

July 2020



With summer well on the way and with life beginning to return to something like normal it is interesting to listen to the range of debates on how we as a society should respond to the legacy of Covid. Whatever happens it has provided much discussion and the Government has consistently told us they have been following the science - science is providing plenty of evidence as to our future direction so it is to be hoped that following the science will indicate the path ahead.

Many residents have said that the recent restrictions have given them a new sense of the peace and beauty that rurality can provide - with the main road closed for some time those next to it must have really appreciated the relief this provided. Those that had to endure the traffic coming through the village were not so sure of course!

We understand moves are being made by some residents to explore a cycle way along the route of the old railway line from Exeter to Tiverton. This has been looked at some couple of decades ago by Devon County Council, as we understand, and with the Government promoting more active travel (walking and cycling) this route may provide many benefits.

With luck this will be a return to a paper copy this month. As always let us have any articles for your Bugle and just to remind you there will be no paper copy for August as the school will be (we assume) on the summer break.

Do have a good summer. With luck and following Government guidelines the Village Hall will try and organise a summer get together so do keep a lookout for information on the noticeboard.

**Your editors,
Steve and Michael**

Scrub bags and "not forgotten" Hearts.

As a result of the good response to make scrub bags for doctors, nurses and staff in the Emergency Department of RD &E, I would like to mention the people who set to using pillow cases, duvet covers and sheets - they were Sally Taverner, Amanda Somerskill, Elaine Maynard and myself. In all approximately 40 were made. Thank you for your wonderful efforts.

There were other people who responded so quickly to a request for tape or cord to secure

the bags at the top and for ribbon for the hearts. Again thank you so much to everyone.

I Received a lovely letter from the Emergency Dept saying how grateful they were for the bags and how this gesture boosted morale to know that people were thinking of them in these incredibly difficult times.

Olive Taylor

Parish council news

Following an enforced absence in April and May the Parish Council met on 9th June via Zoom. It was good to get together and discuss a number of important issues.

The contractor working on the restoration of the phone box was due to re-commence work shortly and we are all hoping to see the results of his work in the near future so that we start fitting it out for use as a library.

A few instances of fly-tipping in recent weeks were noted which MDDC had dealt with very quickly. I would urge anyone who sees any fly-tipping to report it on the MDDC website, so that it can be removed as soon as possible. Please note MDDC cannot deal with fly-tipping on private land.

Some of you may have noted that Robin, our village lengthsmen, has recently been busy clearing ditches and drains on the road above the church which has already helped to reduce the flow of water cascading down from the top part of the hill. Whilst Robin has done a fantastic job in clearing these blockages clearly there are limits on what he

can do and I am meeting with someone from the Highways Department soon to discuss the collapsed drains and other drainage issues that are continuing to cause problems on the lower part of Bickleigh Hill and also on the hill by The Bothy. I'll provide an update in due course but, in the meantime, suggest you don't hold your breath!

Thanks were given to the Bickleigh Coronavirus Response Team for all the work in co-ordinating the volunteers who are helping those in need and which is continuing to provide a basic errand service for a number of villagers.

Minutes of the meeting are available on the Parish Council Section of the Bickleigh website and the Parish Council Noticeboard.

Our next meeting will be on 14th July also by Zoom when we hope to discuss the replacing of the defibrillator at the Village Hall and to hear from the group campaigning for a cycle path along the old railway line to Exeter.

Cllr. Clive Williams