

The Loop

October
2023

£1.50

Church service times

A lot of people have expressed their concerns over the new service times in September. I have consulted with my PCC and we felt that for October it was best to return to the same pattern we had previously:

1st October

All Saints: 10.00am All Age Harvest Service

St James's: 10.00am Lay Led All Age Worship

8th October

All Saints: 9.00am Said Holy Communion

St James's: 10.00am Harvest Communion

St James's: 6.00pm Evening Prayer

15th October

All Saints: 10.00am Holy Communion

St James's: 10.00am Lay Led Worship

22nd October

All Saints: 9.00am Said Holy Communion

St James's: 10.00am Holy Communion

29th October

St James's: 10.00am Service of Healing and Wholeness

St James's: 6.00pm Sung Evensong

After consultation there will be new service times in November that will aim to suit both churches.

Eric

Biddenham Show

Biddenham Show 2023 certainly brought some challenges for the Committee, the weather being the primary issue as Jane Knight reports on page 11.

However, as ever, the event was an enjoyable and memorable occasion and I am certain I speak for all of us when I express our thanks to the Committee and all the volunteers who came together to make sure 'the Show must go on'.

Thanks to Janet Field for producing the Show supplement, published with this magazine.

You can find the list of trophy winners and raffle sponsors on page 15.

Jean Gambold
Editor

ST. JAMES'S CHURCH

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Sunday October 8th

**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

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



Letter from the Vicar

Dear All

'I thought that love would last for ever; I was wrong.

The stars are not wanted now: put out every one;

Pack up the moon and dismantle the sun;

Pour away the ocean and sweep up the wood.

For nothing now can ever come to any good'.

The last verse and a line of W H Auden's poem, 'Funeral Blues'. It was used very powerfully in the film, 'Four weddings and a funeral' to mark the grief of one of the main characters who lost his gay lover to a sudden heart attack.

I love the line: 'I thought that love would last forever; I was wrong' because it echoes the feelings of not only those who experience the death of a loved one, but also those who are confronted with the death of love in a marriage or a relationship, or those who discover that love is not reciprocated.

For us, love lies at the heart of what we believe as Christians. We believe in a God of love who accepts us and embraces us whoever we are and whatever we have done. This is a soulful love that is truly unconditional and is also costly.

Sadly, we try to understand this love through the physicality of human love. I am not talking about sex, but rather in our thirst for acceptance and inclusion. Often the church fails in this because people who come amongst Christians and hope for love end up feeling judged and rejected.

I had a friend who lectured in my college in Durham. When I left, he said to me that unlike many people who train there I had remained a human being. I was so grateful for the compliment. While I was training he published a book about the experience of gay people in the church, called 'Strangers and Friends'. He said to me that often gay people (he was referring to gay men) come into the church looking for beauty and colour. He said that they often expect to be amongst friends, but just find themselves judged and excluded. I see the truth of this even now, and it saddens me that anybody should feel unloved or judged in a Christian community. I guess that things have moved on a great deal and it seems to me that the Anglican Church is leading the way in this.

I think the longevity of love should lead the way in the church's response to people. Christ himself certainly compromised the letter of the law in his willingness to

reach out to the outcast, the leper, the prostitute and the tax collector (all the people who fell outside the realms of acceptability in first century Judaism). Then, at the very least, the religion of Israel was a closed religion. Those who were members of the Jewish faith were there because of birth, not because they were invited in. Of course there were converts, and they were required to adopt the physical journey from the wilderness, through the Jordan to the City of David. That is what John's baptism was all about. Only Jesus took the opposite route from Jerusalem, through the Jordan and out into the wilderness. He travelled that way to embrace, with love, the outsider.

Jesus' new commands were all about love. In the Synoptic Gospels, he commands his people to love the outsider ('Love your neighbour'), while in John's Gospel he is recorded as taking the sectarian approach: 'Love one another as I have loved you.'

Either way, we are called to reflect the love of a God who the Johanne author proclaims as having the very nature of love: 'God is love'.

It is Paul who states most clearly the nature of God's love in Jesus: 'For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.'

For Paul there is nothing that puts us outside God's love. There is no reason for him to 'pack up the moon and dismantle the sun; pour away the ocean and sweep up the wood,' because God's love in Christ really does last forever, and there is no reason for despair. Whatever happens you are loved.

God bless.

Eric



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

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The Biddenham Society

58th Annual Lunch and AGM

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 (details to follow). 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.

Celebrating and preserving Biddenham's beauty and heritage



Biddenham Conservation Volunteers

BCV has been very active this summer. In fact, I am amazed at the support and enthusiasm for all activities planned this summer despite occasional hot spells reducing the time available for the butterfly counts that are taking place weekly. A core group, with some coming along when they can, has amassed an impressive count of numbers and species. There is a set route starting and finishing at Church End. Part of the route includes Cowslip Meadow and I am surprised by the species count from the route which also includes part of the old golf course. Many thanks to Pat and Jane who have led most of the walks each week. The results show much diversity.

There have also been wild flower and tree surveys led by Nigel carried out in the meadow.

The field has been cut, turned, windrowed and baled and the bales are due to be removed so we are grateful to the Borough contractor for this.

We see Cowslip Meadow as a major component in our public nature space and its continuity as a grass meadow will continue to add to the biodiversity we have found so far. To that end, we are working with the local contractor who cuts, windrows and clears the 'hay' bales in late September under a countryside stewardship scheme. We and the Borough Council need to ensure he can get his increasingly large equipment into the field to carry out his work efficiently.

We are lucky in that the meadow is publicly owned and easily accessible. There are other areas in the village where we would like to carry out conservation tasks but accessing private land is more of a problem, so we have to think long

term. We are able to carry out access work on our footpath network here and in Great Denham parish with the support of Bedford Borough Highways department and this includes surface improvement as well as vegetation management.

We are developing our autumn programme and welcome new members. Getting out, learning, as we always do, and getting fresh air has much to commend it.

Our programme of forthcoming tasks is on the Biddenham Parish Council website.

Chris Jones

chrishj49@gmail.com

Bedford National Trust Association

Next meeting

Martin Sirot-Smith

"Daily Life in Tudor Times"

Tuesday 17th October 2023

at 2.15pm. Cup of tea available just before 2.00pm.

Addison Centre, Kempston, MK42 APN

Everyone welcome. No need to book. There will be a small admission fee.

Plenty of parking available.

We have enjoyed Martin Sirot-Smith's presentations in the past.

For further information contact Betty Thomas on 01480 860 421.

Halloween Spooktacular Events

At Great Denham Community Hall

Tuesday 24th October

Creepy Crafts

First session: 11:00 – 12:00
Second session: 13:00 – 14:00

Come along and make some creepy crafts to take home!

£2 per child

Friday 27th October

Monster Mash

Kids Fancy Dress Disco
First session 14.30 – 16:00
Second session 17:00 – 18:30

Join us in your Trick or Treat outfits and dance to some spooky tunes!
Best costume wins a prize!

£3.00 per
Drinks and snacks available to purchase

Friday 3rd November

Freaky Film

Doors open at 3.30pm for our Halloween movie (Certificate PG)
Follow us on Facebook or Instagram for clues so you can guess the film!

£1.50 per child
(ticket includes drink and popcorn)

Come to all three events for only £5.50 per child!

Children must be accompanied by an adult at all events –
no charge for under 2's accompanying an older sibling



With October on the horizon, the 'rainy season' is on its way. We are pleased that the pond did not dry out this year, but the water has become more of a swamp and not pretty to look at! However, the vertebrates that breed in the pond, which are primarily newts and toads with probably a frog or two, will survive as they will soon leave the water and head for neighbouring damp places. Similarly, the invertebrates such as mayflies and dragonflies will mostly survive, even if some are too small to leave the water this season.

Of ongoing concern are the two problems that contribute to the poor water quality. One is an excessive growth of horsetail and the other is the leaf fall from our large chestnut trees, which is adding to the nutrients in the pond on decomposition. Horsetail is a troublesome invasive though native plant that throws out an entanglement of long roots and remains extremely persistent despite our efforts to remove it. This plant along with other greenery is encouraged to grow by a legacy of agricultural run-off from the fields surrounding the pond.

The Committee continues to look at possible solutions to improve the level and quality of water in the pond, although we could allow nature to take its course and let the pond become an area of damp woodland and eventually dry woodland, but that is of course, an issue for another day!

Indoor pond dipping at the Biddenham Show is always fun, and we thank the Show team, some of whom are closely connected to the pond, for our prime position in the entrance to the village hall. Families came and went, and some children stayed. Microscopy is practised very little these days and the examination of live invertebrates even less, so we are always pleased when children say: "we have done some of this at school." We had one smooth newt on display that remained calm and went back into the pond later, but in prime position was a rare visitor indeed,

the 'long bodied water scorpion' or its alias 'the water stick insect' or even *Ranatra linearis*, which was visiting from another pond. These shy creatures are about 3cm long including a long snorkel and don't move much, so it was looked at and photographed by our many visitors before being returned to its own watery habitat.

Photo: Kris Burchill

when our Chairman, Chris Jones, was formally recognised for his many years of conservation work in our village. He was presented at the Biddenham Show, with a special certificate by the High Sheriff of Bedfordshire "for his great and valuable services to the community." We are extremely proud of Chris, and as a community, very grateful for his dedication to preserving the flora and fauna of our natural habitat, as well as his enthusiasm for passing on his love of nature to the next generation. Thank you Chris!

Date for your diary – we are holding our autumn work morning on Saturday 11th November, 10.00am to noon. All welcome to come and help us down at the Pond!

The Pond Team



Contact Details

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www.facebook.com/biddenhamvillagepond



St Owen's Church, Bromham

Saturday 14th October

7.30pm at

The Church in the Park

MK43 8LL

Ouse Valley Singers

Make a welcome return with an
Autumn Concert

Tickets: Adult £10
Child under 16 Free

Price includes glass of wine/squash & 'nibbles'
Pay at the door (cash or card)
Reservations Line - 01234 826551

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor

Being summoned to appear before the High Sheriff at the Biddenham Show was not something I was expecting.

The receipt of a community award for conservation was a great surprise.

This kind of activity depends on places to go such as Cowslip Meadow and the village pond. It also relies on the support and help of other volunteers.

So I thank all those who help me and give me opportunities to indulge a passion for natural history and ecology.

Cheers to The Biddenham Show, The Biddenham Conservation Volunteers and The Friends of Biddenham Pond.

Best wishes

Chris Jones

(See Show supplement for the photograph)

Biddenham Parish Council

The Parish Council met on Tuesday 19th September, our first meeting after the summer break. Present at the meeting were Parish Councillors Peter Chase, Caroline Cross, Harry Fowler, Chris Gee, Aaron Melvin, Simi Otukoya, Francia Slade and Laura Simmonds. Also present were the Clerk, David Brough, and myself and Borough councillor, Jon Gambold.

One of the key topics was to review proposals for upgrading the play area adjacent to the Pavilion. The Parish is in the fortunate position of being able to use some of the funding it received from the housing development at Gold Lane. Refurbishing the play area was one of the suggestions put forward for the use of CIL and it is great to see it move from an idea to a proposed scheme. It was helpful that some of our newer Parish Councillors have children as they were able to input much more knowledgeably than say, myself, who last used a play area as a parent decades ago!

The plans for the new play area include monkey bars, swings, tubes and springs, a wheelchair accessible roundabout and other exciting play elements for children. It all sounds and looks amazing and I think we are very fortunate to be able to undertake the upgrade. Let's hope it gives much pleasure to our younger residents. If you want to see more details, please look on our website.

Still on the Pavilion area, we discussed a complaint from a local resident about the impact the greater use of the field has had on their quality of life. It is important that we are a 'good neighbour' and listen to residents when activities we influence have impact on them. Councillors agreed we needed to fully understand the problem before we consider our next steps and therefore agreed to review it again after some further investigation while the field is being used.

While most of the issues we consider are fairly local to the Parish, one larger matter we considered was the likely impact of East West Rail. While my intention is not to debate the merits of this national scheme, if the East West Rail company's preferred route 'Option E' is progressed it will impact Biddenham residents as there will be the replacement and extension of existing bridges coupled with the remodelling/replacement of Bedford Midland Station. Both will lead to traffic disruption for an extended period. Additionally, more trains (both passenger and freight) will be routed through the urban area of Bedford. The issues arising from these impacts were considered and debated by Councillors. The outlet for us to voice our concerns and express our views is unclear and we resolved to make contact with our local MP, Richard Fuller, and the Borough Council to hear their take on the project and receive their advice on how best to effectively engage.

Once again, we were able to support the local conservation group with a grant to purchase some tools and a shed to store them. This group does a great job improving and sustaining important parts of our local environment and if you have any locations you think could benefit from their attention let us know.

Staying on the topic of restoration, I was pleased to see the restoration of the 1934 marker post on Bromham Road. I am told there are only two more left - Clapham and Cardington. It's important to preserve our heritage and I am grateful the Parish Council could step in and undertake the work which the Borough Council had rated as a low priority (effectively consigning it to the back burner). The pictures show the before and after.

At this meeting we resolved, for the first time, to adopt a 'Freedom of the Parish' policy. This enables the Parish to select and appoint Honorary Freeman and Freewomen for Biddenham Parish. Granting the Freedom is the highest honour that Biddenham Parish Council can bestow. Although it carries no privileges, those who receive the



honour are able to use the title of Freeman or Freewoman. The driver behind this was a proposal from Councillor Fowler that we should recognise the distinguished service that former Councillor, Roger Rigby, had provided to the Parish championing issues for us, influencing the Borough Council's thinking and representing our residents tirelessly and with passion.

At a separate meeting following our normal Parish meeting, we resolved to grant the honour of Freeman of Biddenham Parish to him. We hope he will accept the honour and, if so, details on the ceremony will be shared in a later post.

Date of the next meeting

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 10th October 2023 at 7.30pm at St James's Church Barn, Church End and all are welcome. Please note the change in date and venue.**

Stewart Briggs
Chair



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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

Biddenham History Society

Next meeting

The next meeting of the Society will be on Monday 9th October from 2.30pm – 4.30pm. Jean Fullerton 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 the books she has written, which have featured life during the War in the East End of London. I hope you will be able to come and hear her talk.

Kathy Fricker

Archaeological dig

On 27th August the third residential archaeological dig took place in Biddenham, this time in the garden of Parsonage Cottage, 39 Church End, the home of Francis and Cathy Galbraith and their family.

Some interesting discoveries were made, which are being studied and listed by Matt Edgeworth, the archaeologist who has so kindly given us his time for this work. An energetic team of diggers, sifters and scrubbers was assembled, and a good number of local residents came to view the site during the afternoon.

A full report will be published in the November issue of *The Loop*.

Mary McKeown

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 10.00am - 3.00pm with free admission - a donation in the Save the Children buckets would be appreciated.

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

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A ripple of excitement

Last month's article about the Missings, who gave us our link with Biddenham in Australia, recounted something of the life and times of Henry Missing's siblings, including sister Harriet Jessie, who had married Joseph John Godfrey, a surgeon and the eldest son of Nathaniel Godfrey of Turvey, Bedfordshire.

But then, a ripple of excitement when I first encountered the Reverend Nathaniel Stedman Godfrey.

According to his Cambridge Alumni record, he was also the son of Nathaniel Godfrey, apothecary of Turvey, Bedfordshire. It seemed Joseph John Godfrey had a brother and Harriet, daughter of the Reverend John Missing, Curate of Biddenham from 1838 to 1840, a brother-in-law.

Delving into Reverend Nathaniel Stedman's history revealed a religious career taking him to Swansea in Wales, Wortley, near Leeds, in Yorkshire, and latterly ending his days in Southsea, Hampshire, Missing territory no less and a tenuous connection, where he was the Minister at St Bartholomew's.

I wasn't convinced though about his ancestry. How could Joseph be the eldest son if he had a brother born some years earlier?

Delving further it became clear that Nathaniel Stedman, whilst the son of a Nathaniel Godfrey born in Chatham, Kent, was not the son of our Nathaniel Godfrey who it transpired was also born in Chatham, Kent: what are the chances of that! The former was a vinegar merchant of Southwark, Surrey, and the latter a surgeon and apothecary at 7 High Street, Turvey, next to the Independent Chapel. That was disappointing; it seemed we'd lost that Missing link through Harriet and Joseph to Nathaniel Stedman.

But then not a ripple but a super surfer sized wave of excitement when it emerged that after leaving Swansea Reverend Nathaniel Stedman Godfrey was from 1848 to 1850 the curate at ... St James's Church, Biddenham. Wow, that was a surprise!

So a Missing link revived not through Harriet Missing but through our own village of Biddenham where Reverend Nathaniel Stedman Godfrey some eight years later followed Reverend John Missing as curate.

Nathaniel Stedman, son of Nathaniel Rose Godfrey and Elizabeth Stedman, was born in November 1817 and baptised in the independent Wycliffe Chapel, Stepney, London, in February 1818. In the first quarter of 1843 he married Caroline Ann Goodhart in Hackney, her brother Charles Joseph Goodhart being the officiating Minister. At that time Nathaniel Stedman was in partnership with his father as vinegar merchants in Southwark.

In March 1844, Nathaniel Stedman and his father dissolved their partnership and Nathaniel Stedman entered St Catherine's College, Cambridge. He was ordained a deacon in 1847 and a priest in 1849.

Nathaniel and Caroline had seven children and their time in Biddenham was blessed with the birth of two of those children, but saddened by their early deaths. Henry Bunbury was born on 8th July, 1848 at 3 Bedford Terrace, Bedford. His baptism on 4th August, 1848 is entered in the St James's Church Register as a Private Baptism (that is, conducted at home). Blanche Marian was baptised in St James's on 5th May, 1850. Both were buried in St James's churchyard; Henry on 14th August, 1848, aged one month, and Blanche on 31st May, 1850, aged eight weeks.



From Biddenham, the family

The memorial stone for Henry and Blanche Godfrey at St James's, in close proximity as it happens to the obelisk for the Reverend John Missing and his son John McBride.

moved to Wortley and then to Hampshire where Nathaniel took up temporary duty at Portsea and Southsea before becoming curate and then incumbent of St Bartholomew's Church in Southsea.

Nathaniel had a longstanding interest in astronomy and in December 1864 was appointed a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society. Following his death in October 1883, the Society wrote of him *'He was successful as a composer of sacred music, and published several doctrinal works, some of them of a controversial character, and all of the Evangelical type. Mr Godfrey possessed a fine Newtonian reflector with silver-on-glass mirror, 9-ft. focus, by Calver, which he had mounted in an Observatory of his own contrivance. ... in the course of forty-five years he had possessed about fifteen achromatic telescopes ...'*. What did the heavens over Biddenham and Bedford look like to Nathaniel during his time here with much darker skies than today?

As the Society recorded, Nathaniel was interested also in sacred music, having composed the hymn tune, Ellingham, used for at least two hymns, *Cast your burden on the Lord* and *God of mercy, hear our prayer*. There is also a hint about another interest, and whilst in Southsea Nathaniel was suspended for three years for spiritualistic practices; he wrote a number of books, including works on table-turning, spirit-rapping and clairvoyance.



Table turning

Thanks to the Royal Irish Academy

Advances in science during his lifetime posed problems for those with religious beliefs; many people saw science and a belief in religion and the supernatural as being at odds with each another, that science was intruding in matters over which only God had control.

Nathaniel and his wife began their involvement with table-turning in 1853 whilst in Wortley. Loren Pankratz in his book *Mysteries and Secrets revealed: From Oracles at Delphi to Spiritualism in America* recounts more about him, his views and his experiments. Nathaniel published a pamphlet about his experience which proved very popular, and he added in the seventh edition that the scientist Michael Faraday's explanation of table-turning had not the remotest bearing on and had been disproved by his experiments. In *Table-Turning: a Victorian fad* Sophie Evans of the Royal Irish Academy also writes about Nathaniel, his first experiment and his pamphlet *Table-moving tested and proved to be the result of Satanic agency*.

I wonder, what did Biddenham folk make of that Reverend gentleman during his two years in the Parish?

Peter Applewhite

{With thanks to the Royal Astronomical Society for the extracts from their obituary and to Loren Pankratz and Sophie Evans for the information gleaned from their publications}

BEDFORD HOSPITAL CHARITY & FRIENDS



Art Sale

In Support of the Primrose Car Service



Tuesday 10th to Saturday 14th October 2023

Open 11am - 4pm

A fundraising sale of Art, Crafts, Christmas & Handmade cards, donated by local artists and supporters of the Charity.



Reg. Charity No. 299250

BASEMENT@BUNYAN, MILL ST. BEDFORD MK40 3EU

Art Sale 2023

I have pleasure in announcing our Art Sale for 2023.

This year it is to support our wonderful Primrose Car Service and will be held at the Basement at Bunyan from Tuesday 10th to Saturday 14th October from 11.00am until 4.00pm.

We will have on sale works by local artists and those donated by supporters of the Charity, the Charity Christmas Cards and other handmade items.

Please put the date in your diary and join us for a cup of tea or coffee. We would love to see you.

If you do have any art that you would like to donate to the Charity for the sale I would be happy to come and collect. Just contact me by sending an email.

Mandy Brookes

amandabrookes99@gmail.com

Mobile Library

Dates for October

Biddenham

Thursdays: 5th, 19th October

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: 14th, 28th October

Community Hall 2.20 to 2.40pm

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This month in the garden

Well here we are in October and into the "Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness" as described by Keats in his Ode to Autumn. It is time to gather in fruits from our gardens and hedgerows and store and preserve them for the winter. Perhaps not now so vital as in years gone by but still a satisfying activity. In his poem Keats describes the beauty and bounty of the autumn season. How lovely to see the berries developing and the spider webs in the dewy grass early in the morning - a sure sign that autumn is upon us.

I have had a real glut of tomatoes (Sun Gold) and this year I will be saving some seed. I don't think I have saved tomato seeds since the mid sixties when I taught a class of nine year olds, mostly from very deprived backgrounds. We cut open tomatoes, dried the seeds, planted and nurtured them. These children monitored the developing plants with close interest - they had never grown anything before and then we harvested and had a jolly picnic on the school field joined by the caretaker who had watered them for us during the holidays. I wonder if any of my class are still growing tomatoes or indeed any other plants.

We are reaching the stage when, unless we get some very warm and sunny days, tomatoes will be slow in ripening. Help them on their way by cutting out all side shoots and the tops of the plants, plus any leaves covering the tomatoes, this helps the plant to put all its energy into the few remaining tomatoes - and of course if they don't ripen, green tomato chutney is very tasty.

As we cut back some vegetation in our gardens we can start to plan for putting down mulch - a late autumn and winter activity. Mulching means covering the surface of the soil to reduce the amount of weeds coming up through the soil. It also increases water retention in the soil by locking in moisture and reducing loss of water through transpiration by the wind and sun. Gravel, cobbles and bark will all do this, but mulching with compost - spent mushroom compost, or the compost you have made yourself - will improve the structure and increase the nutrient content in the soil as it breaks down. Leaf mould is particularly good for improving soil structure and well rotted manure is especially beneficial on light, sandy soils. Be careful around the crown of plants 5-10cm depth is about right - it will give your plants a real boost. I was invited to visit two lovely gardens in Biddenham during the summer - the owners were great 'mulchers' and it really showed in their displays. I heard a tip the other day, which I pass on, perhaps you do it already. Dig a trench at this time of the year and during the winter throw in any vegetable peelings of other organic matter (not invasive weeds of course). This will rot down over the coming months and in May, when the soil has warmed up, here you can plant runner beans. They need lots of water and the organic matter will help to conserve the moisture. My grandfather always put down layers of newspaper in his runner bean trench as did we when we grew them on our allotment in the seventies.

I am continuing to feed my hanging baskets and tubs with a high potash fertiliser and I have now started to use this on the hellebores that I have in pots - they will be forming their buds any time now and I find this helps them on their way. Speaking of which - how lovely to see the buds that have formed on the camellias and rhododendrons in readiness for next spring. Amongst my many failures this year - well you win some and you lose some - I have had particular success with strawberries that I have grown in pots. The variety is Toscana and I grew them really for their wonderful deep pink flowers, but then found that the actual berries were really flavoursome. This afternoon I have been repotting them in a free draining gravelly compost. I have also been tackling the ghastly business of washing pots. I used to be much better organised on this and kept up with the task, but this year they have just drifted into piles in my side passage way. I must try to clear

the backlog as later this month the garden will be a hive of activity.



My pond, which my son made in 1988 when he was 13 (it was his Easter holiday project after pleading with us to let him create one) has become overgrown and the waterfall has not been in operation for many years. It is still excellent for wildlife and although it is over a metre deep in the middle it has various

levels and a bog garden at each end so that any creature that comes to drink can easily scramble out. Well this is the year it is being transformed and I will keep you up to date on its progress. The pond team are setting up a holding tank so that the newts and everything else can be fished out and saved.

I hope you have had successes in your garden this summer and three cheers once again for our wonderful Parks Department - their late summer display on The Embankment is as stunning as ever and so up lifting.

Linda Truscott

Café B



*Tuesday 17th October
Biddenham Village Hall
10.15 am - 11.45am*

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Next café 21st November

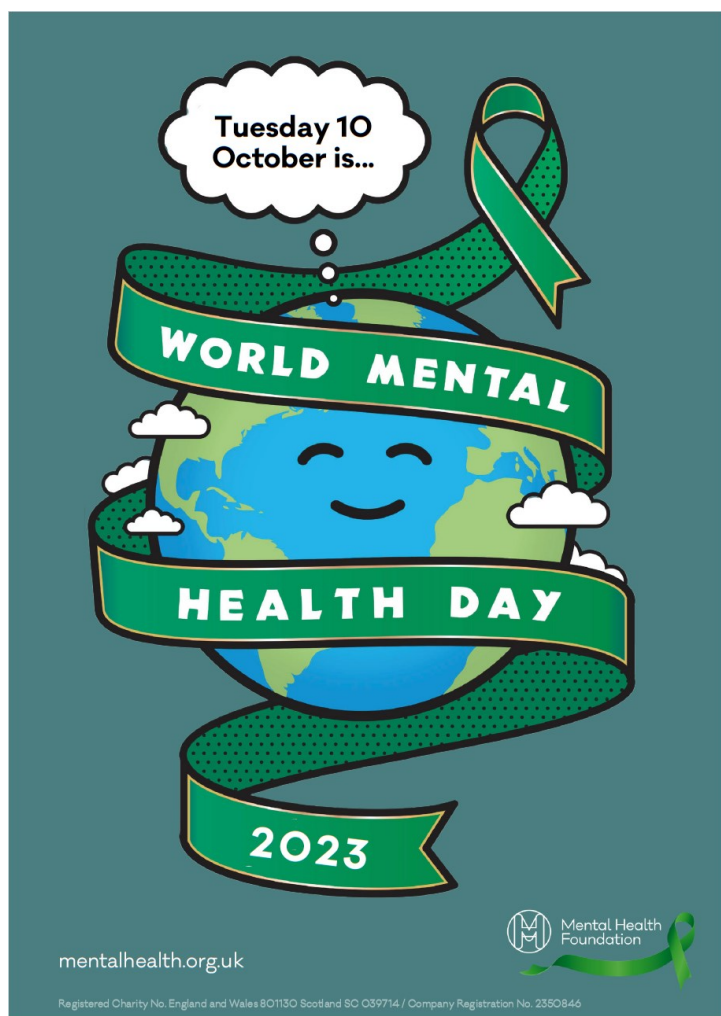
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World Mental Health Day Tuesday 10th October

Every year 10th October marks World Mental Health Day to raise awareness of mental health, drive positive change and encourage discussions about looking after our mental health. This year the theme is 'Mental Health is a universal human right'.

At Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity, we have a number of services that can help those feeling isolated and alone or struggling with their mental health.

If you feel you need one-to-one support, our Social Prescribing service can help. Our team of Community Wellbeing Champions help people take control of their health and wellbeing and help people to connect with their local community, improve physical activity, and empower them to make decisions to support their health.

We have a range of Green Social Prescribing activities and courses available that are free to attend and help people to spend time in nature and look after their wellbeing.

Our Community Agents make home visits to older people living in towns and villages across Bedfordshire to help them with free support and assistance. Our Good Neighbour scheme supports groups to provide a 'safety net' for their local area, responding to requests from residents in need of a bit of extra help. We also provide wellbeing walks which are free and open to all.

Online resources

There are also many online resources available if you or someone you know needs support.

MIND

You can access lots of information on the MIND website, including tips for everyday living with mental health and for staying well at work.

Visit the MIND website (www.mind.org.uk) to find out more about looking after your mental health, the local support available and about World Mental Health Day.

Samaritans

If you feel like you need to talk to someone, you can contact the Samaritans. Call 116 123 any time, from any phone for FREE. Find out more: www.samaritans.org

Mental Health Foundation

The Mental Health Foundation website has some tips on talking about your mental health, and talking to others about their mental health so you can have useful conversations and help each other. Visit www.mentalhealth.org.uk for more information.

Find out more about Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity and the ways we can help people struggling with their mental health at www.bedsrcc.org.uk or call us on 01234 838771.

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

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

You can find the latest list of items needed by Bedford food bank and details of how to make a financial donation at:

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





Biddenham Show 2023

The major decision for the 2022 Biddenham Show was whether the Show should go on, after the sad news of the death of Queen Elizabeth II. This year's big decision concerned the Fun Dog Show and whether this should be held with the temperature forecast to be 30 degrees plus. Although we had planned some mitigations, the final decision was to cancel the Dog Show in the interest of animal welfare (although an impromptu 'Show' of photos was held on Facebook). We know how much people enjoy the Dog Show, which is now an integral feature of the Show, and we are sorry for any disappointment that was caused, but the interest of the dogs had to come first.

Of all the problems that we anticipated this year, an unseasonal heatwave was not at the front of our minds! As it turned out, during the four hours of the Show we experienced extreme heat, heavy rain, thunder, and a freak gust of wind that blew through the site, with show-goers holding on to the various marquees and gazebos on the site, until the wind abated.

You cannot over-estimate the hard work that is required to put on a show, even a small one like the Biddenham Show, and I would like to pay tribute to the fourteen members of the Show Committee for their hard work, perseverance, imagination, and determination to bring the people of Biddenham a successful show. Behind every committee member is a partner that was roped in to help – making the new games, running stalls, erecting and dismantling the site. It was a great team and family effort.

A new approach for 2023 was setting up a Youth Committee under the leadership of Cathy Eckett-Brown, with the intention of updating the competition classes for the Under 16s and introducing more games and activities. Not everything worked quite as intended, but we had more entries from the Under 16s, with the inclusion of classes such as pebble decorating and Lego creations, and our Kids' Corner was manned by the children themselves.

At the time of writing this piece, I am still waiting for more costs to come in, so I don't know how much surplus was made. However, in the next edition we will include details of the income and costs for the Show but, in the meantime, may I remind you that any surplus over and above that which we need to repair, replace or improve what we do, is distributed to local non-profit making organisations. The deadline for requests for funding is Friday 10th November, 2023, and requests can be submitted either to me jane@80klt.co.uk or through the Biddenham Show website. Please provide some information as to what the funding will be used for.

The Children's Society

There will be a Children's Society Box Collection this year and I will be taking in Boxes in October. If possible, I would be grateful if you could bring your filled boxes to 2 Day's Lane. If not, please ring me on 356497 or text me on 07485 744298 to arrange collection.

Thank you for your continued support.

Eloise Carter

I would like to thank the Committee, their families, everyone who donated bottles, cakes and their time, the High Sheriff of Bedfordshire for making time in his busy schedule to open the Show and award the trophies, St James VA Primary School for letting us use their field and playground, and our sponsors – Taylor Brightwell and the Manor Hospital, Dandara at Saxon Park for sponsoring the circus skills and Bentley Grange Care Home for sponsoring the Dog Show (and for not minding when the Dog Show was cancelled), and last but not least, all the people who came to the Show. We hope that you had a great time, and that we see you next year.

Thank you.

Jane Knight
Chair

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(covering 7x7m)


For more details contact
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 some information about one of our newest regulars at the Barn, Disco Duck. So, what is Disco Duck? Disco Duck is a music and movement class for children 18 months+ and their syllabus has been designed to develop real learning outcomes such as rhythm and timing, balance, coordination, fine and gross motor skills, to build the foundations of dance with a sound structure, catchy tunes and supporting the early years foundation stages, but most important of all its fun.

Sarah and Disco Duck run their classes at the Barn from 2.00-3.00pm every Friday term time, with 30 minutes of a structured class, followed by 30 minutes of free play for the children with snacks and drinks for the adults. So it's a great start to the weekend. Booking is essential as spaces are limited. Come and join the fun and start the weekend well!



Disco Duck



Suitable for 18mths
- Rising 5's



Biddenham Gardeners' Association

Programme of Meetings 2023

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



Every Friday
(Term Time Only)
2-3pm

St. James's Barn,
Church End,
Biddenham,
Bedford
MK40 4AS



Disco Duck- Wootton & Milton Ernest-
Bedfordshire

<https://bookwhen.com/inspiredschoolofdance>

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

'Kings and Queens' at this year's Christmas Tree Festival

Bedford Christmas Tree Festival 2023

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

Don't miss this annual event across five days in Bedford's historic town centre church; the perfect way to start the countdown to Christmas. The Festival now welcomes thousands of visitors to enjoy music and performances by local groups and schools against the backdrop of over sixty trees decorated by schools, community groups and businesses. This year's theme is 'Kings and Queens'.

There are also competitions for children and the chance to vote for your favourite tree. Refreshments and a raffle will also be available. The High Sheriff, Russell Beard, will open the Festival at 10.30am on the 6th. All welcome.

Fizz at the Festival is on Wednesday 6th at 6.00-8.00pm. Enjoy fizz and canapés with friends and colleagues at this private evening viewing, open to everyone, with tickets in advance £8.00. Tel: 01234 783181 or email:

treefestival@stpaulschurchbedford.org.uk

The Festival concert is on Friday 8th December at 7.30pm with the popular 'Woburn Piano Trio', including members of the world-class Philharmonia Orchestra. This is a truly memorable evening for concert goers to enjoy the beautiful trees at night in the majestic setting of St Paul's. Tickets are £20 from: www.peoplesfundraising.com/concert-tickets or telephone: 01234 783181.

Last year, over £20,000 was raised.

All money raised from the Festival goes towards funding much needed equipment for Bedford Hospital and towards the upkeep of St Paul's Church, a Grade 1 listed building, and its continued support to Bedford and the wider community.

Entry to the Festival is £3 and free for children under 16.

Our sponsors

We are very grateful to all our sponsors and supporters including Jayne Beard Associates in memory of Jayne Beard, a former Chair of the Bedford Hospital Charity.

Get involved

To find out more about volunteering at this year's Festival, please email

treefestival@stpaulschurchbedford.org.uk

Follow our Facebook page: facebook.com/bedfordchristmastreefestival and like and share our posts. Please tell your friends about this event.

Ann Collett-White

North Bedfordshire Ramblers

Join us for a walk

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

October Walks

7th pm Cople, 6.3 miles

14th am Priory Park 10 miles, or pm Swineshead 5.5 miles,

21st pm Milton Keynes 6.25 miles

28th am Sharnbrook Academy 6 miles or pm Sharnbrook Academy 6 miles or both 12 miles

Contact; Margaret Sawyer 07780933729

Facebook; North Beds Ramblers

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



BEDFORD CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2023
Over 60 trees decorated in the theme of...

KINGS & QUEENS

On:
Wed 6 Dec to Sat 9 Dec - 10am till 5pm
Sun 10 Dec - 12 noon till 4pm

Venue:
St Paul's Church, Bedford, MK40 1SQ

Admission:
£3 (Children under 16 free)

Find out more:
f Bedford Christmas Tree Festival
E: treefestival@stpaulschurchbedford.org.uk
T: 01234 340163

Festival Concert
7.30pm
Friday 8th
December

In aid of:
BEDFORD HOSPITAL CHARITY & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION
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Events at Great Denham Community Hall

Childrens Cinema – Every month during term time we hold a family friendly cinema session on the first Friday of the month. Parents/guardians and those under two years accompanying an older sibling are free to attend and as well as popcorn and a drink included in the entry price, we also sell hot dogs and lots of other refreshments too. Follow our Facebook page every month for clues on what the upcoming movie will be.

Halloween Children's Fun – Tuesday and Friday in the October half term is all about spooky fun for the little ones. With children's craft sessions on the Tuesday and a fancy dress disco on the Friday there's lots of affordable fun for parents/guardians to bring their children along to. Tickets must be purchased in advance.

Winter Festival – We might only just be getting into autumn but we've opened up applications to stall holders wanting to join us at our annual Winter Festival. We welcome as much variety as possible so will limit duplicate stall holders on a first come first served basis. With Santa's grotto, fete games and refreshments on the day as well, the event is always well attended by our community, so we hope you can join us with your stall too.

Sharon

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

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Biddenham Show Trophy Winners 2023

Peacock Spade	Jan Page
BGA Challenge Shield	Jan Page
Mrs Lilly Bowl	Jan Page
Bristow Cup	Jan Page
Captain Carter Plate	Sarah Guri
Ted Brooks Cup	Maggie Gardner
Three Tuns Cup	Rachel Thomas
Hunniken-Lepper Trophy	Joanna Hyne
Cooper Cup	Alyson Batty
Eric Green Cup	Michael Cunningham
Miss Steel Cup	Pauline White
Biddenham International School Young Biddenham Cup	James Kostuch
Biddenham Show Young Photographer's Cup	James Kostuch
Biddenham Show Young Biddenham Crafter Cup	Emma Eckett-Brown
Biddenham Show Young Biddenham Artist Cup	Maisie Leech
Biddenham Show Young Biddenham Cook Cup	Ben Eckett-Brown
Biddenham Show Young Biddenham Gardener and Floral Arranger Cup	Mary Fox
David Slark Cup <i>New for 2023 presented by Anthea Slark</i>	Michael Cunningham
Graham and Betty Bates Cup	The Fox Family
Biddenham Show Committee Cup	Millie Palmer and Frankie Palmer



Biddenham Show Raffle Prize Sponsors

Special thanks to the Raffle prize sponsors for their generosity:

Dunster House

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New Bombay

National Garden Centre

Browns of Stagsden

Pure Heart Boutique

The Manor

Our Village Agent

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



Do you have a Living Will?

I sometimes get asked how people can record their 'end-of-life' wishes in advance, and in the past this has not been easy to do. However, the charity, Compassion in Dying, has launched a new online service, built to Government Service Standards, containing all the specific information which is needed to make advance decisions legally binding and clinically useful. Even if you have already prepared an 'advance statement', you are advised to review it every two years. This service is available online: www.compassionindying.org.uk.

Do you have a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA)?

If you have an accident, stroke or illness which prevents you from safely managing your own affairs, an LPA enables the people you have appointed to manage your finances and health decisions. This can save your relatives a great deal of money and distress. If you lose mental capacity without an LPA in place, your family must apply to the Court of Protection to have a deputy appointed to deal with everyday financial matters. This is a slow and very expensive process, costing thousands of pounds.

You should set an LPA before you need one

People who have lost capacity can no longer write a will, or appoint a Power of Attorney. Don't assume it won't happen to you - one in three people born in the UK this year will develop dementia.

How to get an LPA and what it costs

There are two LPAs - one for financial decisions and one for health decisions. You can complete them yourself for free via the Gov.uk website. It then costs £82 to register each LPA with the Office of Public Guardian <https://www.lastingpowerofattorney.service.gov.uk/home>. If you don't want to do the work yourself, the next cheapest route is to use a will writing service. Many people use their solicitor.

Are you caring for someone?

If you are helping someone with their personal care, such as bathing, dressing or night-time support, you may be eligible for a **non-means tested** weekly allowance called Attendance Allowance, paid by the DWP. I can help you to apply.

You may also be able to claim an NHS Carer's Grant to help you deal with stress or health issues.

Carers in Bedfordshire offers support and runs a range of courses and activities for carers. Sign up for their free quarterly magazine and learn more about their services via www.carersinbeds.org.uk or tel: 0300 111 1919.

Are you supporting someone with dementia?

Bedford has an excellent charity - **Tibbs Dementia Foundation** - which offers a wide range of support for people with dementia and their family carers. See www.tibbsdementia.co.uk. You can attend both separately and together for cognitive, physical, emotional support and

overall wellbeing. Sign up for their weekly email newsletter via contact@tibbsdementia.co.uk or tel: 01234 210993 (10am-1pm).

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 Teresa 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.)

Biddenham Gardeners Association

Flowers through my viewfinder

Henant Jariwala

19th September 2023

After 43 years in the Defence Industry, Henant decided in his retirement to take an entirely different line of work and to become a photographic expert taking beautiful images of flowers, landscapes and gardens. His photographs are used in calendars and greeting cards. He has obtained numerous honours for his photography and is an Associate of the Royal Photographic Society. He is passionate about photography and walking.

In the course of his slide show of many beautiful flowers, he was able to include a number of useful hints for photographers generally and specifically for photographers of flowers. He said that the best camera is the camera you have with you. This has become much easier with the coming of the smart phone, such as the iPhone, which now has superb lenses, but he has practised photography for many years and is an expert in taking photographs with film as well as digital photography. His view is that there is no difference between film and digital photographs. He does not use zoom lenses and he does not use atomisers on the flowers to create a special effect as atomisers can kill the plant being photographed. He generally uses a tripod. He does not use flash as he finds that gives the flowers a waxy appearance, and he has not invested large sums of money in macro lenses. The best day for taking photographs of flowers is not a sunny day, but a day which is overcast but bright. A sunny day dissolves the colours whereas an overcast day enables the natural colours of the flowers to be displayed to their best advantage.

His favourite flower is "the one I am going to take tomorrow," and he said: "You are only as good as your last picture."

He has become a friend of Kew Gardens and a large number of the beautiful pictures which were shown at the meeting in his slide show were taken at Kew Gardens. Being a Friend allows him entry at 8.00am rather than the usual 10.00am which enables him to take photographs without being disturbed.

The photographs in the slide show were too numerous to list in detail, but he is clearly attracted by tulips, autumn crocus, blanket flowers, pasque flowers, poppies, clarkia, asters, geraniums, gladioli and irises. He has spent a lot of time in the Alpine House at Kew, and at the end of the talk there were many photographs of water lilies.

Please join us next month on Tuesday 17th October at 7.30pm when Dr Twigs Way will be talking on the History of Suburban Gardens. The meeting will be open to all members and visitors. We look forward to seeing you then.

Charles Duchenne

www.biddenhamgardenersassociation.org.uk



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Peter's Picturehouse In October




Date: Tuesday 3rd October 2023
Time: Doors open 7:00pm, Film starts 7:30pm
Location: Biddenham Village Hall



Certificate: 12

56 seats available. Ticket price: £5
 Reserve your seat: Call/text 07818 878491 or
 Email: peterspicturehouse@gmail.com
 Remaining unreserved seats will be available on the door.

Coming soon...
 Tues 7th Nov Barbie (12)
 Tues 5th Dec The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry (12A)

Peter's Picturehouse

This month's film at Peter's Picturehouse is a very popular thriller which has recently been made into a TV series. Starring Harrison Ford and Tommy Lee Jones, **The Fugitive** (12) spent six weeks as the number one film in the US on its release and was nominated for seven Academy Awards, winning Best Supporting Actor.

Dr Richard Kimble is wrongly accused of murdering his wife and receives the death sentence. Kimble escapes on his way to prison and the action continues as he fights to clear his name. The tension in the film grabs its audience and critics say that the film is just as exciting when seen again and again and again!

In contrast, for November, we are excited to have been able to book Greta Gerwig's Barbie (12) which opened in cinemas in July 2023. It's said to be a fantasy comedy film you have to see, Barbie and Ken going on a journey of self-discovery! In December, our film is The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry (12A). Lots to look forward to! Do come along to Peter's Picturehouse in Biddenham Village Hall on the first Tuesday of the month.

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

Tues 3rd October	The Fugitive (12)
Tues 7th November	Barbie (12)
Tues 5th December	The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry (12A)

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 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**

6th October, 3rd November

Quilting & Sewing Group



Biddenham Village Hall

10.30 a.m.

Last Friday of each month

Pop in and see what goes on



100 CLUB August draw

The winners were:

1st	Angela Tatum-Hume	470
2nd	Fatima Ayyub	37
3rd	Christopher Patel	110

Drawn by Phil Mussellwhite



The Friends of St James

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

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

No Fear Duplicate Bridge

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

Hall Booking Details

Biddenham Village Hall

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

Church Barn

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

Pavilion

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

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

Great Denham Community Hall

www.greatdenhamcommunityhall.co.uk

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

Regular Events in Biddenham Halls

For contact details see the Hall websites

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

For details of 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
Ukranian 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 Termttime	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 Termttime (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		
Ukranian 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 Termttime	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	2.00-3.00pm (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

October

Sun 1 Oct	All Age Harvest Service, All Saints, 10.00am Lay-led All Age Worship, St James's, 10.00am
Mon 2 Oct	Great Denham Parish Council, Community Hall, 7.30pm
Tue 3 Oct	Peter's Picture House, Biddenham Village Hall, 7.00pm, see p17
Fri 6 Oct	First Friday lunch, Biddenham Village Hall, 12.15pm, see p18
Fri 6 Oct	Children's Community Cinema, Great Denham Community Hall, 3.30pm, see p14
Sun 8 Oct	Said Holy Communion, All Saints, 9.00am Harvest Communion, St James's, 10.00am Holy Communion, All Saints, 10.00am Evening Prayer St James's, 6.00pm
Sun 8 Oct	Harvest Festival, Church Barn, 3.30-5.30pm, see p1
Sun 8 Oct	Save the Children Craft & Gift Fair, Biddenham Pavilion, 10.00am -3.00pm, see p6
Mon 9 Oct	Biddenham History Society, Church Barn, 2.30-4.30pm, see p6
10-14 Oct	Art Sale, Basement at Bunyan, 11.00am-4.00pm, see p8
Tue 10 Oct	Biddenham Parish Council. Church Barn , 7.30pm see p5
Sat 14 Oct	Ouse Valley Singers, St Owen's Church Bromham, 7.30pm, see p4
Sun 15 Oct	Holy Communion, All Saints, 10.00am Lay-led Worship, St James's, 10.00am
Tue 17 Oct	Café B, Biddenham Village Hall, 10.15-11.45am, see p9
Tue 17 Oct	Bedford National Trust Association, Addison Centre, Kempston, 2.15pm, see p3
Tue 17 Oct	Biddenham Gardeners Association, Biddenham Village Hall, 7.30pm, see pp12 & 16
Sun 22 Oct	Said Holy Communion, All Saints, 9.00am Holy Communion, St James's, 10.00am
Tue 24 Oct	Creepy Crafts, Great Denham Community Hall, see p3
Fri 27 Oct	Quilting & Sewing Group, Biddenham Village Hall, 10.30am, see p18
Fri 27 Oct	Monster Mash, Great Denham Community Hall, see p3
Sun 29 Oct	Service of Healing and Wholeness, St James's, 10.00am Sung Evensong, St James's, 6.00pm

November

Thu 2 Nov	Biddenham Village Hall AGM, 8.00pm, see p6
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 p14
Sat 11 Nov	Biddenham Pond Work Morning, 10.00am-12noon, see p4

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

For Mobile Library dates see page 8
For North Beds Ramblers Walks see page 13

The Loop

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All November 2023 articles, preferably by e-mail in Word format, to loopeditor@gmail.com
or to 22 Day's Lane and adverts to loopadverts@gmail.com
by Wednesday 18th October 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.