



# Biddestone Broadsheet



March 2015

No 417

## The White Horse



Sarah & Mark invite you all to come and have a look at our new layout.

The main bar has now become our lounge restaurant, where during evening food service Tuesday- Saturday 6-9 and Sunday lunch 12-3 we request all patrons to take a seat (we have a lovely fireside table) or try the newly refurbished snug bar where you are able to stand if you prefer.

We also have a new tea room area where you can get a cream tea or homemade cakes with your tea or coffee. Not forgetting the shop which will supply you with a few essentials we run out of from time to time.

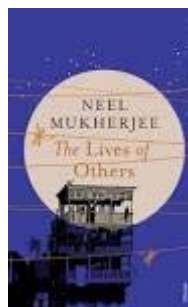
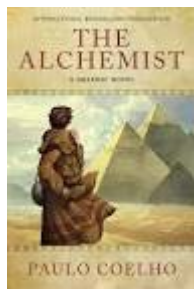
All are welcome including your four legged friends.

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday why not “duck in early” from 6-7 and get a 10% discount off your food bill and don't forget Mother's Day lunch where you can enjoy lunch with us from 12-3.



## BIDDESTONE BOOK CLUB

*We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves* by Karen Joy Fowler had a mixed reception and gave us much to discuss. Thank you to Penny for her hospitality.



In March we shall be reading *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho.

Then in April the book will be *The Lives of Others* by Neel Mukherjee.

Later in the year we plan to read *The Miniaturist* by Jessie Burton.

The next meeting will be at 7.15p.m. on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> March at Lorena's house.

If you have any questions please phone Diane on 712105.

# March 2015



Donations £5-00

## COVER PICTURE

Corsham Alms House

## THE CROWN IN GIDDEAHALL

The new manager at the Crown in Giddeahall has advised that they would like to do some fundraising for the local community and has enquired if anybody in Biddestone is looking for some support or help? If you could let me know that would be great and I'll pass the details on.

## TO ALL RESIDENTS OF BIDDESTONE AND SLAUGHTERFORD

The Biddestone and Slaughterford Parish Council would like to inform you all of dates and formats of future meetings. These are changing with regard to the Open Meetings to conform with Parish Council Regulations and Guidance.

In future the meeting in May will take the form of an AGM. At this meeting the Parish Council will adopt Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Councillor Codes of Conduct. These will then be reviewed on an annual basis. In addition to this there will be a biannual review of what the Parish Council has been up to, and achieving, on your behalf! This will replace the April Open Meeting. Our November meeting will replace the October Open Meeting and, again, will include the 6-monthly review of activities.

PLEASE NOTE... All Residents of Biddestone and Slaughterford are invited, and indeed welcome, to attend all meetings. They take place on the first Tuesday of each month in Biddestone Village Hall starting promptly at 7.00pm.

Biddestone and Slaughterford PC

THE CROWN

"A cosy local pub with so much to offer local residents and businesses"

UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP

THE CROWN AT GIDDEAHALL | CHIPPENHAM | WILTSHIRE | SN14 7ER | 01249 783889

# Biddestone



## Open Gardens

Biddestone Gardeners are calling all gardeners in the village.

We are opening gardens in Biddestone for charity in 2015.

This will take place on the weekend of Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July.

Would you be able to open your unique garden for the benefit of others? Would you be willing to help in other ways?

Any enquiries please contact Di Webb on 715963.

Thank you.



I am a former regular soldier, spending 14 years in the Royal Engineers; the last 8 years served spent working alongside 3 commando brigade as a Commando Engineer. I am currently a serving member of 131 Independent Commando Squadron Royal Engineers (v), in Bath; this is the reserve counterpart to the regular unit.

I would like to **welcome you** along to:

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

The boot camp encourages people to undertake outdoor fitness circuits. This Functional integrated training is designed to achieve great fat burning and improved fitness results. Whilst being able to meet like minded people and have fun!

Come along for a **free session** open to **all members of the community**.

Saturday 9am-10am

Chippenham rugby club

Allington fields

Frogwell

Chippenham

SN14 0YZ

# Annual General Meeting of Biddestone & Hartham W.I. held on 18th February 2015



President, Jo Hancock, welcomed twelve members to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Cathy Draper.

The Minutes of the 2014 AGM were read, approved and signed by the President.

## **Financial Statement**

Carol Millard, Treasurer, distributed copies of the Balance Sheet for members to study, and raise any queries. Margaret Beswick proposed the acceptance of the Financial Statement and this was seconded by Ronnie Robinson.

Approval of acceptance of the Independent Auditor, Caroline Moore, was proposed by Carol and seconded by Valerie Spencer-Jones.

Thanks were expressed to Carol for all her hard work.

Alison Flint reported that the fees for the Hall will not be increased.

## **Committee Report**

Betty Evans, Secretary, read out the summary of events during 2014, including interesting speakers on diverse topics. The sun shone for the Garden Party in July, and the August outing to The Courts at Holt was very much enjoyed in spite of slightly less settled weather. The final meeting for 2014 was the Christmas Party in the Village Hall.

## **President's Report**

Jo reported that Cathy Draper had resigned from the Committee, and Valerie Ringham and Valerie Spencer-Jones had been invited to join the Committee and bring fresh ideas to the meetings. Jo thanked all the Committee for their hard work and support. She reported that the quilts are now hanging in the Hall.

The President and the rest of the Committee were willing to stand again and were re-elected en bloc.

Alison Flint formally proposed a vote of thanks to Jo and the Committee.

This ended the Annual General Meeting.

After a break for refreshments, the General Meeting took place.

## **Record of Biddestone & Hartham W.I. meeting held on 18th February 2015**

The Record of the January meeting was read and approved, with one amendment.

Matters arising

The Cake and Plant Sale will be held on the Green on the 25th May. Valerie Spencer-Jones has made a banner to be hung from the stall.

Members signed a greeting card of good wishes to Doris which Alison and Jo will take when they visit her.

The WI Adviser is coming to the May meeting

Correspondence

A nomination form for the Board of Trustees has been received. Jo will choose a 'spread' of candidates and send the form off.

There is a poetry competition for the Centenary entitled 'The Life of the W.I. Yesterday and Today'. No more than 20 lines. £2.50 per entry.

Valerie Ringham expressed an interest in an Archery and Air Rifle Shooting

Day at Oxenwood Centre, near Marlborough, on 18th May.

There will be an evening with Virginia Ironside on 14th May at Seend Community Centre. Cost £13.00. Closing date 13th April.

'Exploring a Hedgerow'. An evening visit to Blacklands Farm, Calne, on 5th June from 7-9pm. £10. Flora and Fauna explained. Closing date 7th May.

A Japanese International Day will be held at Seend on 16th July. Cost £15. Closing date 4th June.

An apology is due to the Fete Committee whose generous donation of £200 was wrongly reported as being from another village organisation!

**At the next meeting on March 18th Mrs. Carolyn Madley will be giving an informative talk on her work at Highgrove as a garden guide.**

**Visitors are very welcome. 2pm for 2.15pm at the Village Hall. An entry fee of £3 will boost our funds.**

### **BIDDESTONE CRICKET CLUB 2015 SEASON.**

THE CLUB WILL AGAIN BE RUNNING 4 SATURDAY TEAMS AND A SUNDAY TEAM FOR SENIORS.

THE JUNIOR/YOUTH SECTION WILL CATER FOR UNDER 9'S / 13'S / 15'S AND ALSO UNDER 19'S.

WE WILL ALSO BE RUNNING AGAIN THIS SEASON OUR FRIDAY NIGHT FUN CRICKET SESSIONS FOR 4 TO 7 YEAR OLDS. THIS WAS SO SUCCESSFUL LAST SEASON. – 6 UNTIL 7PM  
THE CLUB ALSO HAS A THRIVING FEMALE AND GIRLS SECTION.

SENIOR CLUB NETS ARE ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS FROM 6 UNTIL 8 PM.

YOUTH NETS ARE;-

UNDER 9 – FRIDAY FROM 6 UNTIL 7.30PM

UNDER 11 – FRIDAY FROM 6 UNTIL 7.30 PM

UNDER 13 – MONDAY FROM 6 UNTIL 7.30PM

UNDER 15 – THURSDAY FROM 6 UNTIL 7.30PM

GIRLS – FRIDAYS FROM 5 UNTIL 6 PM

UNDER 19'S TUESDAYS FOM 6 UNTIL 7.30 PM.

**SIGNING ON EVENING IS ON FRIDAY 20TH MARCH  
FROM 7PM AT BIDDESTONE VILLAGE HALL**

CRICKET AVAILABLE TO ALL LEVELS – SO COME ALONG AND JOIN US – MORE DETAIL FROM ANDY SHORT ON 01249 714724

### **CHURCH SERVICES FOR BIDDESTONE**

In order to rationalize Church Services across the Benefice so that the number of services is manageable for the Ministry Team and to use our limited resources effectively, we are now working in clusters. Biddestone is in the cluster with Yatton Keynell and Kington St. Michael which is led by Jonathan Philpott.

#### FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

Holy Communion with SUNDAY SCHOOL at the new time of 11.00a.m especially designed for those who do not wish to be up too early on a Sunday morning! Works well with Baptisms too!

#### SECOND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

Family Service at 9.30a.m. to which EVERYONE is welcome.  
Evensong at 4.00p.m. in the winter, 6.00p.m in the summer.

#### THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

Morning Praise at 9.30a.m.

Every Wednesday morning there is a service at 9.15 a.m.

This is either Holy Communion or Morning Prayer and includes prayers for the suffering.

There is still a Benefice Service on the fourth Sunday which will be held at Kington St Michael this month on 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

When a fifth Sunday occurs we shall meet in our clusters. Biddestone therefore has a Cluster Palm Sunday Family Service on 29<sup>th</sup> March at Yatton Keynell at 9.30 a.m. For Slaughterford there is a Cluster Palm Sunday Family Service at Castle Combe at 11.00a.m. on 29<sup>th</sup> March.

It goes without saying that EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ANY SERVICE ACROSS THE BENEFICE. If you wish to see the complete list of services for the month it is always on the St Nicholas Church Notice Board at the entrance to the path leading to church.

There is also a more comprehensive list in *The Honeycomb*.

TICKET ONLY

ROLL UP, ROLL UP, ROLL UP



# BIDDSTOCK

VILLAGE FESTIVAL

\*\*\* FEATURING \*\*\*

LIVE MUSIC • LOCAL CIDER & ALE • WINE  
COCKTAILS • COMPLIMENTARY FOOD

SAT 11 JULY 2015 – 18:00 UNTIL LATE

VILLAGE PLAYING FIELDS

TICKETS ON SALE 23<sup>RD</sup> FEB

AVAILABLE FROM THE WHITE HORSE AND BIDDESTONE ARMS

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO



## **A DAY OUT IN CORSHAM** **by Peter King, Almshouse Press Officer**

“We had no idea how attractive Corsham is with its quaint streets and historic buildings such as Corsham Court and the Lady Margaret Almshouses”.

How often have we heard these words spoken by delighted visitors, often from neighbouring areas.

“Fascinating history and atmosphere”; “ I enjoyed the visit and the guide was really kind and informative”; “

Wonderful building!”; “Thank you for your interesting guided tour”.

These are a few of the recent comments in the Visitors’ Book at the Almshouses, reflecting the appeal of the lovely buildings, especially when supported by the excellent guided tours provided by our Volunteer Guides. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact Ron Smith (01249 701255) who will be pleased to offer you plenty of information and guidance, with a support system of shadowing more experienced guides and a rota to suit when you are available.

The buildings are open for the main season between April and September . Other details (opening times, costs, disabled access etc) can be obtained by visiting our website:

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

You will be visiting what is home to 13 residents whose privacy we respect, though we are not able to show the interior of an almshouse as they are all fully occupied. The interior of the main buildings is a constant delight: the combined schoolroom and chapel, a reception room presided over by a portrait of the Master, an exhibition room with recently updated , informative display panels, together with Lady Margaret’s 17<sup>th</sup> century funeral pall , and so on. Prepare to be surprised at the size and variety of the buildings, also subject to a fairly recent major renovation programme.

**If you are members of a particular group or society, why not contact Lyn Adams (Tel. 01225 810415), organiser of Group Tours at special times to suit your visit?**

**Corsham is also provided with plenty of places for refreshments.**

**We look forward to welcoming you at our Almshouses, possibly as part of an all day visit to such an attractive place as Corsham.**





## The Line to Infinity\*

In days of yore travel went from here to there,  
on the ground, not in the air.  
Life's long path, if all was fair,  
reached its end through wear and tear.

Technology advanced so plane and phone,  
linked up air and wire, not land alone.  
Internet and e-mail soon spread the zone,  
and letter-post sank like a stone.

Fibre-optics then joined the race,  
spreading signals, a faster pace.  
Towns and cities soon set in place,  
but villages too far from base.

British Telecom vowed to lay it fast,  
Dug up lanes, progress at last.  
Green boxes, Transit vans, resources vast,  
slow connections in the past?

Join 'Infinity' was the shout,  
spread the word to all about.  
Registration needed and so went out,  
speedier connection wanted, but in doubt.

Many months went slowly by,  
representation useless, expectations high.  
Finally linkages made, time to try,  
router arrived, super-fast system nigh?

Connection on a special day,  
instructions opened, what do they say?  
Text message, 'Infinity' on the way,  
router exchanged, blue light should play.

No blue light, no dialling tone,  
except for mobile, now alone.  
To emergency service for a moan,  
endless prattle, groan, groan, groan!

Now 'Infinity' really is the date,  
super-fast broadband will be late.  
Six whole days is the wait,  
life's long path in the hands of fate!

Such was the experience of BT 'Infinity' registration  
and installation begun on 23rd January and ended on  
26th February. Six days were without telephone and  
internet due to a faulty 'fibre-card' in the green box  
near the cemetery extension. At least the new service  
is an improvement.



## Watch Your Step – I'm Drenched

• by Adrian Mitchell (1932-2008)

In Manchester there are a thousand puddles.  
Bus-queue puddles poised on slanting paving stones,  
Railway puddles slouching outside stations,  
Cinema puddles in ambush at the exits,  
Zebra-crossing puddles in dips of the dark stripes –  
They lurk in the murk  
Of the north-western evening  
For the sake of their notorious joke,  
Their only joke – to soak  
The tights or trousers of the citizens.  
Each splash and consequent curse is echoed by  
One thousand dark Mancunian puddle chuckles.

In Manchester there lives the King of Puddles,  
Master of Miniature Muck Lakes,  
The Shah of Slosh, Splendifero of Splash,  
Prince, Pasha and Pope of Puddledom.  
Where? Somewhere. The rain-headed ruler  
Lies doggo, incognito,  
Disguised as an average, accidental mini-pool.  
He is as scared as any other emperor,  
For one night, all his soiled and soggy victims  
Might storm his streets, assassination in their minds,  
A thousand rolls of blotting paper in their hands,  
And drink his shadowed, one-joke life away.

## A Glass of Beer James Stephens

The lanky hank of a she in the inn over there  
nearly killed me for asking the loan of a glass of beer:  
may the devil grip the whey-faced slut by the hair  
and beat bad manners out of her skin for a year.

That parboiled imp, with the hardest jaw you will ever see  
on virtue's path, and a voice that would rasp the dead,  
came roaring and raging the minute she looked at me,  
and threw me out of the house on the back of my head.

If I asked her master he'd give me a cask a day;  
but she with the beer at hand, not a gill would arrange!  
May she marry a ghost and bear him a kitten and may  
the high king of glory permit her to get the mange.

*Thanks to Hilary Noyes for the selections*



# BIDDESTONE & SLAUGHTERFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk Mrs Mary Norton 155 Queens Crescent Chippenham Wilts Tel. 01249 650979  
Fax. 01249 650979

DRAFT Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 3rd February 2015 at Biddestone Village Hall at 7.00 PM.

Present: All Councillors were present with the exception of Cllr Mullens. Cllr Scott (WC), 17 members of the public and Brian Taylor (WC Planning) also attended.



Apologies: Cllr Mullens and Mary Norton (clerk). In her absence, Cllr Juniper took the minutes.

Minutes: The minutes of the meeting on 2nd December were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

Declaration of Interest: None.

Planning: In view of the public interest in the application for a new dwelling to the rear of Bay Tree Cottage this item was considered next. Three people registered to speak against the proposal and one, the architect, to speak in favour and to answer questions.

Mrs Janet Jones considered the house to be too large for the site and too high in relation to the adjoining properties.

Ms Alison Butler thought the house to be out of scale, that the historical outline of the lane would be lost and, that a precedent for future applications, would be created.

Mr George Brown considered the proposal to be neither imaginative nor sympathetic and believed the proposal to be contrary to clauses 6 and 7 of the National Planning Policy Framework, section 3 of the AONB Management Plan Policy and Core Policies 51 and 57 of the Wiltshire Core Strategy.

Mr Nick Elkins, representing the architects, pointed out that part of the charm of Biddestone is the variety of buildings of different heights. He said that the new plans had been altered to address issues previously raised and the roof height had been lowered by 450mm. He was surprised that such a restrained design had caused controversy.

The Chairman was concerned that the grass verge might be lost. Various suggestions were made including the use of dormer windows with a lower roof height. It was suggested that the design was not alien to the village and that the site as it exists, could certainly do with improvement. It was agreed that the application be called in for consideration by the Planning Committee at the March Meeting. JS

In conclusion, the PC agreed to support the application, but with strict conditions applied. Including, the reduction in height, the size/scale is addressed in relation to the adjoining properties and the encroachment onto the grass verge removed.

The Chairman stressed the importance of communication by applicants to neighbouring residents before plans are submitted. She also pointed out that the final decision would be taken by the Planning Committee of WCC and objections should be raised at that meeting by those concerned. The public then left the meeting.

Mr Brian Taylor, the Area Development Manager WC, was asked to address the meeting and explain why the planning application for work on the outbuilding at Elliott's Barn had not been called in, for consideration by the Planning Committee, when Cllr Scott had specifically asked for this to be done. He apologised for this, saying that he had not informed the Conservation Officer of this request and that she had gone ahead and approved the conversion work and, it was now too late to have it rescinded. The Chairman expressed the views of all members, that this was a totally unacceptable situation. This was reinforced by Cllr Scott who suggested that, although it was too late to alter the decision, another conservation officer should look at the work carried out and give their view.

It is important that there is consistency in determining applications, particularly with regard to roofing materials and Velux windows.

Cllr Scott asked for new guidelines on Velux windows to be drawn up and asked Mr Taylor to ensure this situation was not allowed to reoccur. Mr Taylor then left the meeting. (BT & JS)

Matters Arising : Dog Waste Bin at Slaughterford. Still no response. Cllr Scott to investigate. (JS)

Snow Plan. Extra shovels purchased by Chairman. No salt delivered to Slaughterford. Chairman to follow up (GS)  
WC will only clear snow, not ice.

Bath Spa University/Hartham Park. This proposal will now not proceed.

Chairman's Announcements: None

Reports: These were given on recent meetings by Area Boards, the Parish Council Cluster meeting, and the Chippenham Area Transport Group.

The current system of Community Days by outside contractors is to cease and will revert to the Parish Steward system from April 1st. The last day under the present system will be March 12th.

The Village Hall Committee are considering converting their status into a Charitable Company; this will enable them to be landowners, which they are unable to be, under the present arrangement. Fireworks night will be Friday 6th November this year.

Bybrook School has achieved "Outstanding" status following a recent OFSTED inspection, which is a credit to the staff and Governors.

The Toilets have had the roof removed and considerably more work is required than originally thought. The roof trusses are rotten and unsafe and will have to be replaced, as will the ceiling and associated electrics. The additional building work will cost a further £2900 including VAT and this has been authorised. Estimates for additional electrical works are awaited. (GS)

Biddestone and Slaughterford into the future: The Chairman reported on the first sub committee meeting held on 29th January when good progress was made on drafting the requisite Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Risk Assessment. Drafts are to be agreed at the April meeting. All councillors will be issued with a code of conduct. The PC meeting on May 5th will be the AGM and include a six monthly review, replacing the April Open Meeting. The November 3rd meeting will also include a six monthly review and will replace the October Open Meeting. These changes will appear in the Broadsheet (CM)

Traffic Calming: Hamilton Baillie Associates are to be asked to carry out a survey in the summer and suggest improvements. (CD)

#### Correspondence

The JAPFEST event at Castle Combe Circuit will take place on 16th May and will not clash with Badminton. It was agreed to ask David Taylor to trim an overgrowing shrub next to Westbury. (GS)

#### Other Items

Mike Chrystal has agreed to produce "SLOW DUCKS CROSSING" or "SLOW DUCKS IN ROAD" signs.

The Range development proposal in Chippenham was discussed, particularly how it would affect traffic. There was general concern about development to the west of the A350, which is contrary to the Strategic Plan of WC. It was agreed to write to Planning with our concerns, which reinforce the many objections already submitted. (CD to circulate a letter)

The possibility of installing keep fit equipment at the sports ground was discussed using Section 106 funds, which are available. Discussion with Village Hall required, and agreement with WC that this is appropriate use of funds.

#### Accounts and Finance:

Cheques were signed for the following:

Clerks Salary, 3 months to 31/12/14 £693.71

CPRE subscription £29.00

Pensioners Luncheon Club Christmas lunch £25.00

Cllr Stafford for extra snow shovels £24.00

BVHRT room hire for PC meetings £30.00

Water Rates for toilets £94.63

P. Tucker for plumbing work at toilets (part of renovation) £848.67

#### Next Meeting

The next PC meeting will be on Tuesday 4th March at 7.00PM in the Village Hall.

## Corsham Walking Festival June 12-14 2015

Corsham is holding its second walking festival this summer, with 22 walks over the weekend of 12th-14th June. The wide range of walks offers something for everyone, with themes including Brunel's railway, geology, singing, underground quarries, wildlife, and local history and heritage. There are walks to suit all ages and abilities, including special walks for young families and dog walks. Routes take in Corsham and the surrounding countryside, including Lacock and Box. The festival will be opened by local resident and well known explorer, David Hempleman Adams.

More information is available at [www.corshamforwalking.org.uk](http://www.corshamforwalking.org.uk) and walks can be booked at [www.poundarts.org.uk](http://www.poundarts.org.uk) or by phone on 01249 710628. You can also follow us on Facebook, under Corsham Walking Festival.

## Dates for your Diary

16 Mar	Biddestone Book Club	Lorena's House	19.15
18 Mar	WI Talk - Mrs. Carolyn Madley on the Gardens of Highgrove		14.00
20 Mar	Cricket Club Signing on Evening	Village Hall	19.00
12/14 Jun	Corsham Walking Festival		
11 Jul	Biddestock Festival	Sports Ground	
18/19 Jul	Biddestone Open Gardens		

### Church Services for March / 1st Week April

#### ST. NICHOLAS, BIDDESTONE

- 1 Holy Communion & Thanksgiving with Sunday School 11.00 a.m.
- 8 Family Service 9.30 a.m.
- Evensong 4.00 p.m.
- 15 Mothering Sunday Morning Praise 9.30a.m.
- 22 The Benefice Service is at Kington St Michael
- 29 Cluster Palm Sunday Family Service at Yatton Keynell



10.00 a.m.

9.30a.m.

#### April

- 5 Easter Sunday Holy Communion 11.00 a.m.

Every Wednesday morning there is a service at 9.15 a.m.  
This is either Holy Communion or Morning Prayer and includes prayers for the suffering.



#### ST. NICHOLAS, SLAUGHTERFORD

- 8 Lambing Service 3.00 p.m.
- 22 The Benefice Service is at Kington St Michael 10.00 a.m.
- 29 Cluster Palm Sunday Family Service at Castle Combe 11.00 a.m.

#### April

- 5 Easter Sunday Holy Communion 11.00 a.m.

Copy date 2nd Sun in month delivered to any committee member or by email to [broadsheet@pobox.com](mailto:broadsheet@pobox.com)

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**Corsham**  
**Print**   
CREATIVE  
SOLUTIONS



*Biddestone Village 1907*