



**MARCH 2018**

## **EDITOR'S NOTES**

Thoughts were turning to the arrival of an early spring but as this editorial is being written it looks as if spring will be on hold for a while. It is all due, apparently, to sudden stratospheric warming. If you have not heard of this before and want a little more information this is provided inside the Bugle.

The word 'March' comes from the Roman 'Martius'. This was originally the first month of the Roman calendar and was named after Mars, the god of war. March was the beginning of our calendar year. We changed to the 'New Style' or 'Gregorian calendar in 1752, and it is only since then when we the year began on 1st January. The Anglo-Saxons called the month Hlyd monath which means Stormy month, or Hraed monath which means Rugged month. All through Lent the traditional games played are marbles and skipping. The games were stopped on the stroke of twelve noon on Good Friday, which in some places was called Marble Day or Long Rope Day. The game of marbles has been played for hundreds of years and some historians say that it might have been started by rolling eggs. In the past, round stones, hazelnuts, round balls of baked clay and even cherry stones have been used.

This month, please do support St Mary's Church Coffee Morning at Gable Cottage on Saturday 10th March to raise funds for the ShelterBox Syria appeal. Also, we issue a final reminder on subscriptions. Thanks to all of you who have paid but for those who have not paid we assume you no longer wish to receive a paper version and unless you let us know otherwise this will be your last copy for 2018. You can of course view online ([www.bickleigh.org.uk](http://www.bickleigh.org.uk)) or request an email copy without cost from [bickleighbugle@outlook.com](mailto:bickleighbugle@outlook.com).

The Editors:

**Tim Scott**  
Calendar Cottage

**Steve Batt**  
The Old School



## IN MEMORY

### Frederick Ernest (John) and Irene Hersant RIP

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John and Irene Hersant's birthdays were only 9 days apart. Irene was the older and would laughingly refer to John as her "Toy Boy". They died just two weeks apart. John died first at the Culm Valley Care Home in Cullompton and Irene in the Pen-y-Bryn Nursing Home Swansea. A couple devoted to each other, whose passing from village life was celebrated in a service of Thanksgiving in St Mary's Church, Bickleigh last month. Their only child, Myra Lewis, asked a range of villagers to speak of their love and respect for a remarkable couple who came on retirement into Bickleigh some forty years ago. Their grandson Andrew spoke of the happiness he and his sister Julia had enjoyed visiting Bickleigh. This extended to the great grandchildren. Then John Greenslade spoke of their involvement in the Gardening Club of which John Hersant was a founding member and long time chairman. David

Meredith covered their joint contribution to the planning and fund raising that led to a completely refurbished village hall all those years ago and to John's thespian qualities at Christmas suppers and shows with his great friend the late Dick Ridd. There was poetry read by Sally Taverner, a tribute from Dick Ridd's widow Joyce, read for us by Olive Taylor and a further tribute from Roger Davis who first came into frequent contact with Irene and John in 2010 through Age UK's Befriending Programme. Other written memories were also received from villagers and passed on to Myra and her family. Tribute was also made to the many carers enabling John and Irene in their later years to remain in their home in Bell Meadow. The abiding memory is of a couple who complimented each other in devoted love, were interested in everything and who were kindness personified.

**Rev Thom Thompson**

## SHELTERBOX SYRIA APPEAL

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In response to an appeal from ShelterBox about the appalling situation in Syria, we decided to send £500 immediately. This was money that we had already saved from the proceeds of the monthly Soup 'n Pud lunches in the village hall. These lunches are our main way of raising funds for ShelterBox. It is not only a fund raising event but ALSO a community one where people can meet up, have a choice of delicious homemade soups and puddings and have a chat in pleasant surroundings. Everyone welcome.

*Olive Taylor*

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## THANK YOU BICKLEIGH

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Paul & Michelle of Lilac Cottage wish to express their thanks to everyone in Bickleigh for their love and support to their family during the last few months. Paul says 'It has been overwhelming the support we have received during this difficult time'.

## NEW TO THE VILLAGE

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On behalf of the Bickleigh community, the Bugle team welcome the Wright family, Emma, husband Matt, and daughter Phoebe (aged 3) to Bickleigh. They recently moved into Cleave Barton (behind Bickleigh Mill) from Loughton in Essex. I hope everyone will make them feel welcome.

## BLUEBELL WALK

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The annual bluebell walk at Byway Farm, in aid of Childrens' Hospice South West, will be held on **Sunday 15th April at 2.30pm**. You will be able to see ponds and trees, wildflowers and finish with some delicious refreshments. Unfortunately the walk itself is not suitable for wheelchairs due to the undulating terrain but refreshments will be accessible to all.

If you cannot make that date, do come up one evening or another day. The walk will be signposted.

**Farmer John** - Tel: 855354

## ST MARY'S CHURCH



**Do come and join us at Gable Cottage on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March from 10 am – an opportunity to meet, chat and catch up with other villagers.**

**Lots of Home Produce including bread, cakes, jams and chutney not to mention “Bric A Brac” and a Raffle.**

**All contributions will go to the urgent Syrian ShelterBox appeal**



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# VILLAGE HALL NEWS

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It has been a great year to be Chair of the Village Hall Committee! We successfully installed our fantastic new kitchen in last year and celebrated its completion in May 2017 in great company with many bottles of Yearlestone wine and some delicious cheese and nibbles. The Hall was also put through its paces with a large local Wedding in June, a Bickleigh School leavers party in July as well as numerous School Discos, Christmas performances, "The Finish Line" (a high quality play directed by Rose C) and a fun social event in October organised by the Village Hall Committee (which involved much Ale and dancing to the talented Castletown Boys).

Many thanks must go to Robin M, who has now stepped down from the Village Hall Committee after 5 years as a Trustee. I would also like to thank Elaine M on behalf of the Village Hall Committee. Both Robin and Elaine worked so very hard to make the kitchen installation a success. They have also worked exceptionally hard in cleaning and maintaining the hall over the last few years and also being the main point of contact for Enquiries and Bookings.

Big thanks also to Michelle D for all her work as Secretary last year before she stepped down from the Committee for family reasons in the Autumn. There is always a spot for you Michelle, if/when you want to come back!

In order to have a fully functioning Committee going forward, we have made some adjustments to the roles (see below). I would like to thank Richard Somerwill for taking on the Chair's role this year. Richard has extensive knowledge with regard to managing buildings and also some great ideas for social events going forward. I will be stepping down as Chair at the end of February, but will remain on the Village Hall Committee as Secretary. Many Thanks also to Lauren H who will be taking on the Enquiries and Bookings role. As a final note, The Soup and Pud and Harvest Home ladies will be pleased to hear that some new crockery and equipment will be appearing soon in the kitchen. Hopefully it will

no longer be necessary to have a Maths degree to work out which cups go with which saucers and we will finally have enough milk jugs and sugar bowls at the Harvest Home! Finally, on behalf of the Village, I want to thank all of the BVH Committee members for all of the time they have spent over the years on keeping Bickleigh Village Hall viable. For example, Chris T and Derek H have been on the Committee for about 40 years between them!! I hope you will all continue to support your Village Hall as much as possible this year...Bickleigh Village life would be a lot less interesting without it!

**Kerry Peters**

***Bickleigh Village Hall Chair***

***Jan 2017 - Feb 2018***

## ***Bickleigh Village Hall Committee 2018***

*Richard Somerwill - Chairperson*

*Matt M - Treasurer*

*Kerry P - Secretary*

*Lauren H - Enquiries/Bookings and Hall Cleaning.  
Call 01884 855022*

*Derek H - Committee Member*

*Chris T - Committee Member*

## ***Hall Hire Charges 2018***

*£10 per hour for use of hall including kitchen*

*£8 per hour for hall only (eg exercise classes where kitchen not needed)*

*£6 per hour for local events where 100% of profits go to a charitable cause and/or hire is for an event open to all Villagers. (eg Harvest Home/Village Social Event)*

## **PYONEER BOWEN TREATMENT**

Bowen is a remedial therapy that consists of a series of moves across muscles, tendons and other soft tissue. The therapist uses fingers and thumbs with no harsh manipulation to relieve tension and realign the body.

Two local, qualified therapists are able to offer treatment. Please contact either **Anna Hodgson on 07971395088** or **Pippa Perry on 07794467071** for more information. Alternatively visit the website at [www.pippaperrybowen.com](http://www.pippaperrybowen.com)

### **Yearlstone in 2017**

Open by appointment for 2017 due to exciting building works onsite please call 01884 855700 [info@yearlstone.co.uk](mailto:info@yearlstone.co.uk) for more details.

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What they are saying about your village wines lately...

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**Lyons International Medallist**

“Pale gold, gentle yeastiness, hints of apple and pear, fresh acidity & a creamy texture. “( sparkling Vintage Brut white ).

Paris La Revue du Vin“ A beautiful example of English fizz  
“ ( sparkling Vintage Brut pink Pinot Noir).

Roger & Juliet



# BICKLEIGH WEATHER WATCH

Floating quietly above the clouds, storms and other weather systems, there sits a quiescent, tenuous layer of the atmosphere called the stratosphere. Most people have heard about the stratosphere in the context of the ozone layer, when, in the 1980s it was discovered that manmade chemicals were leaking into the stratosphere and destroying ozone, which protects life on Earth from harmful ultraviolet radiation from the sun. Since then, international agreements to ban the use of the chemicals involved have halted the decline of the ozone layer and it is now on the slow road to recovery.

So is that it for the stratosphere? or is it important for other reasons? It turns out that although it does not harbour any weather and it is far too dry to rain in the stratosphere, it occasionally undergoes one of the most dramatic events in our atmosphere: a so-called 'sudden stratospheric warming'. This phenomenon really is dramatic; in just a couple of days the temperature over the North Pole in the winter stratosphere can suddenly rocket by as much as 50 degrees Celsius! Imagine if that happened here in Bickleigh - we would suddenly flip from the coldest of winter days to the scorching heat of the Sahara desert!

At the beginning of February, long range forecasts started to suggest that this is exactly what was going to happen. Then a couple of weeks later, not only did the temperature shoot up, but the winds circling around the Arctic cap ground to a halt and flipped direction, now flowing from east to west. What does this have to do with our weather? you might well ask. Well it turns out that those easterly winds slowly work their way down to where the jet stream is. Then they produce a profound change in our weather; the pressure across northern Europe rises, and the winds at the surface also flip and start flowing from the east. This means that air is blown to the UK from Siberia, and it's this last step that has caused the recent dramatic cold snap at the end of what has otherwise been an uneventful winter.

You can find out more about how the sudden warming of the stratosphere is linked to our weather here: <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/learning/learn-about-the-weather/how-weather-works/sudden-stratospheric-warming>

## Resident Scientist

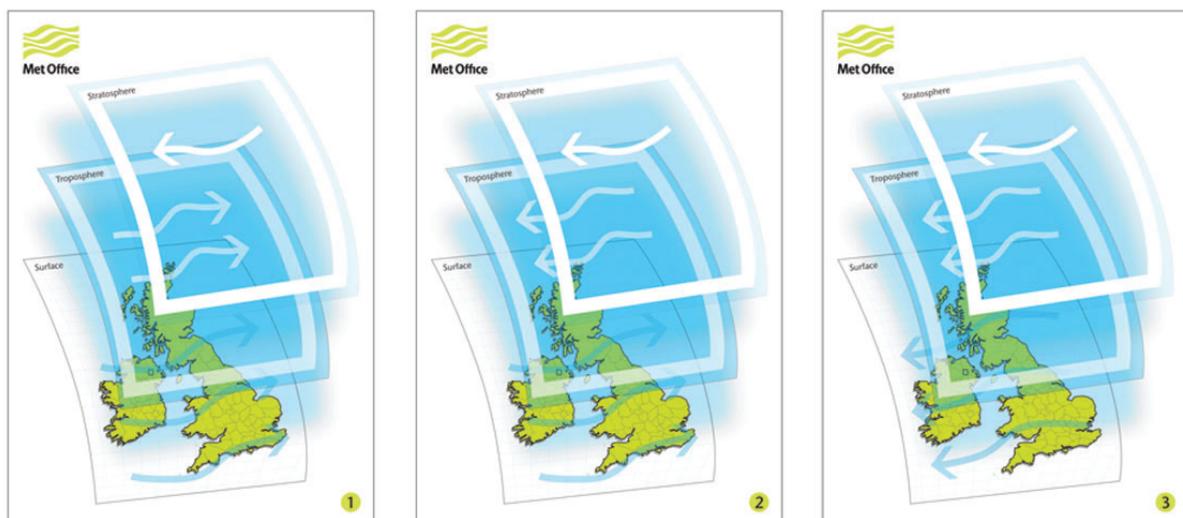


Image: Diagram of sudden stratospheric warming (MetOffice)

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# ST MARY'S PEWS NEWS

## MARCH

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**Village Plastic Waste Bank?** - "Hear, hear" I hear myself say to the radio which is speaking on the subject of plastic waste. Three score and ten years have passed and not much floors me now. I can cope with the blocked road drains on Bickleigh Hill leading to flooding and ice rink conditions in freezing weather (what are those yellow bins for?). I try to avoid the school traffic at 9 am and 3.30 am, I do not always succeed. Villagers are kind and neighbourly (on occasion probably saving a life). But I cannot cope with plastic waste. Food, tins, bottles, paper and cardboard OK! But plastic "takes the biscuit". There is I suggest a need for a village located "plastic bag bank" to which we can trudge with our armfuls of plastic. How about it readers, et al? (My Lenten gripe for the environment over – phew!).

**Lent** - With Easter Day falling on 1st April this year, March has suddenly become rather important as we try to fit in everything that needs to be done. The bleating of lambs and the burgeoning of Mother Nature coincides with our plans for Lent (now underway with a reflection on the patriarch of three religions, Abraham, the Friend of God), forty days of inner reflection, in tradition of penance, culminating on **Palm Sunday, the 25th March**.

Nowadays I suggest the challenge is not to do without, so much as to do what we have never done before, something new. Our Lenten study continues and there is time to join in. The theme is to learn how the Old Testament (OT) looks forward to Easter through key OT characters and their relationships with God as well as features of the Hebrew faith. In March the subjects are:

**1 March** - *Joseph who rescues the Family of God*

**8 March** - *Moses who rescues the People of God*

**15 March** - *Moses and Aaron and the atonement*

**We meet in Gable Cottage at 7.30 pm finishing at 9 pm.** If you would like to do something you have never done before, please join us.

**Eastertide Services (see flyers)** - We will enjoy a traditional Mothering Sunday Family Service on **Sunday 11th March** hoping that as many families as possible will come, another Family Service on **Sunday 18th March** and Parish Communion service on Palm **Sunday, 25th March**. The service on Easter Day is a Parish Communion as well. All services start at 11 am. We would love to see you all.

### **IMPORTANT DIARY DATE SUNDAY 15 APRIL 18 –**

It is not generally known that **Mrs Mary Vearncombe** will be standing down as our senior Churchwarden at the annual church meeting in April. Mary and her late husband Geoff offer a continuity of outstanding service I believe to be unparalleled over the last four decades if not longer to the parish of Bickleigh, St Mary's Church and the wider area. A farewell Songs of Praise service to mark Mary's dedication as a Churchwarden takes place in St Mary's Church on **Sunday 15th April at 3 pm** and afterwards in the Village Hall. More details will be provided in the Bugle next month.

**Rev Thom Thompson,**

Assistant Minister, tel: 01884 855309



**ST MARY'S BICKLEIGH**

**COMMUNITY  
HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE  
ON EASTER SUNDAY**

**1st APRIL AT 11 AM  
ALL VERY WELCOME  
PLEASE JOIN US**

**ST MARY'S BICKLEIGH**



**PLEASE JOIN US FOR A PALM  
SUNDAY HOLY COMMUNION  
SERVICE ON  
SUNDAY 25<sup>th</sup> MARCH  
AT 11 AM**



**Mothering  
Sunday**

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR  
A  
MOTHERING SUNDAY  
FAMILY SERVICE**

**IN ST MARY'S  
CHURCH BICKLEIGH  
ON  
SUNDAY 11<sup>th</sup> MARCH  
AT 11 AM**



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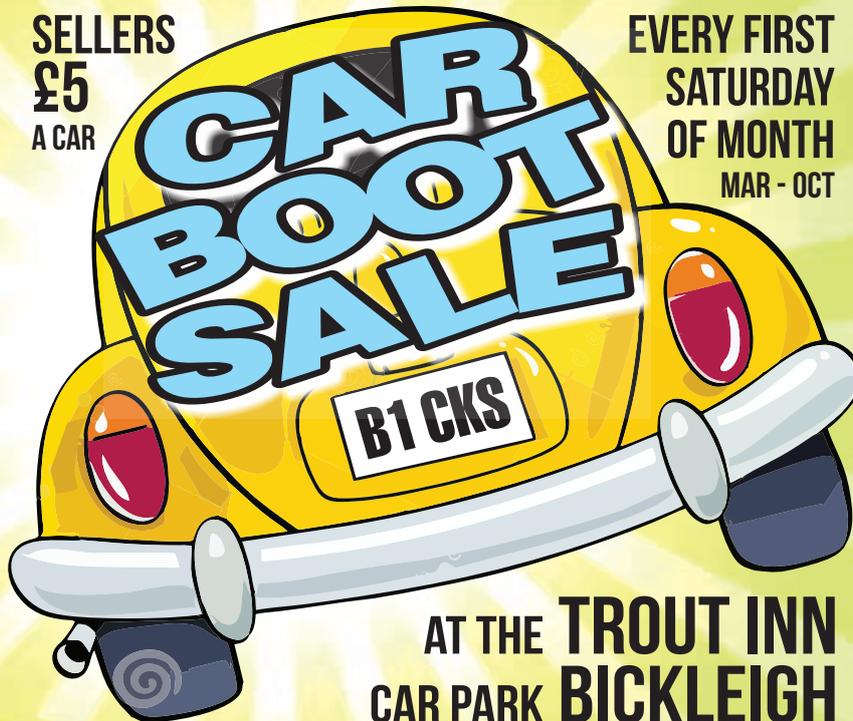


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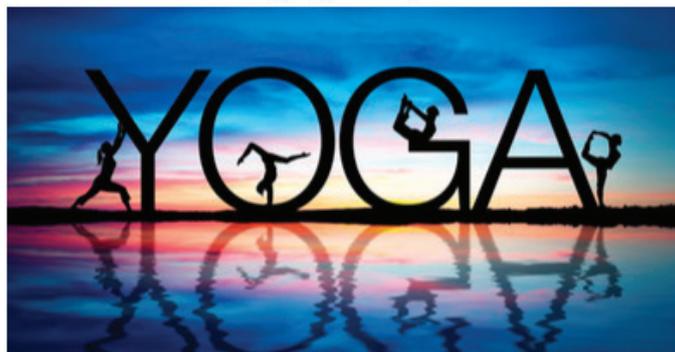
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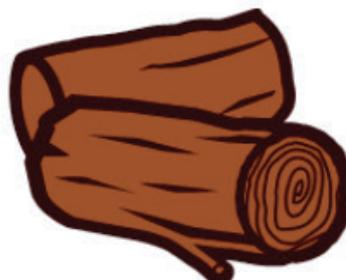


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# March 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 Bickleigh Car Boot Sale Trout Inn Car Park 8am
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Syria Appeal Coffee Morning  10am Gable Cottage
11 Mothering Sunday Family Service 11am St Marys	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Palm Sunday Holy Communion 11am St Marys	26	27	28	29	30 Good Friday	31

IF YOU HAVE AN EVENT YOU WANT EVERYONE TO KNOW ABOUT JUST SEND  
US AN EMAIL AND WE WILL SHOUT ABOUT IT FOR YOU!

***bickleighbugle@outlook.com***