

BUMPER EDITION!

July & August 2019



It was clearly too optimistic to talk about good summer days in the last Bugle. This is being written on the longest day (daylight wise) and we have not had the best of weather so far have we? Many plants are suffering from the wet and runner beans seem to be particularly stunted so far. But as the song goes it can only get better?

The longest day light day or Solstice is the first day of the summer season and many fetes and events occur around this time of the year. If you go to any you are sure of a good time and perhaps helping the local

economy. Our Mid Devon Show is to be held on Saturday 27 July this year and it is noted that children under 15 will be free. This must be very welcome as it does seem a lot of money for family days out, time entrance fees are paid on top of refreshments and so on. Then there are the summer holidays to come. More expense!

Note that the next Bugle will be the September issue so there will not be one for August. Any articles should be submitted by the 20th August.

Have a good summer!

Let your soul and spirit fly / The *summer* night is like a perfection
of thought / *Summertime* is always the best of what might be /
Summer afternoon — *summer afternoon*; to me those have always
been the two most beautiful words in the English language.

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

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

Welcome to Mike and Sue

A warm Bickleigh welcome to Mike and Sue who have recently moved to Heronsford. We look forward to seeing you at one of our Bickleigh events and hope you will enjoy living in the community.

ShelterBox

In February this year we were able to send £600 to ShelterBox. Besides the usual proceeds generated by the monthly Soup 'n Pud, there were two donations that should be mentioned. The first was £46 kindly given at the Quiz Night in the village hall last November. The second was £80 which was the remainder of the gifted money given by parishioners of St Mary's Church for the Rector on his retirement in June. The Rector generously requested that the money should go to charity and ShelterBox was chosen.

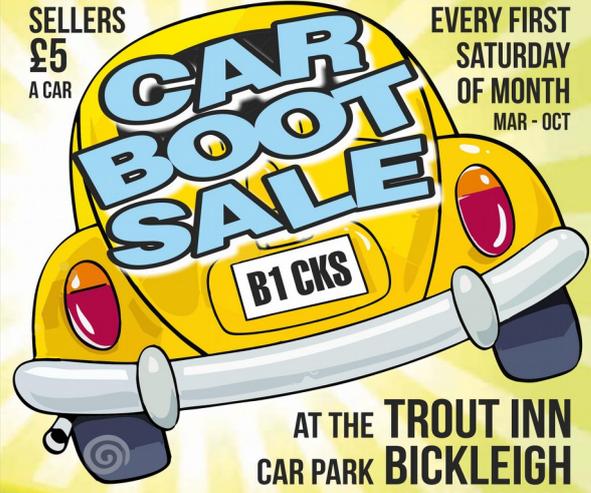
These two gifts made it possible to fund our 15th box earlier than we anticipated.

Bickleigh villages association with ShelterBox dates back to 2005 and in those 14 years we should be proud that in a small way we have made several families' lives a little easier after being made homeless as a result of war or or a natural disaster.

Let's carry on with our efforts.

Happy Meadow AGM

The AGM of the Recreation Ground is to take place on Thursday 4th July at 6pm at Bickleigh School. All villagers are welcome to attend.



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Thatching

A brow course is a half sized layer of thatch, placed on top of the Eaves course; to increase the Springing or Kick of the Coatwork. A leggett is a hand tool for to drive reed thatch into place (also called a bat or a biddle). A staulch is a local name for measure of thatching completed in a working day. Thatching retains its distinctive local customs and language. One fascinating find

as the re-thatching of our home progresses was the discovery of a bundle tied by hand into a length of reed possibly one hundred years old. It looks and feels as though it was made today. As a tribute to our thatcher and others in this ancient tradition I quote below a poem by the Irish poet Seamus Heaney

Thom Thompson

Thatcher, by Seamus Heaney

*Bespoke for weeks, he turned up some morning
Unexpectedly, his bicycle slung
With a light ladder and a bag of knives.
He eyed the old rigging, poked at the eaves,*

*Opened and handled sheaves of lashed wheat-straw.
Next, the bundled rods: hazel and willow
Were flicked for weight, twisted in case they'd snap.
It seemed he spent the morning warming up:*

*Then fixed the ladder, laid out well honed blades
And snipped at straw and sharpened ends of rods
That, bent in two, made a white-pronged staple
For pinning down his world, handful by handful.*

*Couchant for days on sods above the rafters,
He shaved and flushed the butts, stitched all together
Into a sloped honeycomb, a stubble patch,
And left them gaping at his Midas touch.*

The Nail Box

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Bickleigh Gardening Club

Bickleigh Gardening Club held its monthly meeting on 10th June with Guest Speaker Di Wilkins giving a talk " My Floral World".

We were treated to a wonderful selection Photographs of flowers and plants in still life and edible arrangements , pressed and partially dissected flowers showing vibrant colours and fantastical patterns and shapes ,all in all a very different and interesting talk.

There is no evening meeting next month as it is our trip to Forde Abbey ,there are still a

few seats available if anyone is interested. We leave from Bickleigh Mill car park at 9.15 am on Tuesday 9th July please call 01884 855548 for any further information .

Don't forget Saturday August 17th 2019 is the date for the Annual Garden and Craft Show schedules for entry are now available. There are Classes to fit all types of Interests not just Gardening ! Why not join in you do not have to be a member to participate.

Amanda McCarthy



Cream Tea at 3!

Do join us in the garden on Gable Cottage, Saturday 13th July



Gable Cottage is hosting "Cream Teas at 3" as a contribution towards St Mary's Annual Gift Day. All are very welcome but please note there is no wet weather programme so please just pile in. A retiring collection will be made in support of St Mary's funds.

Bickleigh Village Hall



Available to hire for private functions

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Defibrillator Awareness Session

Bickleigh Village Hall

Wednesday 17th July 2019 at 7.00 pm



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Contact

R Maynard - 01884 855597

Free attendance
EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Bickleigh School

Ascending St Mary's Church Tower –

Ascension Day this year fell during the half term break. A tradition over many years is for Year 6 pupils to climb up the tower to the top and to see Exe Valley from a very different perspective on that day. We will enact that tradition during the afternoon of Monday 15th July with a simple service to remind all of the importance of Ascension Day in the Christian Calendar.

The month of June saw the culmination of a number of events involving the school, pupils and parents. A successful Summer Fayre organised by the Bickleigh School Association, third places for the school (out of 12 teams in each case) in the Wilcombe Cobbler running event and the Tiverton Schools' Swimming Gala, the School Choir performing in the Spring Variety Show at the New Hall Tiverton and the Year 3 Wildside

Residential at the end of the month preceded by Class 4/5 Summer Performances in the Village Hall.

That just leaves the following in July Sports Day - 1.00 pm start, 8th—12th July Year 5 & 6 Activity Week (15th July Sports Day Back up date 6 pm) —Instrumental Music Concert 16th/17th Class 5 Swimming at Blundells 19th Year 6 Leavers Concert and the End of Term Service at 2.30 pm on 24th at St Mary's Church. The school is also taking part "The Crisp Packet Recycling Scheme" with bins dotted round the school to collect and recycle the plethora of packed lunch style packets. It will be interesting to see how the scheme progresses.

May all have a well earned summer holiday!

Thom Thompson

Exe Valley Railway Talk

Fisherman's Cot - 2pm-3.30pm July 11th 2019



'Moorland to Market, a trip along the Exe Valley Line', by Amyas Crump, author, rail historian and vintage film collector.

Readers of the Bickleigh Bugle are invited to join members of the Exe Valley U3A local



history group to see and hear the story of our local railway. Personal memories most welcome. The cost is £2 per person, payable on the day, and places must be booked in advance from David Meredith on 01884 855210.

St Mary's Pews News

House Group 2019 – We meet on Thursday evenings from 7.30 to 9 pm at Gable Cottage. The study this term is the book of the Jewish prophet Ezekiel using a seven week programme of study. In a contemporary setting the writings of Ezekiel include the notion that in every age and generation the individual is responsible for her or his own actions. The following generation is not responsible for the actions of the former neither may they claim credit for something they have not done. All welcome. These words were written down some 700 years BC but how contemporary they feel to me.

St Mary's Services for July and August

July

7th – 11 am Holy Communion (Common Worship)

14th - 6 pm Sea Sunday service

15th – 2.30 pm Bickleigh School Years 5/6

21st - 11 am Family Service

24th – 2.30 pm School End of Term service

28th – 11 am Holy Communion (Common Worship)

Interregnum Update – A meeting took place on 13th June with the Archdeacon of Exeter at which it was decided that we would not pursue the possibility of joining with the Parish of Bradninch as had been proposed as a possibility. The meeting included Bradninch representatives as well as our own Churchwardens and Clergy. The meeting was unanimous in this respect. We now plan to process our respective Parish Profiles for a part time incumbent.

Sea Sunday Service 14th July - Sea Sunday is the global celebration of the enduring and vital work of the Mission to Seafarers. It has been happening every year for over 160 years

August

4th – 11 am Holy Communion (Common Worship)

11th – 6 pm Evening Prayer (Book of Common Prayer)

18th – 11 am Family Service

25th – 11 am Holy Communion with Holy Baptism

and is the Seafarers biggest fundraising event of the year. The Mission will be providing us with material for our traditional annual service also for Bickleigh School. We plan an evening service in St Mary's Bickleigh at 6 pm. All are welcome for an opportunity to say thank you for those whose work supplies nearly all our daily needs.

Soup and Pudding - The dates for our next event in the Village Hall are Tuesday the 16th July and the one following will be on Tuesday 17th September as there is no meeting in August

Rev TM Thompson, Assistant Minister

David's History Corner

I came across this report of village celebrations in the Exeter and Plymouth Gazette 21 May 1937. Some of us will remember the sexagon seat made by village carpenter and undertaker Arthur Gold who lived at Thatches - then the Laurels. Charles Gold who carried the tree was Arthur's

brother, a postman who lived at Rose Cottage and by certain accounts was known to catch a few rabbits on his postal round! The schoolroom was the centre of social activity providing segregated meals for men, women and children, a Whist Drive and Dance no doubt into the early hours!

Bickleigh Coronation Celebrations 1937

The Coronation Celebrations commenced on Tuesday evening when the Rector (The Rev L G Chamberlen) presented the teachers and each child with a Bible, his personal gift. He also handed to the children souvenir mugs, the gift of Colonel Henson of Bickleigh Castle. On Coronation Day the ringers opened the proceedings with a merry peal at 10 o'clock for the Service at 11.

Lunch for men was served in the schoolroom. At 2.30 there was a

large attendance on the village green to witness the planting of a white chestnut tree. A procession was formed in the Rectory grounds, 12 scholars acting as flag bearers, the Rector and Church Wardens. Mr Charles Gold carried the tree which was planted by the two youngest children at Bickleigh school, Joyce Baker and Fred Vernon.

A sexagon seat beautifully designed in pine by Mr Arthur Gold was next placed in position. Through the kindness of Mr B T Jenkins sports

were run in the field near the main road.

In the schoolroom a tea was served to women and children. In the evening there was a whist drive. A firework display was given in the Long Walk at 9 pm by the Rector. A dance in the schoolroom brought the happy day to a close. Mr J Pike sang 'The Veteran's Song.' The decorations and illuminations of the village, especially along the river, at the Tea Cottage and The Fisherman's Cot were of a specially brilliant character.

YOGA

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Village Hall News

A tribute to two great servants of our village community

Both of these two villagers have completed a term of long service on the village hall committee.

Derek Harrison

Derek has been a superb servant to the village community. He has been a Parish Councillor for an amazing 24 years. He has represented the Parish Council on the Village Hall Committee for many years. We thank Derek for his dedication to improving services, and consequently, people's lives in Bickleigh.

Kerry Peters

Kerry has been on the Village Hall committee for 12 years but has decided to take a break. Kerry was a driving force behind the modernisation of the village hall, including re-roofing the building and upgrading the kitchen through applications to Viridor. We thank her greatly for her hard work, enthusiasm and friendship.

The current committee is Richard Somerwill (Chair), Michelle Dennis (Secretary), Matt Melksham (Treasurer), Lauren Hockley, Steve Batt. We would like to get the committee up to at least 7 members again. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please contact Michelle on 07956 314237

Village Hall Maintenance (with free breakfast!)

Many thanks to Jill and Miles, Judith and Clive, Lauren and John who came along to the maintenance morning on Saturday 15th June. **Next one is 17th August.**

Upcoming events

AGM

Thursday 11th July, 7.30PM

Come and have a drink with us, listen to plans for maintenance and further developing the hall and discuss future events.

Quiz night

Saturday 17th November

£2 per person. Cash Bar. Teams of up to 6. Cash Prizes!
Call/Text Kerry to book on 855856 or 07968 889673
kerry.peters3@btinternet.com

Village BBQ

Saturday 13th July

Come together for a village BBQ in the Orchard. Bring a BBQ or a picnic, bring some games. Bar from 3pm

News years eve!

Keep the date free for a new years eve party at the village hall!

What's on July 2019

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
July 1	2	3	4 Recreation ground AGM 6pm	5	6	7
8	9 Gardening Club trip to Forde Abbey	10	11 Exe Valley Railway talk 3pm / Village Hall AGM 7.30pm	12	13 Village BBQ 3pm / Cream Tea at Three	14
15	16 Sup and Pud	17 Defibrillator awareness session 7pm	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 School leaver service Church 2.30pm	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	August 1	2	3	4

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