

Date Sun 14/08/2005
Name lesley Taylor nee WADE
Location Rye East Sussex
Comments Lived in Biddenden and attended local school from approx 1958 until left home in approx 1970. Lots of good memories of Biddenden. Sad to see the once vibrant High Street full of local shops, people and gossip gone. I recall 3 thriving public houses and several general stores. The little Miss Wise's Sweet shop was a particular favorite. Any Primary School Photos out there of the period 1957-60? Would love to see some. Also of the village Fete of this era. You MUST at least keep your POST OFFICE. Regards to Biddenden and to any of your residents that may recall me.

Date Mon 08/08/2005
Name Ivan Oder
Location USA
Comments .Well done website. Keep up the good work I will visit again.

Date Fri 29/07/2005
Name sharon cradduck hill
Location campbell, missouri
Comments .My dad's name was james cradduck and his dad's name was charles henry cradduck. Charles had a brother whose name was david cradduck.

Date Tue 26/07/2005
Name Caren Freeman
Location California, USA
Comments .I am a descendant of James CRADDUCK born 1811 in Biddenden, Kent, England and his wife Susannah BROOKER. I'm glad I got to see the town where they were from before they came to the USA. I would love to hear from any relations as I am researching my genealogy! Thanks!

Date Sun 24/07/2005
Name Nigel Osborne
Location New Zealand
Comments .A very useful site - Its already put me in touch with three people I hope will be able to help with my family history research. I am particularly interested in the Stapley, Ledger, and Drury families.

Date Fri 08/07/2005
Name Tasha
Location Kent
Comments I am currently looking into my family tree and would be interested if anyone knows anything about the scamp family that lived in biddenden in the 1940's please contact me.

Date Thu 21/04/2005
Name Virginia Randolph
Location Seattle, WA. USA
Comments I visited Biddenden in 2003 and stayed at Birchley House B&B in Biddenden. I am a descendant of Bernard Randolph, b.1556 in Biddenden and his wife, Jane Biddenden, also born in Biddenden. Bernard and Jane have brasses in All Saints Church, as well as other Randolph and Biddenden family members. The Randolph family lived in Birchley House in the 1500's but it was out of the family by the 1700's. I was able to visit the part of Birchley House where Bernard Randolph and his family lived in 1582. A wonderful village where I met many lovely people.

Date Sun 17/04/2005
Name Irene Clark-Wolfson
Location Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Comments .I recently learned that my ggg and gg Grandparents, John Pemble and wife Harriet Brakerfield Pemble, their son Stephen Pemble and wife Philadelphia Whiting Pemble went to America from Biddenden area in the 1840s. Thank you for the beautiful pictures of the village.

Date Sat 09/04/2005

Name	Nancy Downey
Location	St. Paul, Minnesota, USA
Comments	My husband and I visited Biddenden in October 2001 and we thought that it was absolutely delightful. And the people were so friendly and helpful. We plan to return this September with my mother, my brother and sister-in-law. This time we hope that we can see the inside of All Saint's Church. Our ancestor, John Stowe was baptized there on June 2, 1539. On July 30, 1572, he married Joan Baker at All Saints, as well. This John Stowe was the Parish Clerk at Biddenden in 1587. His son, John Stowe, also baptized at All Saints on Jan 14, 1581 and married there on Sept. 13, 1608 to Elizabeth Bigge of Cranbrook, emigrated to Boston, Massachusetts in 1634. He also brought with him his six children, all baptized at All Saints. My mother, aged 78, whose maiden name is Stowe, has heard all about Biddenden from us and is very excited to see it in person.
Date	Sat 26/03/2005
Name	Mrs E Gould
Location	Hertfordshire
Comments	Does anyone know what happened to The Jack Hampshire Pram Collection after Jack died? We knew him over many years and spent many a happy day with him seeing all his wonderful prams, and indeed many other interesting things that he collected. He was a true character and we miss him greatly. I know he hoped his collection could stay intact, but fear that it has been broken up and sold. We remember him with huge affection.
Date	Fri 18/03/2005
Name	Wes Anderson
Location	North Dakota
Comments	Hi, I found your guestbook in a search but I can't find the site it goes to! I am related to the Steadman's from Biddenden. My grandmother was a Stedman from Grace City, North Dakota.
Date	Tue 15/02/2005
Name	Colin Hollingsworth
Location	Biddenden
Comments	My wife and I with our two children have lived in the village for less than a year and are still finding interesting facts about Biddenden, especially the old railway station and the windmill and the fact that there was I believe FOUR pubs, can someone confirm this please.
Date	Wed 02/02/2005
Name	Sue Smith
Location	UNKNOWN
Comments	It is a very nice place and well looked after
Date	Mon 31/01/2005
Name	Ian Bingham
Location	Gillingham, Kent
Comments	Looking forward to visiting the village shortly as my ancestors (Binghams) were part of the community from the 1750's to the 1900's, some buried in the churchyard. The website has been very helpful.
Date	Thu 23/12/2004
Name	Mugu Dan
Location	Lome Togo
Comments	This site is very good and very cool!
Date	Tue 21/12/2004
Name	Dr Anthony J Smith
Location	Peebles, Scotland
Comments	My father was the village baker in Biddenden between 1934 and 1949. As part of his business he sold bread to the hoppickers. In the 1940s bread cost four pence halfpenny; four pence three farthings delivered to the hop gardens. The bakery was situated adjacent to the point of the village green, which at that time, had an iron fence round it and was covered in shrubs. Next to the bakery was a butchers shop complete with slaughterhouse close to the back door of the bakery. I remember the windmill falling down in the 1940s

Date Fri 26/11/2004
Name Chris Brown
Location Wallingford, Oxfordshire
Comments I am researching my family history (Stapley) and Biddenden is very much in the story. Your site is very enjoyable to peruse.

Date Fri 12/11/2004
Name Coker
Location london
Comments hello everyone

Date Sat 23/10/2004
Name Andrew Pring
Location Bradford Yorkshire
Comments I have recently been back again to Biddenden where I grew up in 50s-60s as my father Fred has just died. My ties to the village, and family home at 10 Chulkhurst are sadly being broken.
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My time at John Mayne were happy childhood days and my time at Sutton Valence mixed. The area is full of the varied contributions of my parents - my mother Jackie as relief postwoman who also worked in the fruit and hopfields and father Fred who helped build houses with Woodgates, then worked with the Council on the roads and also did weekend odd jobs in the gardens of houses around the area. It is good to see names I recognise from the past and the influence of new people all of whom have contributed to the village over the years yet kept the essence of the Biddenden I remember alive, largely unchanged. I have been particularly impressed by the Millennium Field, the trees and carvings near the 'Rookery' where I used to play. A restful place for reflection.

Date Wed 11/08/2004
Name Douglas Baldock
Location Aldershot
Comments Brings back great memories.

Date Tue 10/08/2004
Name Farris, Eric
Location Biddenden
Comments Lovely Village, have lived here all my life! so far!

Date Tue 10/08/2004
Name Jill
Location Ontario, Canada
Comments I like your site, my grandmothers family(Besbee, now Bisbee) came from there and one day I would like to visit.

Date Mon 09/08/2004
Name Jean Funnell
Location London E97DH
Comments I was very interested to find this website because my mother lived in Biddenden as a child. Her name was Mary Emeney and she was born in 1904. She lived with the Vane family at Clapper Hill Farm for several years. She had a relative, Jesse Vane who lived in Vane Court and she took me to visit him at Vane Court between 1950 and 1960. I believe Jesse Vane was a milkman but a lot of the Vanes were farmers. My grandfather married Alice Vane. I believe my mother also lived at Vane Court for a time. Thanks for providing such interesting material. Jean Funnell

Date Wed 04/08/2004
Name Brandi
Email Address Witheld
Location Medford,Oregon,USA
Comments I liked it very much

Date Monday 26/07/2004
Name Natalie

Location	Winchelsea East Sussex
Comments	What a lovely village and friendly locals. Great informative website too. Thanks
Date	Monday, April 12, 2004
Name	Samantha Luckhurst
Location	Smarden Kent
Comments	I like biddenden its a nice little place
Date	Sunday, January 4, 2004
Name	Marion Hover
Location	Ashford
Comments	I am one of your postpeople and cover all areas of Biddenden. Your village is always tidy and it's nice to get out of Ashford for the day even if it is just work.
Date	Wednesday, December 17, 2003
Name	Glynn Brown
Location	Australia
Comments	My great grandmother, Mary Ann, and her first husband, Charles HARRIS, had a Baker's shop in the house known as?
Date	Friday, October 31, 2003
Name	Steve Steadman
Location	Florida, United States
Comments	This site is enjoyable. i am trying to learn more about my ancestors. I have been able to learn That members of my family (Steadman) lived in Biddenden in the 1600's. If anyone has any additional information I would be most grateful.
Date	Wednesday, October 8, 2003
Name	Phil Paton
Location	Los Angeles
Comments	Feeling homesick. Missing Kent. Want cider. Will buy home and bring my new American family. Aaah, to be home. Miss home. Be nice to us when we get there. Please. Phil.
Date	Wednesday, September 3, 2003
Name	Janet Pritchard
Location	Essex
Comments	I am a great fan of Biddenden, my grand parents used to go hop picking in the area, and we often visited as children. I now make a point of visiting at least once a year. My 'great Aunt' Harriet is laid to rest in the church yard, she was a hop picker and loved the village so much that she moved there from London.
Date	Wednesday, August 20, 2003
Name	Patricia Waghorn
Location	Biddenden
Comments	The site is very good. Full of interesting information for residents and visitors alike.
Date	Sunday, July 27, 2003
Name	Wendy Magnison
Location	N/A
Comments	What a beautiful city, I would love to visit some day. I am a descendant of James Craddock born there in 1811. Thank you for the tour.
Date	Saturday, July 19, 2003
Name	Mick Martin
Location	london
Comments	I would like to find susan mark or justin mark, susan used to work in the rose justin used to play in goal for smarden
Date	Tuesday, July 1, 2003
Name	Ameels
Location	Ronse- Belgium

Comments	Such beautiful Weavers houses and typical cimetry
Date	Friday, June 20, 2003
Name	Jacqueline Clark
Location	Sittingbourne Kent
Comments	I visited your village yesterday but could not find much information, this sight has been very informative 20.06.03
Date	Friday, June 6, 2003
Name	Richard Wadley
Location	Guest at St Michaels
Comments	Met you at Millenium field today. I'm pip's brother! We're impressed with the site. Regards. Richard, Margaret + Pip
Date	Saturday, May 24, 2003
Name	john-william day
Location	strood , kent
Comments	Very good.
Date	Monday, May 5, 2003
Name	Dave Nicholls
Email Address	
Location	Philadelphia, PA
Comments	I'm interested in finding out if there are any relatives of Frances Hopper Bourne (b. c. 1825) living in Biddenden or the surrounding area. We recently acquired a sewing sampler done by her and dated December 4, 1834. We'd love to have contact, so if someone with genalogical knowledge reads this, please get in touch. Regards, Dave
Date	Tuesday, April 29, 2003
Name	Colin Hunt
Location	Biddenden
Comments	Good photos and history of the village and properties
Date	Thursday, April 17, 2003
Name	JONATHAN BEER
Location	COOPERS PLAINS . BRISBANE.AUST
Comments	JUST VISITING AS I WAS BORN HERE IN 1962 AND WE LEFT IN 1968 TO COME TO AUSTRALIA.
Date	Monday, March 24, 2003
Name	Becsewell
Location	Woking
Comments	Beautiful Cider!
Date	Thursday, February 27, 2003
Name	Mugu Togo
Location	lome togo
Comments	I love the site oooooohhhhhh
Date	Sunday, February 23, 2003
Name	Barbara L. Zehar
Email Address	
Location	Keller, Tx. U.S.A.
Comments	I am the G-G-G-G-Granddaughter Of John Day (B:1794) and Jane Hopper of Biddenden England their son William (B:1818)was Married to Susan Brittain from Virginia and their son George Hopper Day (B;1845)was married to Ann Brown, their son Joseph Claude Day(B:1881) was married to Lillie Mae Esco, their Dau. Lois Love Day (B:1918) was married to Albert George Loncki, their Dau. Marlene Patricia Loncki (B: 1942) was married to my Father Robert William Tomasik in 1961 and then they Had my Dec. of 1961 Barbara Laverne Tomasik. I hope to find out alot of Info from this Lovely site and Thank You for having this site.
Date	Sunday, February 2, 2003
Name	Marcia Smeenk

Location Dumfries, Virginia US
Comments My ancestors may have lived in your city.

Date Tuesday, December 17
Name Bob Beale
Location La Habra, CA. USA

Comments My family have a long association with the village. At one time we owned the River Hall House and the surrounding land and also were owners of the row cottages where you will find Clarisses tea room and shops. She is a lovely lady. Showed me the original deeds to the cottages that bore my name. Recommend the teas. Also the church which is the resting place of many of my ancestors. I will visit again, such a beautiful village, so much history. Just wish it were still in the family.

Date Sunday, November 10, 2002
Name Ray Olson
Location Prince George B.C., Canada

Comments My wife and I visited Biddenden this summer. Her ancestors (Beken,s) came from there. We would love to return sometime.

Name Raine Kadinopoulos
Location Biddenden
Comments It may be useful if the site carried news of forthcoming village events

Name LEIGH
Location ARIZONA, USA
Comments I HAVE REALITIVES THAT ARE FROM THIS AREA, BACK IN THE 16TH CENTURY

Name John Lowe
Location Erith, Kent
Comments I haven't yet been to your village but after reading the details on your site I will make the trip.

Name Margaret
Location Canada
Comments Nice web site.Especially interesting as I have ancestors who were married in All Saints church in 1885.

Name Paul Cleworth
Location Southport
Comments Great site. I lived in Biddenden from '85 to '89 and your site is a welcome reminder of a beautiful village.

Name Mark Sinclair
Location Great Wakering, Essex
Comments Nice place in Biddenden. Got married there in August 10th 1996 at All Saints Church, Biddenden. Never forget about Biddenden area and I love the place.

Name Gateway UK Ltd
Location Croydon
Comments Our clients loved the village, and are coming back for a second visit soon.

Name GEORGE SMITH
Location Cornwall
Comments well put together an enjoyable site for an ex pat who left Kent for the west country over 30 years ago.

Name Phil Martin
Location Brisbane Australia

Comments

A great site. I'm looking for Mark Tower, son of Doctor Tower who lives (or used to live in Biddenden). Mark was a good friend for many years in the eighties but distance was a problem. Last I heard he was on the Sail barge at St Katherines Dock London with Caroline. Any news where he is? I'm visiting the UK soon and would love to catch up.

Name

Jonathan Roberts

Location

Chicago, Il

Comments

Hello, I lived in Biddenden for four years growing up from when I was 2 till 5 or so.. we lived in this huge white house with a really big yard and a pond in the back. my neighbor had horses, I remember alot about biddenden, things like the pancake races ... if anyone has a picture or knows the house im talking about please email me!! - jonathan roberts

Name

Iris Roberts

Location

W.Australia

Comments

I am hoping your site will give me some information that will help with my family research.

Name

Susan Henrickson

Location

Anchorage, Alaska, USA

Comments

I hopefully will be visiting my twin sister, Anne Carson, in August, in her new home in Biddenden. The preview pictures of the village are lovely.

Name

Peter B Ixer

Location

Brighton

Comments

Looking forward to our stay at Susan Morris B & B

Name

Fay Matthews-Garcia

Location

St. Catharines, On Canada

Comments

What a lovely little village! I certainly hope some day soon to visit.

Name

Irene Clark-Wolfson

Location

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Comments

My distant relatives Harriet and Ann Brakerfield were born in Biddenden. Ann born in 1804. Delighted to find your site!!! A family tree historian. ICW.

Name

Priscilla Davis

Location

Priscilla Davis

Comments

My great grandparents were Frank and Hannah Elliott who had the store on the main corner in Biddenden around 1900. My grandmother and her siblings grew up there. I have visited many times and love the village.

Name

Susan Cooper

Location

Pittsburgh, U.S.A.

Comments

The site brought back many fond memories that I have of Biddenden. I use spend the Christmas and Easter Hoildays with the Gladhills who lived just outside the village when I was in boarding school in the U.K. I believe Mr. Gladhill was a teacher in the elementary school.

Name

Laurence

Location

unknown

Comments

you make great cider

Name

Robert Stroud

Location

Farnborough, Hampshire

Comments

I'd just like to say 'hello' to all of my family living in Biddenden! The village is the epitome of the rural idyll. I'll see you all soon!

Name

Brian Smith

Location

Maidstone

Comments

Those pictures are clearer than others i have seen of biddenden and they took no time at all to access maybe a picture down the high stree would be nice pointing towards the church well done so far and looks good brian

Name	Pete Howell
Location	Herefordshire
Comments	My mum-in-law lives in the Weavers and I like that Pub. (and my mum-in-law)
Name	Richard W. Sharpe
Location	Fallbrook, CA USA
Comments	Thrilled to find your website. My great grandfather (Edwin Sharp)left Biddenden in the early 1860's, came to the U.S., and fought for the North in our Civil War. Eagerly looking forward to visit June 30 and July 1 with my wife and daughter.
Name	Carol Grace
Location	Oxfordshire
Comments	As a child my whole family hop picked at Halls farm in Headcorn, many happy memories.
Name	Billy Marley
Location	Biddenden
Comments	Nice to see the village presented so well.
Name	Carl burgess
Location	Biddenden
Comments	good pics man
Name	Barbara Schuler
Location	Cincinnati Ohio USA
Comments	
Name	Veronica Quinn
Location	Belfast
Comments	Good pictures
Name	Schraider (nee Austen)
Location	Bracknell
Comments	I was born and brought up in the village and lived there until I went away to college. My family lived in Church cottages and I still have an aunt in the village. I would be pleased to hear from or about anyone who knew us.
Name	Elizabeth Day Morris
Location	Madison, Georgia,30650, USA
Comments	Great,great grandfather came from Biddenden around 1840 to Ogelthorpe Co. Ga. He was a stone cutter. I love your site. Is there a way I could purchase a book of pictures or postcard folder of sites in Biddenden? I am trying to piece together a family history and it comes home to Biddenden. Perhaps there is a tourist booklet on the town? Great,Great,Grandfather was William Day. His family is buried there somewhere. They mention him and brother Edward on their tomb. Any help would be greatly appreciated. Elizabeth Day Morris, 1961 Atlanta Hwy. Madison, GA. 30650 USA
Name	Andreas Eriksson
Location	Sweden
Comments	Hej
Name	Diane Biggar-Taylor
Location	Northern California
Comments	None
Name	Timothy Arnold
Location	Portland, Maine, USA
Comments	My family lived in Biddenden in the early 70's at Little Randolph's. This site brings back many fond memories. I hope to visit again before too long.
Name	A.DUNGATE

Location	DOVER
Comments	HI IM ANDY I USED TO WORK FOR SHEILA DANIELS AT THE YE MAIDS RESTAURANT PLEASE PASS ON MY REGARDS TO HER AND THE FAMILY . REGARDS ANDY DUNGATE
Name	Jan Siewertsen
Location	Essex
Comments	Have visited Biddenden many times and always get a wonderful welcome at Clarissa's. The meringues served there are great. We have often travelled down just for morning coffee. The church is beautiful as is the rest of the village. Wished it was further away so we could have an excuse to holiday in Biddenden.
Name	Peter Thompson
Location	Westminster, London
Comments	Just thought I would leave a message informing all members of Andrews Church of Fruitful Alliance in Ashford and the surrounds that a planning application will be submitted in January for a meeting hall in Wye. The hall will seat 1100 and have flatlets for 25 families and 43 singles/couples. The local councillor is supportive as is the borough planning officials. The construction of the meeting hall will boost tourism and the local economy. It is hoped construction will be complete by April 2003 and the Archbishop together with Andrew himself have agreed to perform the opening. I will post more info as it becomes available. HALLELUJAH ... Peter
Name	Michiko Kawamura
Location	Japan
Comments	I visited to Biddenden last year later. The town was very lovely and hert-warming. I hope that I will visit to Biddenden again.
Name	MRS A.D.HUNT
Location	Somerset
Comments	None
Name	Margaret
Location	Canada
Comments	Interesting web site, I was born in Biddenden, and lived there for many years.
Name	John Brookes
Location	Australia
Comments	G'day to everyone in Kent,a most beautiful county,i lived in Betteshanger for many year's and have never forgotten,see ya!
Name	James Beach
Location	The Woodlands, Texas USA
Comments	My ancestors came from Biddenden sometime between 1610-1730 (the Besbeach family). I am coming to visit on July 1&2, 2002, and would love to make contact with someone locally who could help establish a link between my US ancestors and their English predecessors. Thanks!