contained job. Seeing people struggle with the role it seemed only fair that I, as a qualified accountant, was willing to take over the task.

As treasurer I was also well supported by people like Ann Church, who deals with the cashing and banking of the church collections, and Richard Fone, who processes all the donations to the church that qualify for Gift Aid.

## **Who is replacing you as treasurer?**

Simon King has replaced me and is in the process of taking over and setting up the online banking and the various other requirements.

## **What are you planning to do now with your free time?**

We've got three grandchildren, so I look forward to spending more time with them. We support our youngest daughter one day a week with childcare.

I'm also a trustee of a small housing association, and I'm still a committee member of the PCC. The church will always be there.

We've also got a big garden to look after. Liz does all the delicate bits and I do all the pruning and grass cutting. And I enjoy exercise - I do circuit training, Pilates, and a spinning class.

Janet Field

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# What did happen to the other Missing children?

An obituary for Henry Missing, the man who named the Biddenham station in Australia, recounts that he 'had two brothers – John M'Bride who fought in the Crimea with honour and, returning to England, died of consumption contracted during that dreadful period of rain and storm and sickness; ...'

The Crimean War was fought from October 1853 to February 1856 and one of the most successful campaigns was fought at sea when the Russian fleet was almost wiped out at Sevastopol. John McBride who served in the Royal Navy died in July 1856 and a death notice confirms that he did indeed fight in the Crimean War: 'Yesterday week, at Kensington, of consumption, brought on by exposure and over exertion in the Black Sea during the late war, John Macbride Missing, Esq., R.N., eldest son of the late Rev. John Missing M.A., sincerely regretted.' And it's possible to read in Biddenham churchyard '... the Crimean War ...' within the words on the third side of the Missing obelisk with an inscription, the two other inscribed sides commemorating John McBride's father, Reverend John.

Henry's daughter, Ethel, wrote in 1959, as recalled in earlier editions of *The Loop*, an article entitled 'Henry Missing – A Queensland Pioneer' which includes more detail of Henry's brothers.

Ethel tells us that in the Crimean War 'John was an officer on the flag ship "Retribution"; he later dies from wounds and exposure.' HMS *Retribution*, launched in Chatham in 1844, on which John McBride served, has the distinction of being the first custom-built paddle wheel frigate in the Royal Navy.



William Hereford's watercolour painting, with *Retribution to the front*, her mast being shot away. [With thanks to Charles Miller]

is the subject of a painting by William Edward Hereford who at the time was midshipman of HMS *Trafalgar*.

Ethel has Henry with three brothers, rather than being one of three brothers, and has two of them, not just John McBride, fighting in the Crimea and both 'being awarded Silver Medals for bravery and service.' I haven't though been able to trace brother William Paschal fighting there.

The obituary adds about Henry's second brother ... 'also William Paschal, who was a "Times" correspondent and a composer of music' and a notice of William's death on 17 December 1868 adds too: '... aged 39, after some years of severe suffering borne with the greatest patience, William Paschal Missing, Esq., elder surviving son of the Rev John Missing M.A.'

A notice in August 1864, supportive of comments in the obituary, recorded that on 16th August in the Court of Bankruptcy 'Another meeting for the choice of assignees was in the bankruptcy of William Paschal Missing, formerly of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, undergraduate; then of Buline, Germany, newspaper correspondent; afterwards of Margaret-street, Cavendish-square, editor of the 'Orchestra' newspaper, &c. The debts are 2,317l. He attributes his bankruptcy to an action he

brought against the detaining creditor on alleged breach of contract'.

Ethel says: 'William Paschal Missing, educated at Caius College, Cambridge, won the Musical Oars race whilst there, and received a huge silver Cup, now in the possession of his nieces, the Misses Gartell, living in Sydney.'

William and his wife spent a great deal of time in Europe, when he was Foreign Correspondent for the "Times". Whilst staying in Germany, they made friends with the Emperor and Empress, the latter standing God-Mother to their little daughter, who was called Augusta after the Empress'.

I haven't been able to confirm William's link with The Times; the presence of his silver cup in Australia begs the question of how it got there, and I haven't been able to trace a connection with the Gartells: but there is more to tell another time about to whom the silver cup might have found its way.

It's likely Ethel's German royals were William, Prince Regent of Prussia, and his wife Augusta. William's daughter, Florence Augusta, was born on 12th June 1860, her birth announced on 23rd September at the British Legation in Berlin, when she was baptised there by the Chaplain.



Princess Augusta of Prussia, later Queen of Prussia & Empress of Germany. (With thanks to the Grand Ladies Site)

Prince William ascended the Prussian throne as William I, King of Prussia, on 2nd January 1861 on the death of his elder brother Frederick William IV, after Florence Augusta's birth, and became Emperor of Germany when that title came into effect on 1st January 1871.

Before we leave William, it's worth noting that he was born on 19th April 1829 which it happened that year was Easter Sunday, presumably why Sarah and John Missing chose Paschal as his second Christian name.

We know about the demise of Margaret Emily, John McBride, William Paschal, Julia and Henry

himself, which leaves two siblings, Susan Anna and Harriet Jessie.

We know little of Susan Anna other than a possible date of death of 1881.

Of Harriet Jessie, we know that on 13th June 1858 in the Church of the Holy Trinity, Brompton, she married Joseph John Godfrey Esq of Great Barford, eldest son of Nathaniel Godfrey Esq of Turvey, Bedfordshire. This might mean Harriet was living in London with her mother before her marriage, and it could also mean the family had retained links with Bedfordshire, in the vicinity of Biddenham.

Joseph John was born in March 1832 and baptised in August that year with his sister, Sarah Eliza, in the Independent Chapel in Turvey. Like his father, Joseph was a surgeon. He and Harriet had eight children, five daughters and three sons, and lived for much of their marriage in Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, where they were living in 1901 she 66 years old and he 69 years old and retired. Joseph died in 1909 and Harriet two years later in 1911.

As research progressed, a brother-in-law for Harriet appeared, think table-turning and telescopes, but was all as it first seemed?

Peter Applewhite

[With thanks to Trove for Australian newspaper extracts, for the British extracts to The British Newspaper Archive ([www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk)). Copyright The British Library. All rights reserved, and to the National Library of Australia for the article by Henry's daughter, Ethel]



## Alvan Davies

*As reported in July, Alvan Davies died on Saturday 10th June. We are grateful to Alvan's son Phil for the following eulogy.*

Alvan was a great raconteur and I've absolutely no doubt he'll be ruing this missed opportunity to be the centre of attention, to tell some anecdotes about his life and to offer advice on what should and shouldn't be included. Of one thing I am sure: he wouldn't have wanted this to be a sombre occasion and so the family is marking today as a celebration of a life well lived and lived to the full.

Alvan was born in 1930 in Blaenavon, a former coalmining and iron-working town, in what was Monmouthshire. At school he excelled at both his studies and at sports. He was the epitome of a local lad done good. On leaving school he spent four years at what is now Cardiff University, graduating with an honours degree in Education Psychology followed by a diploma and certificate of education. He did, however, play a great deal of sport, both football and rugby, and was awarded a blue representing the university at squash.

While he was at university he lived with his parents in Cardiff and it was here that, unbeknownst to him, a lady called Mrs Richards was to play one of the most significant roles in his life. Mrs Richards also lived in Cardiff and she took in lodgers. However, when a young, gifted woman who was about to start studying music at Cardiff College of Music and Drama was looking for lodgings, Mrs Richards house was full. Mrs Richards fortuitously suggested that she try Mr and Mrs Davies' home. Of course, that lodger was Daphne and it was there that she and dad first met and became a devoted, happy, loving couple eventually marrying in St David's Cathedral in 1956.

After university, dad joined the RAF as a training officer at the Medical Training Establishment before being posted to Hong Kong. On arrival there the received wisdom was that young couples leave Hong Kong with either a camphor wood chest or with a baby. They left with both – me being the baby.

He had numerous postings over the years spending time in Singapore and Aden before returning to the UK for the remainder of his RAF career. Photos from those days clearly show Alvan and Daphne as the most glamorous of couples who were clearly having the time of their lives.

It was around about this time that dad and a colleague were sent to Malaysia for an arduous, week-long jungle survival course. On completion of the course the wives joined these now highly trained professionals who were keen to show off their new-found skills. On taking their wives for a jungle exploration trip they almost immediately lost their way and becoming completely disorientated ended up eventually finding their way back - but only after many hours and many miles had passed with the four of them having to navigate water hazards and clambering up very steep slopes. Fortunately for dad, and for the RAF, that was his only jungle experience.

Most of his time in the RAF was spent on education and training. He lectured extensively in behavioural sciences at the RAF college at Cranwell and was a visiting lecturer at both the British Institute of Management and at Cambridge University. Following promotion from flying officer to flight lieutenant, flight lieutenant to squadron leader and then squadron leader to wing commander his final role was as Management Adviser to Air Officer Commanding

Training Command with responsibility for organisational development within the RAF.

Dad retired from the RAF as a wing commander in 1973 aged 42 - a young age to have achieved such a high rank - and the following year mum and dad moved to Biddenham after dad joined the staff at what was then Cranfield Institute of Technology as Registrar where he worked for the next twenty years.

So, not satisfied with one enormously successful career he embarked on another equally extraordinary one. As in the RAF, his talents were soon spotted and he was promoted a number of times to roles including Academic Registrar and Director of Development, working very closely as an advisor to the then Vice Chancellor, Sir Henry Chilver (who later became Lord Chilver of Cranfield).

His final role at Cranfield was Director of International Relations and Director of the International Ecotechnology Research Centre. Essentially, the post combined international educational, research and project activities for the university and the management and development of a research centre which networked its activities worldwide. The post involved considerable overseas and UK travel combining presentations and negotiations at the most senior level to industry, governments and universities – the aim of which was to promote Cranfield, attract investment and establish joint projects involving international teams. One of his most notable collaborators was Mr Honda (of Honda cars renown) and dad generated considerable external income for Cranfield, particularly built upon his relations with institutions and individuals in both Japan and China. There's no doubt that his contribution to the growth and development of Cranfield University left a lasting legacy.

In the late 1970s dad and Sir Henry Chilver sparked something of a diplomatic incident in China. They were visiting what was then Peking Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics to sign a pioneering agreement for some 50 lecturers and students to spend time at Cranfield on postgraduate programmes and for the staff to access Cranfield's resources and expertise. Following the meeting with senior staff from the Institute in Peking, dad and Sir Henry were invited to the Great Hall of the People just off Tiananmen Square where they met with one of China's Vice Premiers. Dad and Sir Henry subsequently appeared on television all over China talking about their plans and their importance for Cranfield and for Sino/British relations. I'm not entirely sure what happened next, but I suspect that they returned to their hotel for a celebratory drink to mark this groundbreaking initiative, only to receive a telephone call from the UK ambassador to China who was absolutely furious. He hadn't been briefed and knew nothing of their visit, learning only of its success having seen the news on China TV.

Lady Chilver remarked of dad's time at Cranfield that Alvan was one of Sir Henry's most successful appointments commenting on how much he relied on dad for his support and that it was so good for Sir Henry that he had someone with whom he could properly relax.

And that was one of dad's many skills. He was so good at bringing people together and making them feel at ease. He had a great sense of humour, he was interesting and interested in others, he was great company, fun to be with and he absolutely loved entertaining. Whatever he did he gave 100% and I've heard many people say that he was a true gentleman who made a positive impact on all who knew him.

However, for all of his undoubted analytical, social and intellectual qualities, his practical skills often let him down. While Tony, their younger son, was boarding at school in Hereford they bought a small house there which required some minor works. I recall dad deciding one day to fix the lounge door which didn't open properly because it was catching on the carpet. Dad removed the door and sawed an inch or so off the bottom so that it would clear

the carpet. On re-hanging it, it soon became apparent that rather than taking a chunk from the bottom of the door he'd taken it from the top. For the remainder of the time that we had that house the door continued to be difficult to open and we now had a draught that used to come through the top.

If we put his practical orientation to one side, there are three traits which have marked both of his careers: his undoubted leadership qualities, his role as an ambassador and his absolute commitment to whatever he was doing. He brought each of these to bear, not just on his time in the RAF and at Cranfield, but also into the roles he took on at Bedfordshire Golf Club and the wider county game.

Dad's first foray into the world of golf started when he joined Royal Lytham St Anne's in 1954. It was to become a lifelong passion. He continued membership of various golf clubs during his RAF postings in England and abroad before eventually joining Bedfordshire Golf Club 20 years later in 1974.

Next year would have marked 50 years of membership at BGC and it's a real understatement to say that he enjoyed making so many friends and had so much enjoyment both on and off the golf course. I can't emphasise enough how important were the group of friends whose company mum and dad enjoyed. Many of you will know that he spent many hours, not just as a good golf player, but also made an enormous contribution to the administration, management and promotion of golf at club and county levels, dedicating significant time to committee work and acting as an ambassador - supporting, encouraging and above all leading.

In the mid-1980s, following a year as vice-captain he was elected captain of BGC and for several significant years he was chair of the all-important development committee. That committee coordinated the enormously complex process of organising the club's move from Biddenham to Stagsden in 2000, which I recall taking a tremendous amount of his time. And for many years he was the club's county representative.

Amongst his many other roles he became vice-captain and then captain of Bedfordshire's captains society in 1996. More recently, he became president of Bedfordshire golf captains from 2019/20 where I'm told he delivered an outstandingly good speech to a rapt audience of past captains which, unlike this one, was entirely unscripted.

He had a long and distinguished involvement with county golf as the club representative for many years, sitting on the executive committee before being elected vice president and then the following year becoming county president in 2004/2005.

Latterly, he used to get a bit frustrated that his golf wasn't maybe as good it was in the past, but this certainly didn't detract from the enjoyment he took from playing with friends and with the seniors. He remained a passionate supporter of BGC and the county, not just as an outstanding administrator, but as an ambassador for all things golf in Bedfordshire and I know that he encouraged many others to take on similar roles. There is no doubt that he played a huge part in the evolution and progress of the development of golf in Bedfordshire. He was a proud man with much to be proud of.

In addition to his beloved golf he enjoyed gardening, playing bridge, snooker, travelling, doing the Telegraph crossword each day with mum and he was an outstanding sportsman. If he wasn't participating, he particularly enjoyed watching any sport but was an avid supporter of Cardiff City Football Club and of course the Wales rugby union team. He enjoyed the occasional pint at lunchtime with some great company and maybe a glass of whisky in the evening. Nothing gave him as much pleasure as having the whole family around, preferably over one of mum's wonderfully prepared dinners.

Dad was first diagnosed with skin cancer in 2006, receiving superb treatment at the Primrose Unit at Bedford hospital. He would go on to develop a range of health

problems over the next few years, each of which would be dealt with, with his customary stoicism, positivity and bravery. If I was to enquire about his health he'd usually say: "Not great...but anyway it's great to see you chum". And that was that. He was blessed to have my mum by his side for almost seventy years and she was a constant source of strength, love and support through all of that time, particularly recently as his health declined.

Even though his last few years were a struggle health-wise he fought to the very end remaining bright, up-beat, optimistic and ever-smart. He died peacefully, surrounded by his family following a short stay at the Sue Ryder St John's Hospice at Mogerhanger where he was looked after superbly by the staff there. A gentle and dignified death for a gentle and dignified man. I couldn't help but be struck by how apposite the RAF's motto was for dad's later life. Translated it means 'through adversity to the stars'. I am sure that dad will now be looking down on us from his place in the stars.

His was a remarkable life, full of achievement but maybe more importantly it was a life that was rich, happy and fulfilled. He will be sorely missed by his family and no doubt his friends and colleagues too. Alvan will live on in all of our treasured memories.

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# Biddenham History Society Questions Answered

As people left at the end of the meeting at which I'd talked about eight plus one people commemorated on blue plaques on buildings in Bedford (see Kathy Fricker's report on page 5), I was asked a couple of questions. One concerned blue plaques in London and the other whether a building in Moulsoe might be connected to the family of artist Dora Carrington, one of my blue plaque people. Here are the answers for you and for the two questioners.

The first question was: are there any blue plaques for Charlie Chaplin in London? The answer is yes; he has five commemorative plaques there, of which three are in the standard blue plaque format and two in different formats.



*With thanks to English Heritage and PA Media*

The three are at 15 Glenshaw Mansions, London SW9 (lived here, erected by English Heritage), 277 Walworth Road, London SE17 (Walworth-born comic genius, Voted by the People, erected by the London Borough of Southwark), and 39 Methley Street, Kennington, London SE11 (lived here, erected by The Dead Comics Society). An oval grey plaque with gold lettering was erected by The Vauxhall Society where Charlie had lived at 287 Kennington Road, London SE11, and a plaque in the form of a frame from a filmstrip was erected by the British Film Institute at Hanwell Community Centre, Westcott Crescent, London W7 where he attended The Central London District Schools, being one of 126 plaques erected by the BFI across Britain commemorating the Centenary of Cinema in 1996.

The answer to the second question, whether the Carrington Arms public house in Moulsoe might have a connection with Dora Carrington's family, is that based on the information below there is no reason to think so.



*The Carrington Arms, with thanks to The Endless British Pub Crawl*

The Carrington Arms is a Grade II listed building in the style of William Burges built in 1860 during the lifetime of the 2nd Baron Carrington. Burges worked for Lord Carrington at Moulsoe Church, as Lords of the Manor the Carringtons were Patrons of the church, and at Gayhurst House and estate, both owned then by the Carringtons. Burges was a prominent figure in the Gothic Revival movement in the 19th Century who designed and redesigned many buildings around the UK, both

ecclesiastical and secular, although it is not known if he himself designed the Carrington Arms.

The 2nd Baron (1796-1868), formerly Robert John Smith, was the only son of Robert Smith, 1st Baron Carrington, a banker and politician who was raised to the Peerage of Great Britain in 1797. Robert John had served as an MP for three different constituencies between 1818 and 1837, then entered the House of Lords on becoming 2nd Baron on the death of his father in 1838. He adopted the surname 'Carrington' by Royal Licence in 1839.

You might know of his great-grandson and the 6th Baron, Peter Carington, who served as Foreign Secretary in Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Cabinet from 1979 to 1982; the spelling of the surname had been changed to 'Carington' with one 'r' by Royal Licence in 1880 by the 2nd Baron's sons, but the spelling of the title didn't change. On Peter's death in 2018, his only son, Rupert Francis John Carington, became the 7th Baron Carrington, and has served as Lord Great Chamberlain of England since the accession of King Charles III in September 2022 in which role he took part in the Coronation of the King and Queen Camilla.

Peter Applewhite

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# Emmaus shortlisted for Reuse award - act quickly to help them win!

Bedfordshire homelessness charity Emmaus Village Carlton has made the final shortlist for the Reuse Organisation of the Year award by the national Reuse Network.

The Reuse Network is the UK's only membership body dedicated to charitable and voluntary reuse organisations who are helping reduce poverty, tackle waste and build brighter futures for all.

The homelessness charity, based in School Lane, Carlton, is one of just six organisations shortlisted for this prestigious award which relies on a public vote to establish the winner. To support Emmaus Village Carlton, voters should visit: <https://reuse-network.org.uk/time-to-vote-2023/> and select the charity from the list of six.

If successful, this will be the charity's second national award this year, having already scooped the Shopiogo 'Trade-in Shop of the Year Award' for scanning 10,501 pre-loved books, CDs, DVDs and computer games, through its online sales platform.

Voting for this latest gong will close on Wednesday 30th August and the winner will be announced at an awards ceremony during the Reuse Network's Gala Dinner on Tuesday 10th October.

Nick Samuels, interim Chief Executive of Emmaus Village Carlton, said: "We're delighted to have been shortlisted for this prestigious national award as we pride ourselves on our commitment to reusing and recycling. We resell tonnes of donated items and recycle large quantities of metal and wood.

"Our greatest success story has been our textiles and books; during the last year from July 2022 to June 2023 we sent over 160 tonnes of textiles and books to recycling or resell providers. This is a significant increase on previous years which has been made possible thanks to our committed and hardworking members of staff, companions and volunteers, all buying into the ethos behind it.

"Not only does this produce much-needed revenue for the charity, enabling us to provide brighter futures for people affected by homelessness, but it's ethically important to protect our environment and reduce our carbon footprint. We hope we are voted as winners by the public to see our efforts recognised."

The Reuse Organisation of the Year award goes to the reuse charity or social enterprise which has made a significant reuse achievement over the past year and is then voted as winner by the public.

For more information on the Reuse Network visit: <https://reuse-network.org.uk/what-is-reuse/what-we-do/>

To view a range of pre-loved items being sold on Emmaus Village Carlton's eBay store, click here: <https://www.ebay.co.uk/str/emmausvillagecarlton>

For details of Emmaus Village Carlton's community shop, visit: <https://emmaus.org.uk/village-carlton/our-shops/>



The award

## Bedford National Trust Association

Tuesday 19th September 2023

at 2.15pm in the Addison Centre, Kempston, MK42 APN

The speaker is Paul Forecast

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His topic is

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For further information please contact Betty Thomas on 01480 860 421

## Don't forget the Foodbank IN THESE DIFFICULT TIMES THE NEED IS URGENT

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### 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.



#### Are you nervous of using your smartphone, tablet or computer? You Can Do IT!

If you would like to be more confident, free one-to-one teaching and support is available in Bromham every Wednesday afternoon. BRCC's team of You Can Do IT! volunteers are teaching people how to use their smartphones, tablets and computers to connect to the internet safely, use email, make video calls and complete online forms. These skills can help you to access online health services, attend online classes and group sessions; use the NHS app; and more. Just call me if you want to help.

This initiative aims to improve people's health and wellbeing, reduce loneliness, decrease the burden on our local NHS, and increase people's ability to access online services and resources.

(If you'd like to volunteer your services to teach others, we'd love to hear from you too.)

#### Are you struggling to get by on a low income? Could Social Tariffs save you money?

##### Cheaper phone and broadband

- If you are receiving Universal Credit or Pension Credit, you could be saving money on your monthly mobile and broadband bills by switching to a Social Tariff. Current prices range from £10 to £20. Although it is a basic package, broadband speeds are mostly over 30 Mbit/s, so are fast enough for most needs. Prices are fixed and set up costs are next-to-nothing. Most providers offer a Social Tariff – check on [www.ofcom.org.uk](http://www.ofcom.org.uk) or ask me for help.

##### Help to reduce your water bill

- Every water company has a social tariff scheme which can help reduce your bills if you're on a low income. Who is eligible, and the level of support, varies so check with your water company to find out what help might be available to you.

#### Do you know how to recycle your household batteries?

Bedford Council makes it very easy for us. All you have to do is put your used batteries in a small, clear plastic bag and seal it when full. Then place the sealed bag on top of your black or orange lidded bin or sacks on your normal day of collection. Recycling batteries helps prevent soil contamination as well as recovering valuable metals.

#### Do you have a problem with incontinence?

Did you know that some types of Incontinence pads are available free via the NHS and can be delivered to your home? Just ask your GP for a referral to the Continence Service. For more information contact the Bedfordshire Continence Service 0345 602 4064. For useful information on conditions and treatment options, contact The Bladder and Bowel Foundation 01536 533 255 [www.bladderandbowelfoundation.org](http://www.bladderandbowelfoundation.org)

**Do You Need Help?** I can visit you at home if you need help applying for a Blue Badge, Bus Pass, Attendance Allowance etc. I am happy to answer other queries or worries you might have - just call me.

**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.)



# BRCC Platinum Ball

Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity was set up in 1953 as part of the Rural Community Councils set up across the United Kingdom. During the first three years, they became associated with many social aspects of rural life – such as playgrounds and playing fields; clubs and services for the elderly, village halls and Parish Councils – which promoted improvements to their local communities.

Much of this work still continues today, alongside new projects and services which have evolved over the years.

Over the past 70 years, both past and current staff and volunteers here have been an integral part of improving the lives of those living in Bedfordshire. Beds RCC's projects and services benefit local communities in areas such as rural development, wellbeing, and community transport. The charity also owns two non-profit businesses: Ridgmont Station Heritage Centre and Tea Room and Warden Abbey Community Vineyard.

The Platinum Ball is Bedfordshire RCC's main celebratory event of the year and will be held at The Swan Hotel, Bedford overlooking the River Great Ouse on Friday 3rd November.

There are limited tickets available, so book your ticket soon to ensure you get a space. Tickets are £85 per person and include a drinks reception, three course dinner, after dinner entertainment, DJ, silent auction and raffle.

Purchase your ticket here: [www.bedsrcc.org.uk/ball](http://www.bedsrcc.org.uk/ball)

BEDFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITIES CHARITY invite you to their

## Platinum Ball

in celebration of their

# 70th Anniversary

Friday 3rd November  
7pm until late

Tickets - £85.00  
Includes: drinks reception, 3 course meal, silent auction, raffle, live entertainment, DJ and dancing.

THE BEDFORD SWAN HOTEL  
THE EMBANKMENT  
BEDFORD ROAD MK40 1RW

Please visit: [www.bedsrcc.org.uk/ball](http://www.bedsrcc.org.uk/ball) or scan the QR code below to purchase your tickets.

Please email [info@bedsrcc.org.uk](mailto:info@bedsrcc.org.uk) if you have any queries.

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## Mobile Library

### Dates for September

#### Biddenham

Thursdays: 7th, 21st September  
St Joseph's School 10.00 to 10.40am  
Three Tuns 10.45 to 11.05am  
Church End 11.10 to 11.25am

#### Great Denham

Saturdays: 2nd, 16th, 30th September  
Community Hall 2.20 to 2.40pm

# This month in the garden

As I start to put my gardening thoughts together for this September article the rain is pouring down outside my office window. My lawns are lush and I have been able to keep the pots and tubs ticking over with just a watering can. How unlike last summer when we sweltered in the heat and the grass was just straw. I have to say my preferred option is the weather this year but I am aware that not everyone feels the same. I have been lucky as when I have been on my travels to various parts of this country over the last two months I have left behind the rainy weather in Biddenham and enjoyed brilliant sunshine elsewhere. The gardens at Hidcote, Highgrove and Ickworth as well as friends' private gardens have certainly benefitted from the rain and were all looking splendid. I was also pleased to see that there were a fair few butterflies, especially at Hidcote, and I have seen more Red Admirals in my garden this year. I understand that in the heat and drought of 2022 70% of the trees planted that year as part of the Forest of Marston Vale scheme died. Let's hope that those planted this year have fared better. I am pleased to say that the 20 or so trees that my family and I planted as part of this scheme five years ago, in memory of my late husband, have survived.

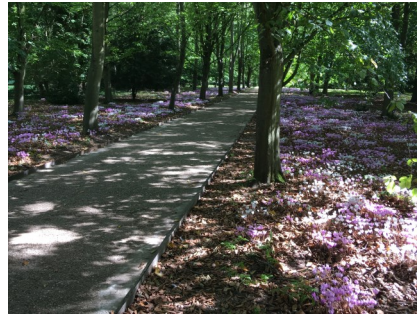


Whilst staying with my friends in Broad Campden they took me to a small secret garden in Chipping Campden. A notice at the entrance said it was a memorial garden to Ernest Wilson. It was only when we were exclaiming about the beautiful tactile bark of the Prunus Serrula and the papery chestnut brown bark of the Acer Griseum that I realised that the garden was, in fact dedicated to **THE** Ernest Wilson - the renowned plant hunter known as 'Chinese' Wilson and who, in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, had travelled to China and Japan collecting so many of the wonderful plants we take for granted in our gardens today. Wilson introduced around 1,200 species of trees and shrubs to this country and collected over

100,000 preserved plant specimens. He discovered the Chinese Gooseberry (Kiwi Fruit) and the beautiful 'Handkerchief tree' plus magnolias and hydrangeas. One of his most exciting discoveries was the fabulous white Lilium Regale growing wild in the Min River Valley in 1903. It was here that he was caught in a terrible landslide, his leg was badly broken and he walked with a limp from that time onwards. I had no idea that he was born in Chipping Campden and so it was lovely to visit the garden which contains plants selected from the 1,200 he discovered. The garden was opened in 1984 by Roy Lancaster, the well known broadcaster and plant hunter, and is well worth a visit if you are in that part of the Cotswolds.

At this time of the year we are all trying to keep our summer gardens going for as long as possible. Keep deadheading and watering. Some plants are now at their absolute best. Cosmos, Rudbeckia, Echinacea, Physalis, Micklemas Daisies, Hemerocallis, Liriope Mascari to name a few are providing us with such vibrant, jewelled colours and the borders just sing out. This is especially true at Hidcote where the collection of rare plants and wonderful borders provide inspiration for visitors from around the world. If you have been sowing seed from foxgloves and other biennials now is the time to transplant them. I have also been taking cuttings of tender perennials - salvias and

pelargoniums are so easy to get going in a gritty, free draining compost.





*Cyclamen at Anglesey Abbey*

I am looking forward to seeing the autumn flowering hardy cyclamen hederifolium peeping through in various parts of my garden. Anglesey Abbey always has a magnificent display of these. They seem to do well under shrubs as they will tolerate light shade. Towards the end of September we can

make a start on planting bulbs for next Spring. Narcissi, crocus, allium, scillas and grape hyacinths can all be planted now but do wait until November before planting tulip bulbs. The cold temperatures help to wipe out viral and fungal diseases that lurk in the soil and may infect tulip bulbs. Tulips can be particularly prone to botrytis which causes 'tulip fire' and planting later seems to help deter this. If you do buy your tulip bulbs before November keep them somewhere cool, dark and dry. I will be growing Tulipa Ballerina again this year. This is a lovely lily flowered tulip with soft tangerine orange flowers and it is scented when warmed by the sun. It also has the advantage of being perennial meaning that it will return year after year which is not true of a number of tulip varieties.

And don't forget - the middle of September is the absolute latest you can plant prepared hyacinth bulbs if you want them to flower for you on Christmas Day.

Linda Truscott

## Quiz Night

**Saturday 30th September at 7p.m.**

**Teams of 6 / 8**


**Or make up a table with others**

**Two course supper**

**Bar for wines, beer and soft drinks**

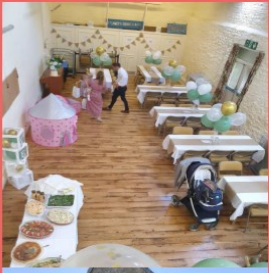
**Tickets £15 from Liz Watson**

**liz4watson@aol.com or 345028**



**Proceeds to Autism Bedfordshire**

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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



## 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 and disabled facilities.

This month we wanted to share with you more information about the Revive group who are regulars using the Barn once a month on the third Sunday at 7.00pm. The group starts with a short act of worship over coffee and then unfolds the scriptures together. All are welcome to join in, new and old faces will be greeted warmly into the Barn.

**REVIVE**  
Coffee  
Bible  
Fellowship

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

If you would like to hire the Barn for any type of small 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](mailto:stjamesbarnbiddenham@gmail.com)

Jane and Rebecca

## Biddenham Gardeners' Association

### Programme of Meetings 2023

- 19<sup>th</sup> September **Flowers through my Viewfinder**  
By Hemant Jariwala
- 17<sup>th</sup> October **History of Suburban Gardens**  
By Twigs Way
- 21<sup>st</sup> November **The 12 Plants of Christmas**  
By Timothy Walker
- 19<sup>th</sup> December **The 2023 Christmas Party!**  
All Welcome!

7:30pm

Biddenham Village Hall

Visitors are very welcome\*

(Includes raffle and refreshments)

\*£5 per person on the door

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



## BIDDENHAM SHOW 10th SEPTEMBER 2023

### BOTTLE STALL REQUEST FOR DONATIONS



Should you wish to donate some bottles for this year's Biddenham Show, please call Jane on 07831 172320 or email [jane@80klttd.co.uk](mailto:jane@80klttd.co.uk) in the period 1st – 8th September to arrange delivery or collection.

(Bottles must be unopened and within their best before date)



# North Bedfordshire Ramblers

## Join us for a walk

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

### September Walks

2nd pm Lidlington, 6.5 miles

**Bedfordshire Festival of Walks Starts 9th September.**

This is a selection of the walks. There are many more. Full details available on [www.lramblers.org.uk/BFAW](http://www.lramblers.org.uk/BFAW)

9th am Roxton 12 miles, or am Riseley 4.3 mile or pm Riseley 7 miles,

11th am Beeston Green, 3 mile Wellbeing Walk

12th am Silsoe Community Sports Centre, 3.7 mile Wellbeing Walk

13th am Harrold Country Park, 11 miles

14th am Colmworth Golf Club 5 miles Wellbeing Walk

14th am Priory Park 5.5 walk and John Bunyan Boat trip – booking required

16th am Old Warden, 5.5 miles or pm Stagsden 7 miles or pm Clophill 6 miles

17th am Mowsbury Park 6 miles or pm Upper Dean 6 miles

**Festival Ends - Normal NBR walking resumes -**

23rd am Millbrook – 4th part of John Bunyan Train 9.2 miles or pm Kemspton Mill 6.75 miles

30th pm Wootton 6 miles

Contact; Margaret Sawyer 07780933729 Facebook; North Beds Ramblers

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

## Bedfordshire Festival of Autumn Walks

Hosted by 

**9th to 17th September 2023**

Explore our beautiful little county on foot



*All walks are free and most do not require booking*

Full details on

[www.lramblers.org.uk/BFAW](http://www.lramblers.org.uk/BFAW)

Leighton Buzzard Ramblers, North Beds Ramblers  
Lea & Icknield (Luton) Ramblers, Ivel Valley Walkers



## Quiz Evening with Fish & Chip Supper

All Saints Church Hall in Queens Park  
Saturday 23rd September 2023

Commencing at 7.30pm

**£10 to include tea/coffee – you can bring own drinks also!!**

The quiz is being organised by the local Shalom Group of Churches, which includes St James's Church.

The need to support each other has become very important – so please come to this event to help keep the faith alive and well.

Any further information please contact me [l.hurn@btinternet.com](mailto:l.hurn@btinternet.com) or telephone 01234 364251.

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## Bedford Deanery Synod

A deanery synod is a synod convened by the Area Dean. It consists of all clergy licensed to a benefice within the deanery plus elected lay members.

At the June meeting held at Kempston Transfiguration Church a presentation was given by Robert Hargrave, Director of Communications and Dave Pickett who has a creative and digital role in the Diocese.

Robert has quite a wide remit being responsible for all media enquiries for senior members of the Bishop's staff and also for church schools in the diocese. Some of his work involves communication around safeguarding matters. Dave's digital role includes new initiatives, emails, social media and photoshoots.

Both stressed the increasing importance of videos e.g. TikTok. Robert finished by saying that as a church we should not underestimate what we can do whatever our age.

Finally, Revd David Thomas of Christ Church Bedford updated us on what is happening at his church. An engagement group has been established to listen to the community and so better understand what their needs are and define how the church may respond.

Margaret Lowe

## Correction

The April edition of The Loop carried a report from the Bedford Deanery Chapter meeting on 15th March 2023 which mentioned the presentation of Gillian Kern.

Unfortunately some of the detail in the article was incorrect and Gillian has been in touch to correct the record as follows:

"I am a Reader not an ordained minister and as well as being a voluntary Anglican chaplain at HMP The Mount I'm a Reader in the Benefice of Silsoe, Pulloxhill and Flitton."

We are sorry for the error and apologise for any embarrassment caused.

Jean Gambold

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**FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH\***

**CHILDREN'S COMMUNITY CINEMA**

\*TERM TIME ONLY - DATE MAY CHANGE IN JULY/SEPTEMBER/DECEMBER

DOORS OPEN 3.30PM -  
FILM STARTS AT 3.45PM

ONLY £1.50 PER CHILD (UNDER 2'S FREE IF ACCOMPANYING AN OLDER SIBLING)

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# Biddenham Cricket Club

The wet summer has not affected Biddenham Cricket Club as much as many in the country. Saturdays seem to have suffered the worst from the rain, but luckily the club do not play matches on that day.

The Senior team has won more matches than it has lost and are currently placed third of nine teams in the Bedfordshire County League Division One (The Premier Division is above us). Finding 11 players remains a challenge for the majority of the season, but, as last year, August has proved to be the best month for player availability. At the time of writing there are three fixtures remaining including 'local derbies' away at Bedford on 20th August and Queens Park on 3rd September.

The final home match is on 27th August against Ickwell.

It is possible to keep track of the team's performance via this link: <https://bedscccl.play-cricket.com/website/division/109825>.

The junior section of the club has again seen a great deal of activity. All the league matches have been completed, but there have been some friendly matches played in July and August by the Sunday Development Team containing a mixture of juniors and a few adult players, mostly parents.

The ground has required a lot of attention this year because of the weather. Peter Marks has kindly cut the grass almost every week since April, which is a contrast to last year when the grass did not grow for weeks on end. I have received a number of comments from passersby remarking on the excellent condition of the Pavilion Field.

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

Richard Fone

Club news, fixtures and results appear on the website at:

<http://biddenham.play-cricket.com/home>

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

Contact numbers:

Chairman	Glenn Taylor	07778 479479
Junior Chairman	Chris Spurgeon	07707 771606
Cricket Secretary	Richard Fone	07818 678697
Safeguarding Officer	Katie Ulvert	01234 954133



# Cricket coaching assistant course

In conjunction with Cricket East, Biddenham Cricket Club organised a Coaching Assistant Course at Biddenham on Monday 7th August.

The course was run by Brad Matthews, the Cricket East Club and Community Manager - the picture shows him giving his closing words to the participants at the end of the two and a half hour session.

The nine participants were all Biddenham CC members or parents of junior members: Dillon Basi, Navin Chodha, Richard Edwards, Rob Featherstone, Basharat Iqbal, Sam Kumar, Andy McIntyre, Alex Priestley and Majid Qureshi. Jagtar Singh organised the event with the view of increasing coaching skills within the club for future seasons.



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# Dr Jimmy Burt meets the King

## Dambusters 80th Anniversary

On 24th July Biddenham centenarian, Dr Jimmy Burt, was invited to an afternoon tea with King Charles at RAF Coningsby, Lincolnshire to mark the 80th anniversary of the Dambusters Raid.

Hosted by the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight (BBMF), who conserve and display the aircraft, the event commemorated Operation 'Chastise' – the Dambusters Raid – which took place on 16th-17th May 1943.

We caught up with him to learn what this experience meant to him.

### A Royal invitation

I was invited because I'm one of the oldest surviving medical officers in the RAF. I was medical officer to the Dambusters for a short time after the war.

Eighteen veterans were invited to join the crew, engineers and mechanics of the BBMF for the tea, which was held in the hangar that houses the BBMF Lancaster, Spitfires and Hurricanes.

When the King arrived, he joined the top table. We heard gusts of laughter from his table and I thought, this isn't going to be a stiff event. One of the people on his table was a Pathfinder [target marking squadron] called Colin Bell who is 102. He had a surveyor's business and worked until he was 99, then decided he was old enough to retire.

### Meeting the King

There were two veterans on my table, Rusty Waughman, a Lancaster pilot, and Bill Clasper, an engineer. The others on the table were all engineers and pilots from the BBMF.

Rusty had brought along a postcard of a Lancaster bomber with him flying it, which he wanted us all to sign.

Then we got the signal that the King was coming to our table. We had to address him as Your Majesty when he came to the table, but after than he just chatted away. It was like having a friend in for a cup of tea.



Postcard including the King's signature

He asked about the Lancaster postcard and when Rusty explained that we'd all signed it, he got out his pen and signed it too.

He was interested in how many missions Rusty had flown and spoke to Bill about dropping anti-submarine buoys around the French ports.

When he saw I was a medical officer he asked how I had got into the RAF. I told him when I qualified in medicine, I joined the Air Force and asked to be posted to a flying station. I knew very little about aviation medicine, which was still new. He said he'd been to Cranwell where they're well into aviation medicine now.

He then thanked us all and off he went to another table. He spoke to all the veterans. Afterwards he took a look inside the Lancaster.

While he was doing this, they laid out chairs under the wing of the Lancaster and all the veterans were seated along the front row. When he came out of the aircraft he sat down in the middle and the official Air Force photographer took photos.

Then he thanked everyone, said how much he had enjoyed the day, and was whisked away in a helicopter. The whole thing went absolutely perfectly.

### Proud granddaughter

One of my twin granddaughters was on the phone afterwards and said: "I'm the proudest granddaughter in the world. You met the King and you're in the newspapers!"

Janet Field



Jimmy Burt is seated 4th left of the King

## ST JAMES'S CHURCH

## HARVEST FESTIVAL

Sunday October 8<sup>th</sup>

COME AND ENJOY THE CHURCH FLOWERS

GUIDED TOURS OF THE CHURCH

CREAM TEAS IN THE CHURCH BARN

3.30pm to 5.30pm Price £5.00

Proceeds to St. James's Church  
Biddenham



## Peter's Picturehouse In September

Date: Tuesday 5th Sept 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](mailto:peterspicturehouse@gmail.com)

Coming soon...

Tues 3rd Oct

The Fugitive (12)

## Peter's Picturehouse

Our next film, showing on Tuesday 5th September is the 2022 film, **See How They Run** (12A), starring Adrien Brody, Sam Rockwell and Saoirse Ronan. This is a fun murder mystery where Sam Rockwell and Saoirse Ronan's characters are investigators. With great comedic timing, they look into the murder of the director who has been hired to make a screen adaptation of a long running West End play.

The film received positive reviews from critics, being in UK cinemas in September last year. It was also nominated for Outstanding British Film in the British Academy Film Awards.

We look forward to welcoming you, especially if you have not been before, to Biddenham Village Hall on the first Tuesday of each month when doors open at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start to the film. Tickets are £5 on the door and we recommend you reserve a ticket in advance using the contact details below. We have hot and cold drinks, ice creams and popcorn on sale before the film and in an interval and we take payment in cash or credit card.

In October, we plan to show an older film, **The Fugitive** (12), from 1993, starring Harrison Ford.

To reserve tickets:  
phone/text/email : **07818 878491** or  
[peterspicturehouse@gmail.com](mailto:peterspicturehouse@gmail.com).

Please give name and contact number with number of tickets that you require.

Tues 6th September See How They Run  
Tues 3rd October The Fugitive

Rose Houghton

## Activity Programme



### Monday

9.15-1:35pm Baby Ballet Sessions\*  
2-3pm Tai Chi  
5-6pm Rainbows\*  
6-7.15pm Brownies\*  
6.15-7pm- Legs, Bums and Tums  
7.30 – 9.30pm Kendo Kai Martial Arts  
7.30-9.30pm Parish Council  
Community Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month  
7.30-8.30 Zumba

### Tuesday

11.30-1.30pm Pink Penguin Poppets Sessions\*  
5-5.45pm Donatella's Contemporary School of Dance (DCSD) – Juniors\*  
5.50-6.35pm DCSD – young adults\*  
6-7pm ((Bounce))  
6.45-7.45 Pure Core Pilates  
7.30-8.30pm Zumba  
8.15-9.15pm B Ascending Yoga

### Wednesday

9am-2.30pm Baby Sensory Sessions  
9.45-11.45am Restoration Pilates  
5.50-6.40pm Donatella's CSD – Adults\*  
6.50-7.50pm Pure Core Pilates  
7-8pm Zumba Step  
8-10pm- Swingsters Dance Sessions

### Thursday

9.00-11.30 Baby Ballet sessions\*  
09:30-10:30am Happy Body Project Zest  
10.30-11.30am Mum & Baby Fitness\*  
10-12pm Community Tea & Talk  
6.15-6.45 St Hilaire Fitness  
7-8pm Fit Steps  
7-8 Tai Chi  
8.15-9.15pm Belly Dancing  
8.30-10.00 pm Kendo Kai Martial Arts

### Friday

9.30-11.30am Restoration Pilates  
12.30-2.30 Friday Prayers  
3.30-5pm Family Film Friday\* 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the Month  
6.15-7pm UKTI Martial Arts – Children  
6.30-11pm The Great Swan Pub  
7.15-8pm UKTI Martial Arts - Adults

### Saturday

8.30-11.15am Rugby Tots Sessions\*  
8.45-11am Brennan School of Dance Sessions\*  
11.15-1pm Kids Boxercise Sessions\*

### Sunday

9am-12.30pm Woodside Church Congregation  
1-4pm Eagles Tent Gospel Ministries  
7.30pm-10pm Havana Salsa Sessions

All bookings marked \* usually only operate during the school term. Visit [www.greatdenhamcommunityhall.co.uk](http://www.greatdenhamcommunityhall.co.uk) for full class details and booking arrangements

## 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**

1st September, 6th October

## 100 CLUB June draw

The winners were:

1st	David Watson	156
2nd	John Watson	43
3rd	Phillipa Hooley	66

Drawn by Phil Mussellwhite



## July draw

The winners were:

1st	Maureen Sackett	318
2nd	David Watson	76
3rd	Richard Ebbs	494

Drawn by Iris Atkinson-King

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

## 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](mailto:bahenry0309@gmail.com)

## Quilting & Sewing Group



Biddenham Village Hall  
10.30 a.m.

Last Friday of each month

*Pop in and see what goes on*



## Hall Booking Details

### Biddenham Village Hall

From the Village Hall website you can check availability on the diary, look at the facilities and fill in a booking form. Contact details for regular events are also there.  
[www.biddenhamvillagehall.org.uk](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)



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

Membership  
Treasurer

Peter Leverkus  
Paul Fricker

Tel: 353662  
Tel: 342843

## Regular Events in Biddenham Halls

### For contact details see the Hall websites

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

For details of regular events at Great Denham Community Hall see page 21

<b>Monday</b>		
Cha Char Chimps	10.00am	Village Hall
Angie Pearl Yoga	10.00-11.00am	Pavilion
Ukrainian Clothing Evening	5.30-7.30pm (1 <sup>st</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup> 5 <sup>th</sup> in month)	Church Barn
Storm Martial Arts	7.00-8.00pm	Pavilion
Guides	7.15pm Termtime	Village Hall
<b>Tuesday</b>		
Ladies only exercise class	9.20-10.15am (termtime)	Church Barn
Over 50s fitness	10.00-11.00am	Pavilion
Postnatal and baby massage	10.30am-12.30pm Termtime (except 3 <sup>rd</sup> in the month)	Village Hall
Mum & baby exercise class	10.30-11.30am (termtime)	Church Barn
St James's Book Club	2.00-4.00pm (1 <sup>st</sup> in month)	Church Barn
Street Dance	5.15-6.45pm	Pavilion
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 (1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> 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
<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
Baby Ballet	5.00-6.00pm	Pavilion
Yoga Flow & Meditation for women	6.45-8.45pm	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	10.05-11.00am	Church Barn
Brushstrokes Art Group	2.15-4.15pm	Pavilion
St James's Choir Practice	7.00-8.30pm	Church Barn
Storm Martial Arts	6.30-8.00pm	Pavilion
<b>Saturday</b>		
Pregnancy Yoga & Wellbeing	9.30am & 11.30am	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 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 <sup>st</sup> or 2 <sup>nd</sup> of the month)	Church Barn
<b>Sunday</b>		
St James's church service coffees	11.00am-12noon	Church Barn
Taekwondo	11.30am-1.30pm	Village Hall
St James's Revive	7.00-8.00pm (3 <sup>rd</sup> in month)	Church Barn

## September

- Fri 1 Sep First Friday lunch, Biddenham Village Hall, 12.15pm, see p22  
 Fri 1 Sep Children's Community Cinema, Great Denham Community Hall, 3.30pm, see p18  
**Sun 3 Sep Said Holy Communion, All Saints, 9.00am**  
**All Age Worship, St James's, 10.00am**  
 Mon 4 Sep Great Denham Parish Council, Community Hall, 7.30pm  
 Tue 5 Sep Peter's Picture House, Biddenham Village Hall, 7.00pm, see p21  
 8-10 Sep Hash House Harriers Jamboree, see p7  
 9-17 Sep Bedfordshire Festival of walks, see p17  
 Sun 10 Sep Biddenham Show, see pp1, 6, 16  
**Sun 10 Sep Said Holy Communion, St James's, 9.00am**  
**Lay led worship, St James's, 10.00am**  
**Holy Communion, All Saints, 10.00am**  
**Sung Evensong, St James's, 6.00pm**  
**Sun 17 Sep Holy Communion, All Saints, 9.00am**  
**Holy Communion, St James's, 10.00am**  
 Tue 19 Sep Café B, Biddenham Village Hall, 10.15-11.45am, see p11  
 Tue 19 Sep Bedford National Trust Association, Addison Centre, Kempston, 2.15pm, see p13  
 Tue 19 Sep Biddenham Parish Council. Biddenham Pavilion, 7.30pm  
 Tue 19 Sep Biddenham Gardeners Association, Biddenham Village Hall, 7.30pm, see p16  
 Sat 23 Sep Quiz Night with Fish & Chips, All Saints, Queens Park, 7.30pm, see p17  
**Sun 24 Sep Sung Holy Communion, All Saints, 9.00am**  
**Holy Communion, St James's, 10.00am**  
 Fri 29 Sep Quilting & Sewing Group, Biddenham Village Hall, 10.30am, see p18  
 Sat 30 Sep Quiz Night, Biddenham Village Hall, 7.00pm, see p15

## October

- Sun 1 Oct Said Holy Communion, All Saints, 9.00am**  
**All Age Worship, St James's, 10.00am**  
 Tue 3 Oct Peter's Picture House, Biddenham Village Hall, 7.00pm, see p21  
 Fri 6 Oct First Friday lunch, Biddenham Village Hall, 12.15pm, see p22  
 Fri 6 Oct Children's Community Cinema, Great Denham Community Hall, 3.30pm, see p18  
 Sun 8 Oct Harvest Festival, Church Barn, 3.30-5.30pm, see p20  
 Sun 8 Oct Save the Children Craft & Gift Fair, Biddenham Pavilion, 10.00am -3.00pm, see p3  
 Mon 9 Oct Biddenham History Society, Church Barn, 2.30-4.30pm, see p5  
 Sat 14 Oct Ouse Valley Singers, St Owen's Church Bromham, 7.30pm, see p12  
 Tue 24 Oct Creepy Crafts, Great Denham Community Hall, see p5  
 Fri 27 Oct Monster Mash, Great Denham Community Hall, see p5  
 Sun 29 Oct Biddenham Society AGM, Biddenham Village Hall, 12 for 12.30pm, see p4

For regular events at the Church Barn, Pavilion, Biddenham Village Hall and Great Denham Community see pages 21 and 23

For Mobile Library dates see page 14  
 For North Beds Ramblers Walks see page 17

## The Loop

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All October 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 20th September please.

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