



FEBRUARY 2019

EDITOR'S NOTES

Firstly thank you to all who have paid to have a paper copy of the Bugle. If you wish to continue with your paper copy do please drop £3 cash into the Old School or to your distributor.

Our regular contributor, Phyllis Nichols, is unable to provide a poem this month. We wish you well, Phyllis and hope to hear from you for March. Our resident scientist has kindly provided us with an article this month and just to remind you that we welcome articles from anyone either on paper or by email to bickleighbugle@outlook.com - it is your magazine.

It was good to see so many friends and residents at the New Year party in the Village Hall. It is hoped to repeat this for the end of this year. Please see the events being lined up over the year for the village in the Hall. The Hall Committee is very proud of the new flooring and kitchen: do think of hiring the Hall for any event or meeting you may wish to hold.

At long last the church clock seems to be keeping time. The clock company has made many visits over the last few months in order to sort it out and as is often the case, the timing problem was actually quite a small issue. A pity perhaps that it took so long but the church has not had to bear any additional costs over and above the original quote. Appologies if the timing has caused any lateness to work!

We hope to see you over the new year at some of the village events. As always everyone endeavours to provide a warm welcome to residents and visitors alike.

The Editors:

Tim Scott
Calendar Cottage

Steve Batt
The Old School

BICKLEIGH HISTORY

Do you wonder what life in Bickleigh was like in 1842? Would you like to know more about interesting characters from the past?

The Bickleigh Local History Group will be holding an evening for everyone, with supper, on **Saturday April 13th** 2019 in Bickleigh Village Hall. We have collected a good picture of life in the Parish and surrounds in 1842 when a surveyor called John Coldridge drew up details for a Tithe Map and Apportionment of landowners, clergy, tenants and their trades who in future would have to pay monetary tithes to the church rather than in kind. We are looking for volunteers to take on the role of a character and read a short piece about themselves.

For the second part of the evening we need volunteers to become a person who in very different ways has left their mark on Bickleigh life. Winnie Buttle who many will remember may be among them! No lines to learn, great fun guaranteed!

Please get in touch if you would like to be involved, whether it be helping with supper, setting up the hall, finding costumes or reading a piece.

The date for the event is significant to us as we arrived in Bickleigh on April 13th 1879! Where have those 40 years gone?

David and Heather Meredith

Spurway Cottage

01884 855210 meredithdavid01@gmail.com

BICKLEIGH GARDENING CLUB

On Wednesday 9 January 2019, Bickleigh Gardening Club held their Annual Lunch at Bickleigh Mill. We had a delicious lunch and a good time was had by all. John Greenslade thanked everyone who attended and reminded us that the next meeting will be held at the Village Hall on **Monday 11th March at 7.00pm**.

We are always hoping to “Welcome New Members” so why not come along and see if it’s for you, we have monthly talks on varying subjects and quite often the speakers have goods to purchase, a raffle, tea & coffee, and a chance for a chat with new acquaintances or friends. Hope to see you there.

Amanda McCarthy

BICKLEIGH BENEVOLENT FUND

Bickleigh Benevolent Fund is a small charity which has been in existence since approximately 1794. Bickleigh village has been very fortunate to have this fund which over the years has helped numerous villagers by handing out, for example - coal, boots and shoes to the present day when all ages have benefited in financial terms. It has also been very helpful when disasters have occurred, ie, fire or other distressing events. Every year, near Christmas, people (mainly the elderly) receive donations from the Fund.

The Trustees of the Bickleigh Benevolent Fund meet early in December. They are:-

Rev. A. MacDonald (Chairman)

Mr. R. Deeds (Mid Devon Council Representative)

Mrs. M. Vearncombe (Treasurer)

Mrs. J. Brownlow

Mr. R. Maynard

Mrs. O. Taylor (Secretary)

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ST MARY'S PEWS NEWS

FEBRUARY

The phrase "Full House" has different meanings according to the context. Three aces and two kings is a good hand in poker, a so called "Full House". The Village Hall experiences a "Full House" for the Christmas pantomime. The season of Epiphany, starting this year with the visit of the magi to find and pay homage to the King of the Jews, saw another "Full House" in St Mary's Church Silverton. The farewell service to our Rector Alan and Eileen was very special. Heart-warming and thus a true reflection of God's love for his servant Alan, our shepherd for over twenty three years of service. Our own Bickleigh farewell took the form of an evening service. Alan was presented with a silver letter opener and other money raised was at his request donated to the ShelterBox charity. By the time you read this Alan will have retired.

Church Council - The Church Council meets at Gable Cottage at **7.30 pm on Tuesday 5th February**. The main business will be to confirm the annual report and consider the audit of the 2018 accounts in preparation for the annual parochial church meeting on 2nd April the first part of which is open to the public. We will update the meeting on progress towards the arrangements for advertising for someone to replace our Rector Alan. Responsibility for this rests with our two Church Wardens Matt Melksham and Polly Thompson. We expect the process to last for several months.

House Group 2019 - we continue to meet at Gable Cottage on a **Thursday evening at 7.30 pm finishing at 9 pm**. We managed to complete the Acts of the

Apostles between July and December last year. Now we read into and investigate the "Fruit of the Holy Spirit" which according to St Paul writing to the early Christian church in the province of Galatia displays itself in "love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, faithfulness, goodness, gentleness and self control". St Paul adds rather drily "Against such things there is no law" (Galatians 4.22). In this month we will cover "peace, goodness and self control" and which of us is not in need of all those? All welcome just pitch up.

Soup and Pudding Tuesday 19th February - This monthly event is showing increasing support. Both our last two events filled the available spaces. There is quite a hubbub of conversations; with much laughter and some business conducted. We also willingly offer a door to door service. This also raises funds for ShelterBox.

Men's Breakfasts 2019 - Herewith some of the details of our gatherings this year, please put them in your diaries and come along if you can. We have the probability of three speakers, a Hindu priest, a Baptist priest and one from the Roman Catholic faith. Our fourth session is likely to consist of anonymous questions. More news as soon as further details can be fixed.

23 February - Cadeleigh; 25 May - Silverton; 16 September - Butterleigh; 9 November - Bickleigh

Rev Thom Thompson

Assistant Minister, tel: 01884 855309



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Contact Angela Mead on 07811855182 or email angela.mead@gmail.com for further information.

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HEDGEROWS AND THEIR NATURAL HISTORY

I was pleased to receive a very informative book for Christmas on the Natural History of the Hedgerow. Even I with a basic knowledge of hedgerows would be pleased to identify a few dozen species of plants and animals. Would you agree with this estimate? Perhaps you may think this to be about right, or maybe more. I was surprised to find that my estimate was way out. In 2015 a Dr Rob Wolton found that an average Devon hedge (probably considerably above average compared to most hedges in Britain) contained 2,070 species of plant, animal, lichen and fungus. This excludes microscopic organisms. Many of these organisms are still awaiting identification and he thinks at least 3,000 different species may be nearer the mark.

I don't know about you but I found this absolutely remarkable and should give pause to anyone inclined to destroy a hedge. The biodiversity then of hedgerows is of considerable importance whereas most of the surrounding land tends to be a biological desert (mainly due to intensive farming practices). Of further interest from the book is that it is estimated that area wise the total hedgerow content of Britain would fit into Devon about five times. It is clear that we need to really value our hedges and improve protection and maintenance as a priority. Is it too much to hope that our Government will incorporate this into the the Agriculture Bill, currently going through Parliament? Don't hold your breath!



Another interesting article was about estimating the age of a hedge by the number of woody species in a 30 metre length of hedge. Dr Hooper formulated a rule that 10 species in such a length indicates it is 1000 years old plus. Hooper's Rule is a rough and ready indicator of ancient hedges. Try this rule around some of our hedges and it may well confirm the ancient lineage of some of our lanes around the parish. The Village history group made reference to an interesting publication by Dr Duncan Probert a couple of years ago and the hedgerow rule appears to tie in nicely with his hypothesis on the very ancient origin of routes in and out of Bickleigh.

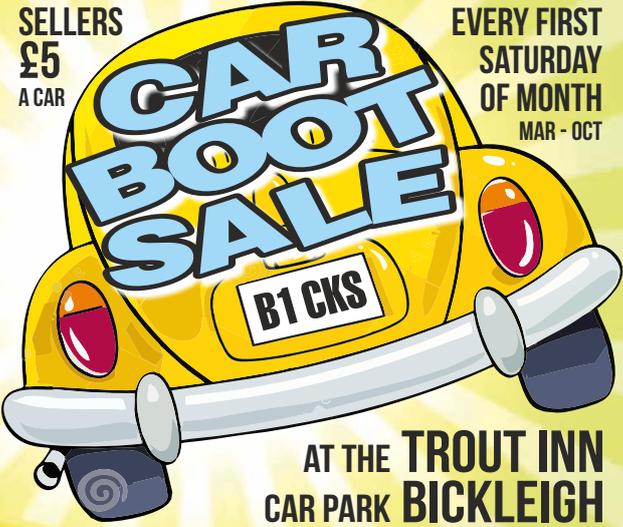
References: Wright, John. A Natural History of the Hedgerow and ditches, dykes and dry stone walls,- London: Profile Books Ltd 2017
Probert, Duncan. Interim Report on the identification of the Anglo Saxon Hunting Lodge at Bicanleag, - 2016

Steve Batt

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BICKLEIGH WEATHER WATCH

We are lucky to live in a special part of the world, not only for the dramatic scenery of the Exe Valley, which is hard to beat as I drive down the A396 on a misty morning, but also because we have a designated world heritage site just down the road: the Jurassic Coast.

The weather on the Earth has varied greatly since the Jurassic. Very long term shifts in the climate are caused by astronomical cycles, volcanism and even the action of living organisms which changed the constituents of the air. In the carboniferous for example, there was so much oxygen in the air that it allowed gigantism in insects and so fossils of dragonflies as large as dustbin lids have been found in rocks of this age!

Even the continents changed shape on these timescales. Over many millions of years, continental drift changed the world map thorough unrecognisable patterns. During the Triassic period between 200 and 250 million years ago, the enormous supercontinent of Pangea was the dominant land mass and like all great continents, it had an intense desert climate away from the coastlines. However, the inexorable creep of continental drift eventually split Pangea

apart and in the subsequent Jurassic period when the rocks of our local coastline were first laid down, the deserts gave way to vast areas of humid rainforests. These were populated by dinosaurs, the first birds and even our early mammal ancestors.

The oceans were also teeming with life at this time and my son and I have been lucky enough to find dramatic evidence of this ourselves on the coast near Charmouth where we recently uncovered and extracted proof of the terrible beasts that were swimming in the Jurassic ocean. I hope the black and white print in the Bugle does justice to our newly discovered Ichthyosaur!

The Jurassic period was first named by Alexander Von Humboldt, a true polymath who contributed to many areas of science, including meteorology. In his memoirs he even seems to have foreseen the advent of long range weather forecasting through his awareness of the much higher predictability of the weather in the tropics. I imagine he would have been equally interested in the current state of the science, which suggests that we are likely to be in a severe cold snap by the time you read this article.....

Resident Scientist



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BICKLEIGH VILLAGE HALL NEWS

A BUSY NEW YEAR !

You will see from the events listed below that 2019 will be a busy year at the village hall ! We have events planned for every month up to June already, so please put these down in your diaries and calendars (or phones, depending on your age!). We look forward to seeing you at some of the events.

PREVIOUS EVENTS...

We held our first New Years' Eve party on 31st Dec (when else?). We had around 50 guests attending, who brought along plenty of food to share and who seemed to enjoy each other's company and the party atmosphere. Some guests just about made it to midnight before retiring to bed, but others were in serious party mode and although not making it through to dawn, had a pretty good try! Many thanks to the committee for all their efforts at arranging this at such a busy time of year. You know what to do next New Years Eve!

NEW FLOORING

A new polysafe vinyl floor was laid in the hall in early December - although this has been at considerable expense, from all reports it seems to be very well received. The previous floor did well to last for around 30 years, but this one has a damp proof membrane

beneath it, which should keep the place warmer (and drier!).

WORK PARTY

In November, we held a work morning to improve the outside area around the village hall. This included clearing the roof and guttering of leaves, clearing gullies and soakaways, removing a dilapidated fence, clearing dead wood from a hedgerow and, of course, lots of sweeping leaves. Many thanks to those attending - Steve B, Katinka, Paul, Michelle, Mark, Kerry, Matt, Rachel, Steve H and Richard. We are holding another one on **Saturday 23rd February** and would be grateful for any help in clearing away leaves, cleaning the outside of windows, washing down surfaces and lowering hedging.

BOOKING THE VILLAGE HALL

Planning a party for a big birthday? Is there a wedding coming up in the family? Please consider BVH as a potential venue for your event! High quality sound system adaptable for most sources, semi-commercial kitchen with dishwasher, seating, tables and place settings for 80+ as well as crockery, glasses, cutlery. Negotiable use of village orchard. Ring Lauren on 07807087692 for further details.

Fri 1st Feb....

Bingo night !



6pm for 6.30pm start.

Chocolate prizes !

Tuck shop/ bar.

Sat 23rd March

The Embezzlers

Live Music at BVH !

MORE DATES AT BVH.....

Sun 28th April.....

**Hidden Kitchen event-
community lunch at the
village hall with 'resident
chef' Jim Janes (details to
follow)**

Sat 18th May.....

BVH Quiz Night #3

Fri 21st June.....

**'The Longest Day'
event..... band, barbecue,
bar**

BICKLEIGH LOCAL HISTORY WEBSITE

This website continues to bring in enquiries from all around the country, the most recent being from a Scottish Nationalist MP living in Cromarty asking for information about Captain John Stedman, buried in Bickleigh Churchyard.

The time is now right to update and add to the local history site. For this we would like to involve people within our community with skills in IT or with an interest to learn more about web design and development. Kerry and Michael are happy to be involved and have suggested a get together with others to plan and carry out the project. If you feel you have skills to offer or perhaps develop, please get in touch with me,

David Meredith, Spurway Cottage,

01884 855210

meredithdavid01@gmail.com

February 2019						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Bingo Night Village Hall 6pm	2
3	4	5 Church Council Gable Cottage 7.30pm	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 Soup 'n' Pud Village Hill Midday-1pm	20	21	22	23 Work Party! Village Hall
24	25	26	27	28		
<p>IF YOU HAVE AN EVENT YOU WANT EVERYONE TO KNOW ABOUT JUST SEND US AN EMAIL AND WE WILL SHOUT ABOUT IT FOR YOU!</p> <p><i>bickleighbugle@outlook.com</i></p>						