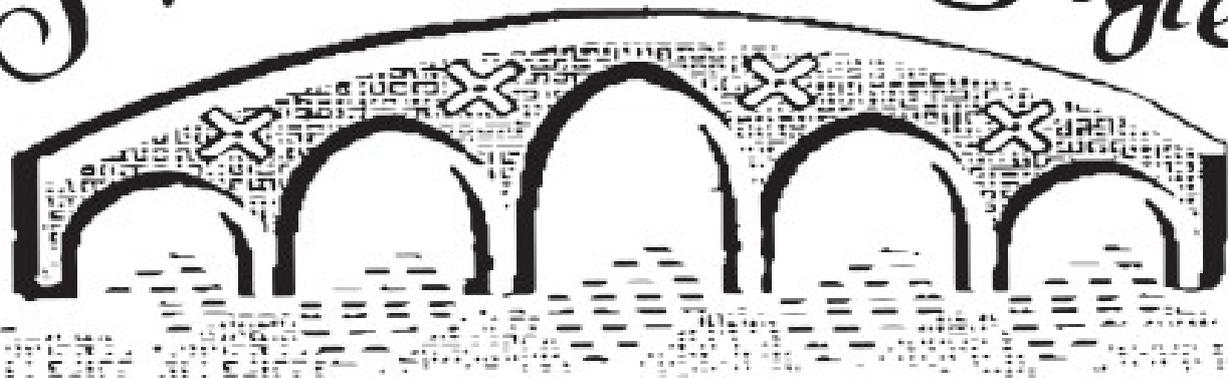


March 2020

The Bickleigh Bugle



WIt's amazing how many villagers you meet walking around when there is snow or rain and so it was last month when the river was in full spate. Not as high as we have seen it but never the less quite a sight to see. It is interesting to follow the debates that inevitably follow an unusual event such as floods, heat, snow and so on.

Perhaps a major rethink is required on many fronts? Apparently floods cost the country £1.2 billion a year according to the BBC news. It does make you wonder how much worldwide all these disruptive events must cost: current costs may be insignificant compared to the future?

As usual there are events planned for March. Firstly, thanks to all for the film night when "Yesterday" was shown on the new widescreen and much enjoyed by all. This editorial is being written before the big Quiz, held on 29 February. We understand all

tables (12 altogether) have been fully booked for some time so the night should go well. As usual the well-stocked bar will have been well depleted?

More details of events can be read inside this issue. Please do all you can to support the village. After a year without a permanent minister the village welcomes the new Rector, Paul Kingdom, who is due to be with us (and the other three parishes) from mid March. Grateful thanks should be extended to Thom Thompson, in particular, for his dedicated service during 2019 whilst a new incumbent was being sought.

Lastly a couple of events for April. John Greenslade is having the Annual Bluebell walk on Sunday April 19th at 2pm and David and Heather are planning another history spectacular on the 18th of April. Keep the weekend free!

Let's wish for a sunny March.

Your editors, Steve Batt, The Old School and Michael McAndrew, 2 Bell Meadow

Submissions to the Bugle are very welcome!

Email bickleighbugle@outlook.com by the 20th of the month

Shelterbox

Just before Christmas last year we were able to send enough money (£600) to cover the cost of second box for 2019. It was our 16th box so congratulations Bickleigh village! Apart from the monthly proceeds from Soup and Pud lunches, we received £25 from a

raffle organised by Mary Vearncombe and £68 from the plant stall. It may be of interest to know that the Soup and Pud lunches have been taking place since 2005 so we have been supporting ShelterBox for 15 years!

Olive Taylor

Adventures in Gardening

On Tuesday 14th January, Bickleigh Gardening Club held its Annual Christmas Lunch. 31 members and friends met at Bickleigh Mill and enjoyed a Delicious Meal in warm and comfortable surroundings, many thanks to Bickleigh Mill for looking after us.

John Greenslade welcomed everyone and gave a short talk about the forthcoming Spring and how it seems to be arriving earlier than ever, members were reminded that the Club recommences the 2nd Monday of March.

Full details of our Monthly Meetings and Talks are listed below, we look forward to seeing members old and NEW, please come along to see if it's for you.

March 9th - "Otters- Coming to a River Near You" Stephen Powles

April 6th - " Demonstration of making a Willow Plant Support" Windrush Willows

May 9th - ANNUAL PLANT SALE and CAKE STALL- Village Hall 10.00am -11.30am

May 11th - " Growing Roses" Elizabeth Holman

June 8th - " All about Fuchsias". Brian Carlson

July 8th - BGC - "OUTING "

August 22nd - ANNUAL GARDEN +.CRAFT

SHOW. Village Hall. 2.15 pm

September 14th - "Pruning" Graham White

October 12th - "The Fragrant Garden" Jeremy Wilson

November 9th - ANNUAL GENERAL

MEETING Village Hall 7.30pm followed by Entertainment.

Kerry Peters

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Remembering Madge Clark (98)

62 yrs at Hawthorn Farm

A diminutive Welsh lady with a big smile and love for children. During the 70s and 80s she was the school cook so well remembered by all those at Bickleigh school during that time. There was always a refuge in the kitchen either for peeling apples or shelter from misdemeanours, according to Mary Loosemore who was assistant to Madge for many years, no health and safety then! Mary also remembers that young children who were a bit unhappy and wanted to go home would also go and hide under Madges big wing!

After her retirement in 1986 Madge still connected with the school but via the school bus, Tilburys (next door to Hawthorn). Husband Doug drove the minibus with fudge and toffee on board for the children on the journey home. Doug was a classic car enthusiast and even after Dougs death Madge could just about be seen above the wheel of the triumph herald going into Tiverton for her weekly shop. When she became too frail to drive the weekly shop was continued, only with son Roger at the helm.

Her two sons Roger and Mike their five children and lately a great grandson were always a source of great pride and often spoken of when visiting Madge in her later years. She was a much loved mother and grandmother. How many sons would take their Mum around visiting old memories. Mary, who now works in the paper shop in west Exe would have to leave her shop for a minute to say hello to Madge parked outside.

Happy memories of a lovely lady .

Penny Prosser and Mary Loosemore

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Devon Glorious Devon

As a follow up to last years Bickleigh 500 Years of History evening, we will be revealing the lives of interesting characters all with a Devon connection. Some will be better known than others but all have a story to tell and have lived, worked or stayed in Devon. Some kept within the law, others certainly did not! As last year local volunteers will become these individuals, in costume wherever possible.

It will be a night not to be missed, please note the date

**Saturday April 18th 2020
Bickleigh Village Hall.**

I would very much like to hear from anyone willing to take on a reading part and/ or help prepare the supper. Further details will follow in next month's Bugle.

David Meredith Tel 855210

Village Hall News

By the time you are reading this, we will have had the 4th Bickleigh Quiz Night. At the time of going to press, we had a 'full house'- 12 teams ready to be put through the mill! It's great that we have been so well supported - this also goes for the last film evening (Yesterday) - for which we had a big crowd keen to sing along to all those classic Beatles songs (well, maybe hum!) Any suggestions for future film nights will be considered....

Jobs at the village hall – Saturday 7th March

Steve B and I will be at the Village Hall on Saturday 7th March (weather permitting) to cut away the concrete kerb between school and the hall to enable us to continue planting out the hedge. Some of the whips we put in last year did not take, so we will be replacing them and try to start thickening up the hedge. There are plenty more jobs that need doing if you would be willing to come and help us for the morning- many thanks !

Hidden Kitchen – Sunday 15th March

I'm sure that you'll be delighted that- as we did last April- we are co-ordinating with Jim Janes for a Hidden Kitchen afternoon. On Sunday 15th March (following the church family service) Jim will be serving food in the Village Hall from 12.30pm. We will run a bar alongside the event. Please book your group with Jim- 07841901612

Easter Bingo – Friday 27th March

It's bingo night on Friday 27th March.... We will have a good supply of Easter Egg based prizes, we would love to see you there ! It's free entry and we charge £1 per bingo book. You can buy bingo pens as well. We will be running a bar as well as doing teas, coffees and biscuits.

We'll be open from 6, so you can stock up for a 6.30pm start.

From your Village Hall Committee: Richard, Michelle, Matt, Steve, Lauren, Katinka, Charlotte

Pews News

No two seasons are exactly alike. The pre-warned approach and damage caused by two recent storms masked the burgeoning life of what Sir David Attenborough refers to as the "natural world", now springtime. The lambs gambol, the daffodils poke up, the snow drops begin to die back. The Christian year has completed the forty day sojourn from Advent Sunday to the Presentation of the infant Jesus to the Temple, a fortnight ago, as I type these notes. Now, we experience a short period in the Christian year of Ordinary Time. Soon it will be gone. The altar coverings are green. This adds to the sense of approaching springtime. Ash Wednesday will have passed by. The Christian season of Lent having started its own sojourn, a different colour, purple. Another forty days to Easter Day on the 12th April.

The Rev Paul Kingdom - We will be welcoming our new Rector the Reverend Paul Kingdom with his wife Wendy. Paul's installation as Rector takes place on Monday 16th March 2020 in St Mary's Silvertown starting at 7 pm. The Bishop of Exeter presiding. Your presence will be very welcome. Paul's first service in our parish church of St Mary's takes place on Sunday 29th March at 11 am

Countdown to Easter. Thursdays at Gable Cottage 7.30pm – all welcome

- **27th Feb Light and Energy**
Lent is a time to get ready for Easter. As we are reading the Gospel of Matthew this year why not read, as a preparation, the account of Jesus' forty days in the wilderness immediately after he had been

baptized by John the Baptist (Matthew Chapter 4 verses 1-11).

- **5th March the subject is Water**
We seem have too much but what about those who have too little? What can I do to reduce my consumption? What does the Bible have to say about water?
- **12th Land & Plants (venue to be confirmed)**
- **19th Stars & Seasons**
- **26th Creatures of the Sea and Sky**

Wednesday 4th - Bickleigh School – In a first for the school, the **Exeter University Chamber Orchestra** will be performing to Class 5 in St Mary's Church, Bickleigh from 2.30 to 3.30 pm. If you are around you would be very welcome to attend.

Tuesday 17th Soup and Pudding – We continue with our monthly lunch time "soup and pudding" meals starting at midday. All welcome with proceeds going to the ShelterBox charity.

Saturday 21st Mothering Sunday – the theme for a Mothering "Sunday" Coffee Morning is an opportunity to learn about and support the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. There are currently 400,000 people in the UK with type 1 diabetes, over 29,000 of them are children. JDRF are committed to eradicating type 1 diabetes and its effects for everyone in the UK with type 1, and at risk of developing it.

At Gable Cottage from 10 am to Midday.

Rev. Thom Thompson

Annual Bluebell Walk at ByFarm

Sunday April 29th from 2pm

We invite you all to our annual bluebell walk at our farm. There will be plenty of refreshments available as well as lovely views across the valley. We are supporting South West Children's Hospice again this year.

We look forward to seeing you.

John and Jeanette, 855354



Parish Council News

When the suggestion was made at a previous Parish Council meeting that it would be a great idea if the parish could employ a 'lengthsman'. I don't think I was alone in wondering what on earth this could be but, not wishing to show myself up in front of my new fellow learned councillors, I said nothing and went home and did what many of us do and asked Mr Google!

That's how I now know that the term lengthsman originated from the 1700s in a concept rooted in the Tudor Era as far back as the War of the Roses. Originally, it referred to someone who kept a "length" of road neat, tidy and passable in the middle ages, with particular emphasis on boundary marking. Lengthsmen were also used on canals and railways from the beginnings of both.

Over time, the introduction of mechanisation and centralisation replaced lengthsman with area-based work teams, controlled from County Council offices and depots. In recent years however the role has been reintroduced in many areas with County Councils providing the parish a small designated budget to cover certain aspects of highway maintenance on parish roads (excluding 'A' roads) such as ensuring drains and ditches are clear, cleaning grates, footpath maintenance, and reporting potholes etc.

I am delighted to confirm that Robin Maynard has successfully applied for the role of Bickleigh Lengthsman, as advertised in a previous edition of the Bugle, and will commence his duties shortly.

Further details will follow once an initial assessment of the area has been carried out.

In the meantime, if you have any queries, please contact me directly.

I do believe that this role will be of considerable benefit to our village by ensuring that local concerns are quickly acted on and nipping minor problems in the bud before they become significant and costly.

In other parish news, some of you may have already noticed that I have added the links for the MDDC Town and Parish newsletters for January and February to the Bickleigh website. This was a specific request from attendees at the February Parish Council meeting as it was felt the newsletters provided a good deal of information about what was happening in Mid Devon.

I can also confirm that we have been notified of the likelihood of road closures in the Bickleigh area between the 15th and 27th March as a result of work to remove over 200 trees affected by ash dieback. Further details will be published on the website nearer the time and as they are made available.

Finally, should you come across any potholes in need of fixing, please go to the following link where you will find the appropriate criteria required as well as how to report the problem. A neighbour of mine reported one outside his house recently and we were both pleasantly surprised to see it fixed within 5 days.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/report-a-pothole/>

Cllr Clive Williams
clivemwilliams@sky.co



What's on March 2020

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
24 Feb	25	26	27	28	29	1 March Holy Communion 11am
2	3	4 Exeter University Chamber Orchestra	5	6	7 Jobs at the village hall	8 Evening Prayer 6pm
9 Bickleigh Gardening club: Otters	10	11	12	13	14	15 Family Service 11am / Hidden Kitchen
16	17 Soup and Pud	18	19	20	21 Coffee morning at Gable Cottage	22 Mothering Sunday Family service 11am
23	24	25	26	27 Easter Bingo	28	29 Matins 11am / Bluebell walk
30	31	1 Apr	2	3	4	5

Dealing with The Black Stuff...

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