

September 2020



Writing this on one of the sunnier days in late August reminds us that the golden days of summer are now waning. Two months on from the longest daylight shows the sun is already slipping slowly towards the southern horizon heralding the Autumn which in meteorology terms starts on the first day of September. Let's hope we get some warm late sunshine to remind us of the best part of what has been, by and large, a good summer in terms of what a summer should be.

We must hope that the colder season will not see a return of Covid and there does seem to be better news after all the depressing news over the last few months. Let's hope for the best.

You will see some events are returning. The village hall and church are encouraging a return - you will see more details inside the Bugle. It is also pleasing to see the Parish Council taking an active

role in reviving aspects of the village - it is easy to forget that we are very blessed to live where we do and it is so easy to let things slip; little bits of untidiness can add up and create more.

For those of you who watch Countryfile, you may have seen some good ideas in Suffolk. A village setting aside lots of areas where flowers and wildlife can flourish plus a large estate moving towards rewilding (letting nature flourish with minimal interference). This may provide us with something to think about bearing in mind the scientific evidence showing the alarming decline in our flora and fauna?

We look forward to seeing you at one or more of the events coming over the Autumn.

**Your editors,
Steve and Michael**

Parish Council update

We try to be as environmentally friendly as possible in our household, using water economically, recycling wherever possible and taking our own shopping bags to the supermarket. I was rather surprised and not a little confused to hear that Morrisons was phasing out its 'bags for life' as it seems most people were treating them as 'bags for a week' and not reusing them at all.

It's to introduce a 30p paper version instead which sounds great until it was pointed out that paper bags take four times as much energy to produce as plastic ones.

I thought rather smugly that as we had cotton shopping bags we could consider ourselves somewhat superior in our planet saving efforts. Now I've discovered we have to use them 131 times to make them equal to single use bags due to the high energy levels required in the production of cotton. And if you actually wash the bags to counter accidental spillages you'll just give yourself more sleepless nights! So, if you see me in Morrisons balancing fruit on my head and with my arms full of vegetables you'll know why!

I'm sure we are all doing our best to comply with the various social distancing rules despite the sometimes illogical nature of them. In particular, the new rules of having to wear a mask in church are a bit frustrating to me and seem at odds with some other indoor venues such as casinos, bowling alleys and pubs. Despite these new restrictions, we've managed to overcome some of the issues at Tiverton Methodist Church by humming along to the hymns or sometimes clapping along and - outrageously for some - doing the actions! I really hope we can soon be treated at least

the same as those who frequent casinos and bowling alleys!

I know a good number of Bickleigh residents have been doing their bit to save the economy by eating out to help out and that Bickleigh Mill and The Fisherman's Cot have both experienced increased business on the days that the offer applied. I even know of someone who took advantage of the deal on 3 occasions in one day - well why not! Let's not forget our local businesses once the offer ends.

In Parish Council news, I'm pleased to report that we have agreed with South Western Ambulance Service to renew the Defibrillator contract for another 3 years. This invaluable resource doesn't come cheap, at over £2000 over 3 years, but it's such a vital piece of equipment for a village such as ours that it's not something we can contemplate not having. I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank Robin Maynard who, each week for the past 3 years, has checked that the defibrillator is in working order and sends off a monthly report to South Western Ambulance Service. Such dedication is much appreciated by us all.

Finally, by the time you read this, the result of the Bickleigh Sunflower competition will have been announced. Most homes in the village were given a few sunflower seeds at the start of lockdown to do with as they wished. At the time of writing a number of photo entries have been received and already it's clear that the judge from the gardening club will have a tricky job in deciding on a winner. I'm told it's not just about the height - the colour, shape and size of the head all play a part.

Clive

Village Hall News

Village Hall available again

Following the lockdown, we are now able to take bookings again. This will be conditional, based on Covid-19 booking conditions and risk assessment. We will also run a limited number of events. Of course, these will have to be carefully considered to allow social distancing and stop any spreading of the virus. We would need to take details of anyone attending for track and trace requirements.

Caretaker needed, please!

Sadly, Lauren is having to step down from this role as she has work commitments. If anyone would be able to take over, please contact me (Richard 855053), it would be for cleaning and general maintenance before and after lettings. Normally, it wouldn't amount to much more than an hour a week, although sometimes it can be busier. We are happy to pay £10 per hour.

Jobs at the village hall

We held a work morning on 5th Sept- many thanks to those who attended. The site has been comprehensively weeded and swept and windows and doors have been washed down. We are also erecting gateposts along the boundary with the school, so there is a

walkway through the new hedge (which is growing very nicely)

Improvements to the village hall

Having had a new fire door fitted in the kitchen just before lockdown, we have become aware of the poor condition of the other two fire doors in the main hall, so these will be replaced.

Plans are in place to re-carpet the top of the stage, the same as the stage extension.

We are looking to install bi-fold shutters on the serving hatch too, so busy months ahead.

Film night

Our next event is a family film night on Friday 18th September, starting at 6.30pm.

We will ensure that chairs are set out to ensure social distancing and will only sell pre-packed food and drink.

We are showing ...

Paddington!

so big kids of all ages are welcome !

From your Village Hall Committee

Richard, Michelle, Matt, Steve, Lauren, Katinka, Charlotte

A Paddington Bear to colour in



Letter from the Rector

As a young teenager growing up in Tiverton, the school summer holidays meant Freedom. Freedom to enjoy the summer days as we wished. It was during those long summer days that I first fell in love with the landscape of this beautiful part of the world. I would take off on my Raleigh bicycle with three Sturmey Archer hub gears, that seemed quite adequate for any hill, and head up the Exe Valley, through Dulverton and up on to the moors. Ah, the energy of one's youth!

Although I had known this landscape all my life, it was only when I had the freedom to explore it close at hand on bike and foot that I felt I got to know it well - and fall in love with it. Those long summers, without the distraction of school work and exams, the chance to explore and just soak up the beauty all around provided what you might even call a Sabbath time for me.

When we hear the word Sabbath, our thoughts are probably of a 'traditional' Sunday, where obedience to the fourth commandment - 'Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath day' - was strictly observed.

Such a weekly Sabbath has now all but disappeared. However that does not negate the need for 'Sabbath' and the reason that such times were ordained by God. In its truest sense a Sabbath time is not about putting our feet up or mowing the lawn or keeping various 'thou shalt not on the Lord's Day' rules. It is a glimpse of a different view of time.

We can fool ourselves into believing that time is all about progress – always moving forward towards the 'sun lit uplands' of our dreams. We will create better homes, better food, better things to enjoy, better

medicines- a better world. There are setbacks (we don't need to be reminded of that this year!), but if we all push hard together, one great heave, and we will arrive in the 'promised land'.

'Sabbath' takes us out of that sort of thinking about time and gives us a glimpse of eternity – a glimpse of heaven. In the Bible, the writer of the Letter to the Hebrews tells us 'a Sabbath rest still remains for the people of God; for those who enter God's rest also cease from their labours as God did from his.'

So what is the essence of Sabbath? A Polish American rabbi called Abraham Joshua Heschel seemed to capture it well when he wrote 'the meaning of the Sabbath is to celebrate time rather than space. Six days a week we live under the tyranny of things of space; on the Sabbath we try to become attuned to holiness in time. It is a day on which we are called upon to share in what is eternal in time, to turn from the results of creation to the mystery of creation; from the world of creation to the creation of the world'

[Sabbath] 'is a realm of time where the goal is not to have but to be, not to own but to give, not to control but to share, not to subdue but to be in accord. Life goes wrong when the control of space, the acquisition of things of space, becomes our sole concern.'

As we have been and are still experiencing a period when work, leisure, time and space have all been thrown out of kilter, the need to find Sabbath rest is all the more important.

As I found some Sabbath time on those long-ago summers' days, I pray you and I may also find some blessed Sabbath rest again.

Paul

School Holiday Club for key workers Children

Bickleigh Village had a call from Russell Phillips at the school, asking if he could hire the village hall to run the holiday club over the first two weeks of the school summer holiday, and also in the final week. The club was run at a bargain price for parents, so Russell took very little payment for himself and his assistants. Given their commitment, we were happy to provide the hall for no cost and would like to give Russell great credit for his goodwill and community spirit

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What's on September 2020

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
31 Aug	1 Sep	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 Film night - Paddington	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1 Oct	2	3	4

Submissions to the Bugle are very welcome!
Email bickleighbugle@outlook.com by the 20th of the month

Dealing with The Black Stuff...

Robin Maynard of Bickleigh THE EXE VALLEY CHIMNEY SWEEP

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