

The Loop

November
2023

£1.50

Gold medal for Great Denham resident

Maddox Kabbina of Great Denham achieved a gold medal in the Taekwondo Championships at Southampton in October. See page 17 for details.

Biddenham Show update

In addition to providing a brilliant day out, this year's Biddenham Show made a surplus of £3,800 much of which will be donated to village good causes.

For details see page 3.

New Ukrainian School opens in Biddenham



A new Ukrainian Saturday School dedicated to preserving the Ukrainian heritage of children displaced by the war with Russia has been opened at St James' School in Biddenham.

For details see pages 8-9.

Biddenham History Society

The talk by Jean Fullerton 'Put That Light Out. The ARP in World War Two' that was postponed on 10th October will now take place in the Church Barn on Monday, 6th November from 2.30pm – 4.30pm. I hope that you will be able to come and hear what will be a very interesting talk.

Kathy Fricker

Quiz raises over £900

The Village Hall quiz on 30th September raised £935 which has been donated to Autism Bedfordshire.

Thank you to all those who came and to all those who made it such a fun evening.

Liz Watson

Appalling car crash at The Paddock

Many Biddenham residents were appalled when they heard of a terrifying crash on the Main Road/The Paddock junction at teatime on Saturday 14th October. A number of people were close to the incident and it is amazing that no-one was seriously hurt.

Eye witnesses saw two cars 'racing' along Biddenham Turn and into Main Road, apparently at speeds in excess of 80mph. One of the drivers failed to control his car at King's Corner and, fortunately for the occupants of the vehicle, ended up in the bushes at the entrance to The Paddock having somehow missed nearby pedestrians. The young driver and his even younger companion walked away unscathed.

This is the latest in a series of examples of irresponsible and illegal driving in Biddenham which is occurring village wide and causing much concern.

Just prior to this incident, Parish Council Chairman, Stewart Briggs and Borough Councillor, Jon Gambold held a meeting with the Mayor and Borough Officers to explain the problem to them and seek solutions (see the Parish Council report on page 5). So far (22nd October), there has been no positive response from the Mayor, but both Stewart and Jon continue to press.

Jean Gambold

Remembrance Day in Biddenham

The service at Biddenham War Memorial will start at 10.50am on Sunday 12th November.

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



'The Loop' is published by the Parish Church of St James as a service to the communities of Biddenham and Great Denham
The editor welcomes contributions, which may be edited, from residents and friends via email to loopeditor@gmail.com



Letter from the Vicar

Hello all

Despite feeling much more like Autumn, today was a beautiful day with bright sun shining through the clouds. I walked Meg across the fields that used to be a stark green golf course. I know some people may violently disagree with me, but I have always thought that golf courses were

a shameful waste of good wildlife reserve and meadow land. The grass was high, the colour of gold, and the trees were covered in so many different autumn shades.

I looked at four trees that reminded me of Egon Schiele's painting of four trees. Schiele was a student of Gustav Klimt, and throughout his life he produced layered townscapes, landscapes and erotic and explicit nudes, all reflecting his troubled mind. He lived just 28 years, dying just three years after his pregnant wife, of the same Spanish flu that she died of in 1918. The Spanish flu pandemic claimed the lives of approximately 50 million people, while the Great War claimed the lives of just 16 million people. As we carry our poppies in November, it would be good to recall these stark figures.

I took a photograph on my phone of the four trees, catching the colour of the landscape. As you may know, photography is my thing, and photographs require processing and interpretation. There is one problem with the image however. The sun was behind me and very low in the sky, so it cast a long shadow on the grass before me. I am behind my camera phone but, because of the shadow, I am very much present in the image.

This often carries meaning in a photograph. The troubled American photographer, Vivian Maier (1926-2009), whose significant body of work was not discovered until after her death, often used to capture candid images with her Rolleiflex twin lens reflex camera, with her shadow in the picture, making her presence felt in the moment.

Her shadow carries a deeply dark history, her obsessive need to possess her voyeuristic images of others comes from a deeply abused background. This history projects the shadow of herself into her images. Her images demonstrate a history of brokenness and trauma.

Schiele's images, however, have no shadows, except his own deeply troubled past and unstable mental health. The distortion of his images distinctly reflect the swirly chaotic images created by Vincent Van Gogh, who produced a significant body of work while being treated at

the asylum of Saint-Rémy-de-Provence, located in the monastery of Saint-Paul-de-Mausole. Unlike, perhaps, Schiele, it was light and colour that cast the shadows on his work. His images, in contrast to Schiele's images, are vibrant and colourful.

We remember the Great War of 1914-18, not because we celebrate some great military victory, but because of the sheer human cost of the evils of war. It is the same evil that we see in every war since then, including the terrible wars taking place now all over the world. The experiences shared with me by Ukrainian refugees have brought it home to me in a very deep way over the last 18 months. I have felt their trauma in my own life deeply.

As we celebrate Remembrance with its bright ceremonial order and all its pomp, let us reflect on the shadow of the silence and fill that silence, in our mind, with the utter horror and violence of conflict; the grief, the death, those who lose everything because of war, its impact on women, children and the innocents around the world. Let us remember that these shadows are cast by the light of God's truth. The light reminds us what Remembrance is for; not colour and the celebration of conflict and victory, but that the only thing that brings vibrance and colour to our future is justice, equality and peace.

God bless

Eric

Christmas Memories

We all have someone who cannot be with us, especially at Christmas.

Christmas is a time for remembering; family, friends and those who are no longer with us.

The Christmas tree in St James's this year will be rather special in that it will be possible to purchase a suitably labelled bauble to hang on the tree. To support Church Funds, it has been decided to charge £1 for each name on a bauble.

The baubles will remain on the Christmas tree throughout the Christmas period. This will remind us all of the people we are thinking of at this special time.

Baubles, together with suitable labels, can be obtained in the Church over the Christmas period.

Hilary Hurn



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

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 Lois Nash Tel 961826

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Treasurer Simon King treasurer@stjamesbiddenham.com

Organist/Choirmaster Adam Wright
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Biddenham Show update

We are very pleased to report that the surplus from this year's show is £3,800. Not quite as much as 2022, when we raised an amazing £4,500, but much more than in the years pre-Covid. 2022 was an exceptional year, when there was a general outpouring of community spirit being the first Show for two years and being held a few days after the death of the Queen. This year, we were adversely affected by the hot weather and the cancellation of the Fun Dog Show, but our main objective is to provide a good time for everyone, which based on the comments we have received, we achieved, and to give something back to our community.

We know people are interested in how the funds are generated and how much the Show costs to put on and therefore we have provided the following summary:

Results of the Biddenham Show 2023

Surplus after costs	£
Stalls	280
Sponsorship	1,850
Gate	1,372
Donations	61
Interest	32
Concessions	215
Raffle	807
Bouncy castle	-8
Bottle stall	717
Beer Tent	563
Teas	553
Human Fruit Machine	80
Book stall	206
Traditional games	304
	<hr/>
	7,032
General costs of 2023 Show	-3,183
Net surplus	3,849

We are considering using some of this year's surplus to buy more garden chairs, some traffic cones to replace the ones that disappeared during the Show, and a smaller marquee, but we will still have funds to distribute. We have received several funding requests already, but we would like to remind people that our deadline for such requests is Friday 10th November, so there is still plenty of time. Requests can be submitted either to me jane@80kltd.co.uk or through the Biddenham Show website. Please provide some information as to what the funding will be used for.

One of the aims of this year's Show was to increase the participation of Young Biddenham in the planning of the Show, helping run the Show (which we achieved with our Kid's Corner) and taking part in the competitions. We would like to share with you a photo of James Kostuch, the proud winner of the Young Biddenham Photographer cup and the Biddenham International School Young Biddenham Cup, awarded to the Young Biddenham exhibitor who, in the opinion of the Committee, had made the best effort. We hope that there are more potential



Young Biddenham exhibitors in our community who next year will take the opportunity to compete in the various competitions and have the chance of winning a cup (or two).

Once again, thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of this year's Show, and we look forward to next year.

Jane Knight
Chair



The Biddenham Village Pond Autumn Work Morning

Saturday 11th November

10am to 12 noon

All welcome – Meet at the Pond

(Children should be over the age of 8 and accompanied by an adult responsible for their activity)

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

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

COMMUNITY
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EVENT
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11AM
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AND A SPADE IF YOU
HAVE THEM

Great Denham
Parish Council

Great Denham Bulb Planting



We were not anticipating that October would have started with another heatwave, but still the pond retained its water. However, the storms forecast for the end of October will balance out the earlier heat and bring much needed water into the pond.



*Volunteers clearing the reeds.
Pictures: Jane Knight and Jonathan Field*

In the middle of October, we commenced another two days of reed clearance with the aim of creating more open water and improving the view across the pond, by clearing the reeds in the centre and along the banks at the front of the pond. This is incredibly hard work (the reeds are very deep-rooted), and we are grateful to the Bedford Environmental Action Team (part of TCV) for all their

effort. The reeds and weeds are left to dry out on the side of the pond to allow the pond life to return to its natural habitat, and they will be removed to our compost bins at the Autumn Work Morning. A significant amount has been cleared, but there is more to go.

The reeds that were removed two years ago, along with other green waste, has now made some excellent compost, so please bring a wheelbarrow or a bag and take some. Any donation that you would like to make can be put in an envelope and given to Jane Knight at 59A Day's Lane.

The Bedford Environmental Action Team take on environmental projects every Monday and Thursday. They welcome all volunteers so if you would like to get involved, please contact Katherine on: 07740 899634 or k.miskin@tcv.org.uk

We include a picture of the pond from the 1980's, before the hedge grew and the reeds took hold. It is interesting to see how open the views of the pond are, how clear it is, and how the ecology has altered over time. The Committee are looking at ways to improve the open view as you walk along the Coffin Path to the pond, and Chris is working with the Parish Council and the Gold Lane



*The Pond after clearance
Picture Jane Knight*



*The Pond in the 1980s
Picture Chris Jones*

developers to see if the adjoining field can be recognised as part of a wider ecosystem.

Autumn Work Morning

Please do come along to our Work Morning on Saturday 11th November between 10.00am and noon because there is a lot to do, including barrowing the reeds to the compost bins, clearing the banks, cutting back the nettles on the path from Gold Lane to the pond, and cutting the hedge to clear a path to the western jetty. For more details, please see our advert on page 3. The more volunteers we have the more we can achieve in our two hours – we look forward to seeing you.

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

We encourage everyone to visit, but please remember if you have dogs with you to keep them on a lead when near the pond and not to allow them into the water.

The Pond Team

Contact Details

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Jane Knight
Jonathan Field
Kris Burchill

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Biddenham Parish Council

The Parish Council met on Tuesday 10th October. This was our first meeting at St James's Church Barn rather than the Pavilion. Present at the meeting were Parish Councillors Peter Chase, Caroline Cross, Harry Fowler, Chris Gee, Aaron Melvin, Simi Otukoya and Laura Simmonds. Apologies were received from Francina Slade. Also present were the Clerk, David Brough, and myself and Borough Councillor Jon Gambold.

The meeting updated those present with the ongoing issues we have raised - principally with the borough council - regarding issues flagged with us that affect residents. One of the frustrations we experience is the length of time it takes to get answers or to make things happen with the borough council. However, it was encouraging to report that with the assistance of our local Borough Councillor, Jon Gambold, I had had a meeting with the Mayor, the Environment portfolio holder, Councillor Jim Weir, and relevant officers to raise some concerns that had been passed from residents to the Parish Council and our local councillor. It was encouraging to be heard.

Among the items discussed was when the new bottle bank site would open at St Mary's. Apparently, the requirement was for it to be functional after the 300th occupation of the development. Borough officers are now going to chase the developer to expedite this. Another matter discussed was the traffic flows north and south of the Deep Spinney roundabout on Bromham Road. Officers will look to see if two lanes can be accommodated on the north and south exits, similar to the double lanes at the east and west exits. While the north exit may only be a few car lengths, it would regularise what is happening already. The aim is to increase capacity and improve traffic flow. Watch this space!

Parking issues on Main Road at school times were also raised, but I suspect the solutions to manage this may be harder to solve and may mean deciding on some less than palatable outcomes in terms of signage on the road or just accepting the status quo. Let's see what comes forward.

Also raised was the issue of speeding in the parish as it doesn't go away. I'm sure many of us have witnessed cars speeding in the village and have also been disturbed late at night by speeding cars and motorbikes. We have already raised the issue of average speed cameras and continue to press for these. However, it is recognised there are ongoing revenue costs which add to the Borough's budget pressures, but this shouldn't detract from making our streets safer. So again, we will wait to hear what proposals Officers put forward to the Mayor and Environment Portfolio Holder to ameliorate these issues.

As part of our Parish meeting it was agreed to replace some of the 84 bollards installed on Biddenham Turn with trees (as part of the Trees for Streets initiative). Doing so will soften the visual impact of the rows of bollards. Our Clerk will share our suggestions with the Borough's arboricultural officer to assess the suitability of the proposed locations.

One regular topic at the moment is the Pavilion. We agreed to arrange for a tradesperson to inspect our fire doors and, if possible, realign them so that they are a tighter fit. It was also noted that elements of the facility are starting to look tired and, like many of us, in need of a bit of TLC. The members of the Pavilion committee will meet to assess immediate and future maintenance issues so that we can prepare a planned programme to make sure the facility remains fit for use and appealing to hirers over the next few years.

Finally, following our decision to upgrade the play area next to the Pavilion, the Clerk reported that the appointed contractor was looking to start the work after Christmas and complete it by the end of February. Hopefully, there will




some nice days soon after for children to come and enjoy what we hope will be a great new revamped play area.

Date of the next meeting

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 14th November at 7.30pm at St James's Church Barn, Church End** and all are welcome.

Stewart Briggs
Chair



Annual General Meeting
Thursday 2nd November 2023
8pm
Biddenham Village Hall
www.biddenhamvillagehall.org.uk
Please join us for our AGM

The Village Hall 'belongs' to you, the residents of Biddenham.

The short AGM gives you a chance to find out how the hall is run, projects for the future and gives you the opportunity to ask questions, make suggestions and give your views.

We look forward to meeting you on 2nd November.

Light refreshments will be available.

If you can't make the meeting but have some bright ideas please contact any of the Committee or leave a message on the website.

Biddenham Village Hall Management Committee

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Bedford Modern Junior School moves to St Joseph's and St Gregory's site

Andrew Whomsley, Acting Head at Bedford Modern School, recently met with Stewart Briggs, Chair of Biddenham Parish Council to update him about recent developments at Bedford Modern School.

Following changing government guidance (concerning RAAC concrete), BMS found themselves in a position where they were unable to use a number of their classrooms and building work was needed to carry out repairs. As this work is now underway on site, alternative provision was needed to ensure the continuity of teaching so, after half term, BMS Junior School will be moving to the St Joseph's and St Gregory's site which was vacated in July.

BMS are aiming to reduce additional traffic in the local area by offering shuttle buses to and from their main school site and are looking forward to supporting the local community where they can.

Mobile Library dates

Biddenham

Thursdays: 2nd, 16th, 30th November

St Joseph's School 10.00 to 10.40am

Three Tuns 10.45 to 11.05 am

Church End 11.10 to 11.25am

Great Denham

Saturdays: 11th, 25th November

Community Hall 2.20 to 2.40pm



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Florence and the Machine Garbets

In September, we read that Henry Missing's daughter, Ethel, writing in 1959, had mentioned a huge silver Cup Henry's brother, William Paschal, had received whilst at Cambridge, which was in the possession of his nieces, the Misses Gartell, living in Sydney; I couldn't track down those two ladies.

As we also saw, William had a daughter, Florence Augusta. In a family tree compiled by Reginald King, Ethel's son, Florence is shown as married to the Reverend Montague Garbett, cousin of the Archbishop of York.

Could there be, I wondered, some confusion between the names Gartell and Garbett? A family connection of Garbett's seemed more likely when more emerged of the history of Florence and Montague.

Oh, and Montague's cousin, Cyril Garbett, was indeed the Archbishop of York from 1942 to 1955, their respective fathers, also clergyman, being brothers.

What did come as a surprise was that Florence and Montague were married...in Australia! We weren't expecting that.

On 24th December 1890 at St Philip's Church, Tiaro, near Maryborough, Montague Garbett, married Florence, niece of Henry Missing of Gootchie Station. Florence, aged 18, sailing on the *Aconcagua*, had arrived in Sydney in December 1878, but when Montague went to Australia, and how, when and where he and Florence met remains a mystery. He was in England in 1881, one of six scholars aged between 17 and 19 boarding at the Vicarage in Paddock Wood, Kent.

Dashing forward before returning, the Raymond Terrace Examiner in February 1947 reported Montague's death, aged 85. He had been at one time rector of the Parish of Raymond Terrace, and was survived by Mrs Garbett, a son Alan and two daughters. Probate was granted in Sydney to Audrey Montague Garbett and Thelma Montague Garbett, spinsters.

Is it too much to think that the nieces, the Misses Gartell, living in Sydney, are rather the granddaughters, Misses Garbett, living in Sydney? Did Florence take her father's Cup to Australia, it passing on then to her two daughters? Florence died in September 1950, aged 90.

DISSOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP
WE, the undersigned, HENRY MISSING and MONTAGUE GEORGE HUBERT GARBETT, hitherto trading as "Missing and Garbett," have this day agreed to DISSOLVE PARTNERSHIP, and the said Partnership is hereby DISOLVED.
 H. MISSING,
 MONTAGUE G. H. GARBETT.
 Witness: ALEXANDER MACKELLAR, J.P.
 Dated this fourteenth day of October, 1896.

There are some records of the couple's life in Australia. The Maryborough paper in October 1896 published a notice of the dissolution of a partnership: the partners were our Henry Missing and Montague Garbett, trading as 'Missing and Garbett'.

Searches locally didn't find what was the partners' business, but later I found newspaper notices of 1893 and 1894 listing owners of horses and cattle, including Missing & Garbett of Gootchie so, not surprisingly, their partnership was concerned in some way with horses and/or cattle.

Reverend Garbett served in parishes in Stroud and Denman, New South Waies, and in February 1913 at St John's Church, Raymond Terrace, noted as cousin of the bridegroom, he officiated at the wedding of Violet Adelaide Dowling and Claude O'Connor Missing, Henry Missing's son.

Montague served in Raymond Terrace for nine years until 1920. During the war and the influenza epidemic he and Florence were particularly remembered as "hard workers, often attending where others would not go, and they did not confine their attention to those of their own denomination, but to all who needed help."

At a farewell function in June, the Mayor and others expressed many kind words and their thanks to the couple for all they had done for the town and its people. Making the presentation of a wallet containing £75 Mr A J Windeyer remarked that "He admired the pluck of Mr. Garbett in accepting Lambton, as it was the hardest Parish in the diocese to work ..."

A week later the parishioners of St John's, Lambton, welcomed their new vicar and his wife, who had come with "a splendid record from the parish of Raymond Terrace...". The speaker "believed Mr Garbett would build up their church to what it was some years ago."



What of Montague's cousin, Cyril, the Archbishop of York, who as it happens visited Australia in 1951, the 50th anniversary of the Australian Federation, at the invitation of the Archbishop of Sydney. Arriving in Fremantle, Cyril visited, spoke and preached in a number of cities and towns. During his visit, he met Mayor Noonan of York, Western Australia. In 1953, Mayor Noonan visited England and in this photo, published in Australia, is greeted by Cyril at York

Cathedral.

The Guyra Argus reporting on Cyril's impending visit to Armidale detailed his rise through the ranks. His first appointment, in 1899, was as curate in the biggest parish in England, Portsmouth and Southsea, combined under the name Portsea. He was curate there for ten years: "Portsea included some of the toughest waterside slums in Britain. The young curate discovered pauperism and degradation on a scale that Liverpool and Glasgow would scarcely have surpassed."

"Quietly, systematically young Garbett dug into the causes of slums and poverty. He discussed what he found with his Vicar, a solid, shrewd Scot called Cosmo Gordon Lang, who was destined to become Archbishop of Canterbury."

"Portsea was a magnificent opportunity for the Christian soldier, but he needed to be a soldier of more than ordinary tenacity and spiritual strength. The Rev. C. F. Garbett had those qualities and after his ten year's curacy he was appointed Vicar of Portsea. He worked another ten years in the parish before he was made Bishop of Southwark."

Out of the frying pan into the fire: 'To use the words of one writer on Dr. Garbett's career, "If Portsea was a British Hell's kitchen, Southwark was the noxious central inferno."'

Not only was Cyril long in Missing territory in Portsea, later as Archbishop of York he ventured into distant Missing territory, Australia. Did he know of his relatives in Australia, and did his relatives in Australia know of their family connection to him? Might some have met him during his tour? And how similar were the cousins, Montague and Cyril, not least in their willingness to take on the toughest of challenges.

A sad postscript: Cyril Garbett died on 31 December 1955. The next day, 1 January 1956, he was due to have been made a Baron in the New Year's Honours List. The barony therefore never came into existence. The Queen said she was greatly distressed to hear of the death of the Archbishop of York who, for many years, had been a close and trusted friend of her and her family.

Peter Applewhite

[With thanks to Trove for the newspaper extracts and images]

New Ukrainian School opens in Biddenham - Photos: Janet Field & Diana Korotkovadi



Opening ceremony



John Hulance cuts the ribbon



Children & parents



Tree of Life



Children add their blue and yellow handprints to the Tree of Life



John Hulance adds his handprint



Messy high five



Finished painting



Children enjoy their first class

New Ukrainian School opens in Biddenham

St James' VA Primary School was adorned with blue and yellow balloons on Saturday 14th October to mark the opening ceremony of a new Ukrainian school in Biddenham. Rev Eric Lomax and special guest, John Hulance of Rotary Club of Bedford, performed the official opening together with the teachers.

The new school, which will operate from 10.00am to 3.00pm every Saturday, welcomes Ukrainian children aged four to ten years old from across Bedfordshire. Around 35 children have already registered. Three teachers and three teaching assistants, Valeria Rozanova, Irina Rozanova, Nadia Rozina, Yevhen Rozin, Viktoriya Buchkovska, and Natalia Tkachenko, will teach three separate classes for different age groups.

Rev Lomax said: "These are not migrants in the strictest sense. They are refugees and they've come here as a consequence of the war in Ukraine, the purpose of which is to eradicate Ukrainian identity and to absorb Ukraine into the wider Russia. The children who come here will not be learning the Ukrainian language, Ukrainian culture, geography, and everything like that through the national curriculum. So, they will have a whole chunk missed out of their education. The purpose of this school is to resolve that, to keep that sense of identity and to make sure that they get a sense of being Ukrainian."

"The curriculum will be around arts, crafts, sport, and things like that - nothing too depressing," added trustee, Diana Korotkova. She explained that the school previously operated as a side project of the Polish school at St Joseph's & St Gregory's Primary Catholic School but, thanks to sponsorship from the Harpur Trust, the Diocese of St Albans and St James's Church, as well as support from the Rotary Club of Bedford, they are now able to operate on a standalone basis.

"We are pleased to support the activities of the Bedford Ukrainian Saturday school and know it is important in helping young children and their parents to maintain links with their homeland," added John from the Rotary Club of Bedford.

After the speeches, the children sang the Ukrainian national anthem, before helping John to cut the ceremonial ribbon and declare the school officially open.

Before entering their classrooms for the first time, the children and parents added their handprints in blue and yellow paint, the colours of the Ukrainian flag, to a large symbolic painting of the Tree of Life.

Rev Lomax emphasised: "This school is intended to be informal as the children will be tired after a week of formal schooling. We want the children to have fun and enjoy coming here."

Janet Field



Natalia Tkachenko, Rev Eric Lomax, Valeria Rozanova, Nadia Rozina, Yevhen Rozin, John Hulance, Diana Korotkova



Rambling Festival

The rebranded Festival was hosted by The Bedfordshire Ramblers groups and ran between the 9th and 17th September.

The Festival was a great success with the four Bedfordshire Ramblers Groups hosting 38 walks during the period and attracting over 525 walkers. Walks ran all over the county and comprised Wellbeing Walks of various lengths, as well as short walks, long walks and interest walks. There was even a litter pick run in Dunstable which attracted 25 children. It is always lovely to encourage the youngsters to join in! One of the highlights of the Festival was a day walking along the River Great Ouse followed by the John Bunyan boat, which after lunch carried us all home again up the Ouse.

Whilst we would always expect to have our own Ramblers join our walks, the Festival allows us to publicise our activities to a wider audience and we are delighted to announce that 40% of the walkers were new to us. As a Ramblers Group we are very proud of our beautiful little county and it is always a pleasure to introduce others to the hidden gems and beautiful countryside that we have discovered and explore regularly. Let's hope that we have inspired more people to get outside and explore the area.

We are already starting to plan the Bedfordshire Festival of Autumn Walks 2024, which will run from 7th - 15th Sept 2024. So put the dates in your diaries and come and join us.

With special thanks to all the walk leaders from Leighton Buzzard Ramblers, North Beds Ramblers, Lea & Icknield Ramblers and Ivel Valley Walkers - we couldn't have done it without you.

Sandra Kelsey
North Beds Ramblers

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

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<https://bedford.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>



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Biddenham Cricket Club



The end of season supper was held for the senior team on Friday 29th September in Bedford. This was organised by club Chairman Glenn Taylor and captain Ross Cunningham and included the individual awards for 2023. The season ended with Biddenham in 4th place in the First Division of the Bedfordshire County League.



The awards pictured are:
 Amarpal Singh – Bowler of the Year
 Luke Viegas – Best Young Player of the Year
 Ross Cunningham – Best Innings of the Year (164 not out)

News from the Pavilion field is that all the end of season work was completed in September and the unusually warm weather has ensured that the mower has been in constant use to keep control of the still fast-growing grass.

Autumn brings the start of the Bedfordshire Indoor Cricket League – teams of six play one hour matches on Sunday mornings in Bedford. Some now travel from Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire to take part.

Biddenham again have a team entered playing matches at Bedford School on occasional Sunday mornings. Please contact Richard Fone if you would like to play or know of anyone who might be interested in playing.

Richard Fone

Club news, fixtures and results are on the website:
<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
Cricket Secretary	Richard Fone	07818 678697
Club Welfare Officer	Katie Ulvert	01234 954133
100 Club	James Gardner	07928 478563

Great Denham's Winter Festival

Saturday 2nd December 2023
2pm-6pm

Stall Applications Now Open!

Contact us on events@greatdenhamcommunityhall.co.uk if you're interested in having a stall at our festive event!

- Craft & Gift Stalls
- Santa's Grotto
- Children's Fair Rides
- Refreshments
- Fete Games
- Carol Singing

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This month in the garden

Well yesterday (I am starting to write this in October) the garden and allotment came to St James's Church. Thank you to everyone who provided fabulous flowers and foliage - you know who you are - it made decorating the church for the Harvest Festival so easy and such a pleasure. There were some lovely arrangements—they were all splendid - but sadly to accompany this article, I only have room for one photo. I have chosen the one which I think will show up best in the print version of The Loop. As we worked away in the church I was remembering Joy, Maudie, Nancy, Sheila and Janet to name just a few of those who have given their time so willingly in the past to enhance



the beauty of our lovely church and long may these traditions continue.

The weather has been lovely, but will soon be turning colder and, if like me, you are keeping an eye on the weather forecasts to make sure of not being caught out when trying to protect tender plants, do make sure that you scrutinise all pots carefully before transfer to greenhouses as slugs and snails can easily be transported and create havoc during the coming months. There was a great deal of snail activity in my garden during the summer and, as a result, I am inundated with baby snails. They are clinging to plants and bedding down in broken pots for the winter. What a dilemma! Do I squash them or leave them to grow to provide food for blackbirds and thrushes next year? I tend towards the latter - little wonder that my hostas are so ragged.

When putting plants into the greenhouse think about the conditions they will need. I used to grow auriculas and, having taken advice from the head gardener at Woottens of Wenhaston, the auricular specialists, they told me that, when over wintering their auriculas, they leave the windows and vents open throughout the winter, whatever the temperature. These plants do not mind the cold but can't abide the wet. Having left my plant house windows open for many years now throughout the winter I find I am less plagued by botrytis. However, for some overwintering plants the windows and vents do need to be shut, just opening on milder days to let the air circulate. Water everything very sparingly; more plants are lost through over watering than not enough. By November, I cease watering until February, unless anything looks desperate.

Lots to do in the garden in November, but do go easy on the cutting back. Leave as many seed heads as possible for the birds, also these and grasses provide good habitat for overwintering insects.

My hydrangeas have not been good this year - a result of the very dry conditions in 2022 I think. Leave the old flower heads on throughout the winter as this protects the rest of the plant and the new growth from frost. Wait until Spring to prune back to two fat buds and take out about one third of the older and taller stems; this will keep the plant compact and manageable.

This is the month to check the whole garden over to deal with anything that is likely to be at risk from cold, wind or waterlogging. Dig up dahlia tubers once the first frost has blackened their stems and leaves. Rinse off the soil, dry off and store the tubers in a frost free place, initially upside down so that the sap drains out of the stems. If your soil is well drained, you can risk leaving the tubers in the ground over winter, but do mulch well to protect them. Now is the time to plant bare-root shrubs, roses and hedging. If we get a dry spell, do water them well. Divide fibrous rooted perennials like Michaelmas daisies. Cut them down to about 10cm from the ground, dig them up. and then use two garden forks back to back to

separate them. If you garden on heavy clay, then it is better to do this in the spring.

This month we will be planting up our containers to provide winter interest. Foliage is always good, but the small viola flowers along with the hellebores provide a good nectar source for the winter pollinators. Also, remember to raise tubs and pots off the ground a little with pot feet or small bricks to prevent waterlogging. We have had some very strong winds lately so it is a good idea to prune roses a little to prevent wind rock. The pruning can be finished off in February next year. Plant out shallots, onion sets and garlic; they all overwinter well. Also, sweet pea seeds can be planted now in root trainers or the inner tubes of toilet rolls. The small plants will survive in an unheated greenhouse and some people think that sowing now rather than in the Spring provides a stronger plant. I must remember to buy some Paper white narcissi - they only take 4-6 weeks to flower and provide a lovely scent in my conservatory - something to look forward to now that the shorter days are upon us.

Linda Truscott

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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 some information about one of our regulars that started running sessions at the Barn in 2022, Bedford Ballet School. Set up by Karen Lowe, Bedford Ballet School provides dance classes for children aged from 15 months through to graded RAD syllabus classes. The classes are fun but structured, combining a mixture of classical and children's music to stimulate the imagination, develop rhythm and encourage musicality. Before Karen moved to Bedford 20 years ago, she founded the Kensington Ballet School and continues to oversee the thriving London school along with her husband, Richard.

Bedford Ballet School run their classes at the Barn from 9.30–11.40am every Saturday during term time, and currently hold classes for children aged 15 months to 4½ years. During the 'Mums and Baby' classes, parents are encouraged to participate with their children and then subsequently watch their children progress as they move through the age groups. If you would like to find out more about the classes held at the Barn, please check out Bedford Ballet Schools website: <https://bedfordballetschool.com>

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

Jane and Rebecca

Biddenham Gardeners' Association

Programme of Meetings 2023

- 19th September **Flowers through my Viewfinder**
By Hemant Jariwala
- 17th October **History of Suburban Gardens**
By Twigs Way
- 21st November **The 12 Plants of Christmas**
By Timothy Walker
- 19th 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



**BEDFORD
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Wednesday mornings at
Biddenham Pavilion
Saturday Mornings at
St James Church Barn

Children aged 2 - 5 years



Over 60 trees decorated with 'Kings and Queens'

Bedford Christmas Tree Festival 2023

6th-10th December, St Paul's Church, Bedford

Wed-Sat 10-5, Sunday 12-4. £3.00. Free under 16 years
Daily music & performances. Competitions for all.

Festival Concert

Woburn Piano Trio: Friday 8th December 7.30pm
Tickets @ £20.00 from www.peoplesfundraising.com/concert-tickets or telephone 01234 783181

Fizz at the Festival

Wednesday 6th December 6.00-8.00pm
Enjoy fizz and canapés with friends and colleagues at this private viewing in sparkling evening light, open to everyone. Tickets in advance @£8 Tel 07909 521997 or go to treefestival@stpaulschurchbedford.org.uk

All in aid of St Paul's church and Bedford Hospital Charity & Friends

Further details

treefestival@stpaulschurchbedford.org.uk

Tel: 01234 340163

Ann Collett-White

BEDFORD CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2023
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📍 Bedford Christmas Tree Festival
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North Bedfordshire Ramblers

Join us for a walk

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

November Walks

- 4th pm Keysoe, 4.5 miles
- 11th am Part V Bunyan Trail, Millbrook, 10 miles approx.
- 11th pm Sandy, 7 miles
- 18th pm Harrold Country Park, 6.5 miles
- 25th am Easton Maudit, 11.5 miles
- 25th pm Maulden, 6 miles

Contact; Margaret Sawyer 07780933729
 Facebook; North Beds Ramblers
<https://www.ramblers.org.uk/north-bedfordshire>



Biddenham Conservation Volunteers

With the end of the bird nesting season, BCV members have re-started work on vegetation management in the village. In addition to clearing some of the village footpaths, volunteers have been busy completing surveys of trees and wild flowers in Cowslip Meadow. The results of these surveys can be found in Nigel Orton's interesting reports which are now available on our page on the Parish Council website: <http://biddenham.org.uk/biddenham-conservation-volunteers/>, see '2023 Tree survey results' and '2023 Flower survey species list'.

One of the first new tasks planned for the Autumn was to widen the entrance to the meadow so that the contractors who cut the field could gain access with their large equipment, however the contractors beat us to it and mowed the meadow the day before our planned task, indicating that their access was not restricted by overhanging vegetation. We will return to that and other areas in the meadow where encroaching Blackthorn and Cherry saplings are gradually reducing the size of the meadow. Work has already begun on the east side with the resulting brush being used to extend the dead hedge that had been built near the entrance to protect the young hedging planted alongside the footpath.



Some crown raising has been performed on trees overlooking the Girl Guides' oak tree which remains alive, although it is only about 12 cm tall. Hopefully, it will begin to grow now with this increased access to sunlight.

The new trees that BCV planted last year have been checked for viability and we are pleased to report that most of them are alive and growing well. The largest plantation is on the west side and can be identified by the pink, biodegradable tree protectors. There are plans to plant more 'home grown' trees in the gap on the west side where the meadow closely borders The Branston Way. It is hoped that, in years to come, these trees will help to reduce the volume of the traffic noise in that area.

BCV's latest task was to build a hibernaculum in the wet area towards the north end of the meadow to provide shelter for amphibians and reptiles over the winter. The result can be seen below.

For more information about BCV, please contact me at gillycowan@btinternet.com or Chris Jones at chrishj4@gmail.com.

Gilly Cowan.





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Peter's Picturehouse

After last month's golden oldie film, *The Fugitive*, we are coming right up to date in November by showing Greta Gerwig's film, **Barbie (12)**, which is unlike anything that you will have seen before. The fantasy comedy starring Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling came out in July 2023 and is becoming the highest-grossing film ever released by Warner Bros.

The film, about the doll we all know, presents a story which explores what it means to be a man or woman of today and the value of searching for a more cohesive society. Critics describe it as entertaining and intelligent.

While on the set, Margot Robbie encouraged the film crew to wear pink, which they did wholeheartedly. We would love it if you wanted to carry on the tradition and come wearing (or with something) pink to see the film on our big screen in Biddenham Village Hall on Tuesday 7th November.

Doors open at 7.00pm for the film showing to start at 7.30pm. Tickets still priced £5, payable by cash or card on the door. Unreserved tickets will be available on the door.

To reserve tickets:

phone/text/email : **07818 878491**

or peterspicturehouse@gmail.com.

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


Tues 7th November Barbie (12)

Tues 5th December The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry (12A)

Rose Houghton

Peter's Picturehouse at Biddenham Village Hall

Date: **Tuesday 7th Nov 2023**
Time: **Doors open 7:00pm, Film starts 7:30pm**




Feel free to wear something pink ...

Certificate: 12

Reserve your seat: Call/text 07818 878491 or Email: peterspicturehouse@gmail.com,

Ticket price £5, 56 seats available, remaining unreserved seats available on the door

**Coming soon...
Tues 5th Dec: The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry (12A)**



The Biddenham Society

58th Annual AGM and lunch

Sunday 28 January 2024

12.00 for 12.30 pm in the Village Hall

Admission: Adults £10 - Children free

Places must be booked and paid for by 15 January

Payments can now be made by Bank Transfer - Biddenham Society, Sort Code: 60-02-13, Account No: 51317761. Please use Surname as reference on payment; or cheques payable to 'The Biddenham Society'. All bookings to Garry Fitzhugh, 69 Church End, Biddenham MK40 4AS (tel: 07778 004749).

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

Enjoy a free glass of wine or soft drink on arrival followed by the Society's excellent Ploughman's Lunch. This annual event is a friendly and informal occasion which is always well supported by residents. All welcome, especially our newer residents.

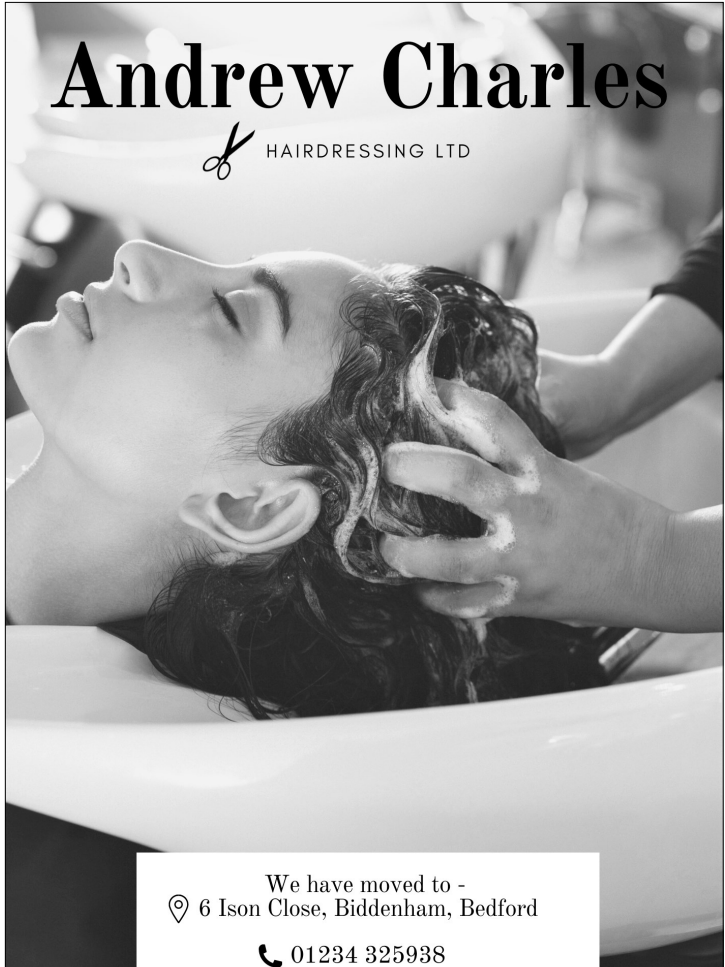
- * Find out about recent planning applications, decisions and appeals in and around Biddenham.
- * Receive an up-to-date briefing on any developments, the Borough's plans for Biddenham, and any threats to the village.
- * Hear about the changing remit of the Association and its proposed revised objectives.

To help catering arrangements, please book early. Thank you.

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Biddenham Gardeners Association

The History of Suburban Gardens

We were so pleased to welcome Dr Twigs Way to our meeting on 17th October. Twigs is well known to many of us and it is always a pleasure to see her in Biddenham. Twigs is a researcher, writer, speaker and consultant in garden history and designed landscapes and really knows her stuff, so we were looking forward to her talk on the history of suburban gardens and we were not disappointed. Twigs illustrated her talk with the musings and writings of authors and the paintings of artists from various times and eras and from the words of the Pet Shop Boys to the words of John Betjeman. The suburbs are continuously evolving and expanding as rural areas are built over and everything starts again.

Twigs took us back to the Romans as they strived to create the ideal of the countryside in the urban area by using frescos depicting country scenes in their gardens. Details from a map of London dated 1578 showed houses with gardens on the edge of the city. People wanted to live on the outskirts of towns, but as soon as they moved into the suburbs they found themselves in the urbs again as more homes were built. Following the purchase of their delightful new suburban villa, the owners had a dilemma - how to lay out the garden? What should they be doing?

There was no shortage of advice as, by the nineteenth century, the first books on how to lay out a suburban garden were being published. The Villa Garden Directory of 1809 encouraged everyone to know their place and told people what not to do; forget aspiration! As time went by, small front gardens divided the owners from the road. Pollution was becoming so great that deciduous shrubs were killed off and only evergreens remained. There was a determination to keep one's front garden looking beautiful whilst sharing it with others. The new towns of the 1930's actively discouraged the use of hedges so that the layout of everyone's front garden could be taken in at a glance.

Taking a look then at rear gardens. Were these a private utopia or an aspirational display? They tended to be more informal as there were more things to hide and disguise - coal houses etc. The repeal of the glass tax in 1847 led to more glass houses which enabled pelargoniums and other tender annuals to be overwintered or forced. The repeal of the brick tax in 1851 meant that no suburban garden was complete without the addition of the Hogg's Edging Tile.

Other influences included the 1851 Great Exhibition and mass outings in the 'charabanc' to seaside gardens. People were also influenced by what was going on in the public parks with their immaculate bedding. Everyone wanted a piece of the countryside even though they lived in the towns. Advertisements for gardening items expanded with the numerous gardening periodicals, and seeds and later plants could be delivered via the post. In the 1940s, adaptations were made to suburban gardens with the emphasis on 'digging for victory' and burying the air raid shelter. By the 1960s, Woolworths targeted the suburban gardener with seeds and plants, especially roses.

Of course, Twigs ended her talk with the bane of modern suburban front gardens - no plants, just the parked car. But she also reminded us to treasure our suburban gardens as they have a long history and represent the countryside meeting the town.

Thank you to Twigs for a most comprehensive talk; very well received by our audience of members and visitors. Please come again - visitors that is and, of course, you Twigs.

And finally, many congratulations to Pauline and Jan for your winning entries in the Biddenham Show.

Do join us in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 21st November when Timothy Walker will be talking about the Twelve Plants of Christmas. As always, visitors will be very welcome—£5 on the door.

Linda Truscott

New members and visitors are always welcome. For more information contact:

Linda Truscott on 01234 270747

www.biddenhamgardenersassociation.org.uk



Tuesday 21st November
Biddenham Village Hall
10.15 am - 11.45am

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

Next café 19th December

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Taekwondo champions



Gold medallist, Maddox

Since August 2022, New Life Taekwondo have been running classes at Biddenham Village Hall every Sunday morning. They currently have ten students of varying experience from new starters onwards. The group practices World Taekwondo.

New Life Taekwondo also has groups in London and Brighton and, on 7th October a combined team from the three groups participated in the 14th Southern Area Open Taekwondo Championships in Southampton.

They came away with two Gold, one Silver and two Bronze medals. One of the Gold medallists was

Maddox Kobbina of Great Denham who is 12 years old and a member of the Biddenham group.

The Biddenham class is for all ages and abilities though most of the students are children. It is led by Daniel Kobbina (Maddox's dad) who is 7th Dan Black Belt and has been practicing since 1983. The group meets between 11.30am and 1.30pm on Sundays at Biddenham Village Hall with new starters from 11.30am to 12.30pm.

If you are interested in joining you can sms or call Daniel on 07951 880880 to book a trial or email biddenham@blackbeltmedia.uk.

Their next Open Day is on Sunday 12th November at 11.30am and everyone is welcome. There will be a short film about Taekwondo and an introductory practice session. If you or your children want to participate it would be preferable to wear loose clothing.

You can find more information on the Instagram or Facebook pages: search New Life Taekwondo.

Jean Gambold



The other medallists

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 1st 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* 1st 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 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
or text/leave a message on **07412 559584**

3rd November, 1st December, 5th January

Quilting & Sewing Group



Biddenham Village Hall

10.30 a.m.

Last Friday of each month

Pop in and see what goes on



100 CLUB September draw



The winners were:

1st	Micky Litchfield	204
2nd	Georgina Hayton	31
3rd	Peter Marks	409

Drawn by Anthea Slark



The Friends of St James

*- the charity which helps conserve
the church, churchyard and barn
for future generations*

Membership	Peter Leverkus	Tel: 353662
Treasurer	Paul Fricker	Tel: 342843

No Fear Duplicate Bridge

Biddenham Village Hall
Fridays at 2.30pm
Sundays at 6.00pm.

Contact Bernard Henry 07866 456769 or
bahenry0309@gmail.com

Hall Booking Details

Biddenham Village Hall

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

Church Barn

The Church Barn is available for parties, small events and classes, with a capacity for up to 50 people. Comprising a main hall, full kitchen use, two toilets, ramp access, baby changing and disabled facilities. To check availability contact our Booking Officers via email on stjamesbarnbiddenham@gmail.com (preferred contact) or
Jane 07831 172320
Rebecca 07769 944727

Pavilion

The hall is available for children's parties, anniversary lunches, christening receptions, meetings etc. We can also hire the small upstairs meeting room which has tea and coffee making facilities.

You can check availability and book on the website www.biddenhampavilion.co.uk. Contact details for regular events are also there.

Great Denham Community Hall

www.greatdenhamcommunityhall.co.uk

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New Biddenham Residents**
Contact Richard Church Tel: 214805

Regular Events in Biddenham Halls

For contact details see the Hall websites

www.biddenhamvillagehall.org.uk www.biddenhampavilion.co.uk www.stjamesbiddenham.com

For details of regular events at Great Denham Community Hall see page 17

Monday		
Cha Char Chimps	10.00am	Village Hall
Angie Pearl Yoga	10.00-11.00am	Pavilion
Ukrainian Clothing Evening	5.30-7.30pm (1 st 3 rd 5 th in month)	Church Barn
Storm Martial Arts	7.00-8.00pm	Pavilion
Guides	7.15pm Termtime	Village Hall
Tuesday		
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 rd in the month)	Village Hall
Mum & baby exercise class	10.30-11.30am (termtime)	Church Barn
Street Dance	5.15-6.45pm	Pavilion
Country Dancing	8.00pm (2 nd & 4 th in month)	Village Hall
Zumba	8.00-9.00pm	Pavilion
Wednesday		
Ukrainian Community Coffee Morning	10.00am-12noon (1 st , 3 rd & 5 th in month)	Church Barn
Kensington Ballet	9.30-11.00am	Pavilion
Baby College	10.00am, 11.00am & noon Termtime	Village Hall
Handbell Ringer Practice	2.30-4.30pm	Church Barn
Table Tennis	2.00-4.00pm	Pavilion
This Girl Can Fitness	6.30-7.15pm	Pavilion
Boxercise	7.30-8.15pm	Pavilion
Adult Yoga (Beginners/Improvers)	7.00-8.00pm	Village Hall
Thursday		
Under 5's	9.30-11.30am	Village Hall
Line dancing	9.30-11.30am	Pavilion
Oasis	9.00am-12noon (1 st & 3 rd in month)	Church Barn
U3A Handbell Ringers	2.00-3.30pm	Church Barn
Cook Stars Juniors	4.00-5.15pm (term time)	Church Barn
Baby Ballet	5.00-6.00pm	Pavilion
Yoga Flow & Meditation for women	6.45-8.45pm	Village Hall
Fetch Puppy Club	7.30-8.30pm	Pavilion
Friday		
Pilates	8.30am & 9.30am	Village Hall
Jo Jingles	9.30am-12.30pm	Pavilion
Fit Flamingo Yoga	10.05-11.00am	Church Barn
Disco Duck	2.15-3.00pm (term time)	
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
Saturday		
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 st or 2 nd of the month)	Church Barn
Sunday		
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 rd in month)	Church Barn

November

- Thu 2 Nov Biddenham Village Hall AGM, 8.00pm, see p5
 Fri 3 Nov First Friday lunch, Biddenham Village Hall, 12.15pm, see p18
 Fri 3 Nov Children's Community Cinema, Great Denham Community Hall, 3.30pm, see p16
Sun 5 Nov All Age Worship All Saints, 10.00am
Lay-led All Age Worship, St James's, 10.00am
 Mon 6 Nov Biddenham History Society, Church Barn, 2.30pm, see p1
 Mon 6 Nov Great Denham Parish Council, Community Hall, 7.30pm
 Tue 7 Nov Peter's Picture House, Biddenham Village Hall, 7.00pm, see p15
 Sat 11 Nov Biddenham Pond Work Morning, 10.00am-12noon, see pp3 & 4
Sun 12 Nov Remembrance Service, All Saints, 9.00am
Morning Worship, St James's, 10.00am
Sun 12 Nov Remembrance Service at Biddenham War Memorial, 10.50am, see p1
 Sun 12 Nov Taekwondo Open Day, Biddenham Village Hall, 11.30am, see p17
 Tue 14 Nov Biddenham Parish Council. **Church Barn**, 7.30pm see p5
Sun 19 Nov Holy Communion, All Saints, 10.00am
Lay-led Worship, St James's, 10.00am
 Tue 21 Nov Café B, Biddenham Village Hall, 10.15-11.45am, see p16
 Tue 21 Nov Biddenham Gardeners Association, Biddenham Village Hall, 7.30pm, see pp12 & 16
 Fri 24 Nov Quilting & Sewing Group, Biddenham Village Hall, 10.30am, see p18
Sun 26 Nov Said Holy Communion, All Saints, 9.00am
Holy Communion, St James's, 10.00am
 Sun 26 Nov Bulb planting, Great Denham, 11.00am, see p3

December

- Fri 1 Dec First Friday lunch, Biddenham Village Hall, 12.15pm, see p18
 Fri 1 Dec Children's Community Cinema, Great Denham Community Hall, 3.30pm, see p16
 Sat 2 Dec Winter Festival, Great Denham Community Hall, 2.00-6.00pm, see p10
 Mon 4 Dec Great Denham Parish Council, Community Hall, 7.30pm
 Tue 5 Dec Peter's Picture House, Biddenham Village Hall, 7.00pm, see p15
 6-9 Dec Christmas Tree Festival, St Paul's Church, Bedford, see p13
 Sun 10 Dec Christmas Sale, Church Barn, 10.00-12.00am, see p6

January

- Sun 28 Jan Biddenham Society AGM, Biddenham Village Hall, 12.00noon, see p15

For Mobile Library dates see page 6
 For North Beds Ramblers Walks see page 14

Contributors please note that the next edition will cover both December 2023 and January 2024.

For regular events at the Church Barn, Pavilion, Biddenham Village Hall and Great Denham Community Hall see pages 17 and 19

The Loop

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All December/January articles, preferably by e-mail in Word format, to loopeditor@gmail.com or to 22 Day's Lane and adverts to loopadverts@gmail.com by **Wednesday 22nd November please.**

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