

# The Bickleigh Bugle



**O**ne of the harbingers of Spring and Summer used to be the cuckoo. For years and years one has not been heard by us, so imagine our surprise to hear one as this is being written. It appeared to be coming from the woods past the church but stopped after some time. Perhaps we will hear it again?

Thoughts turned to the many losses experienced over the last three decades within the village. The cuckoo used to be a regular visitor, our little owls have gone, the plethora of toads have disappeared, glow-worms all but gone and so it goes on.

.The scientists tell us the scale of losses is accelerating and we know we have little time left to rectify things - some say it is now too late to make any meaningful impact.

Perhaps we ought to be less downhearted; many are doing their bit to help. Gardens for example cover a big area and are providing good habitats

for many species to survive and indeed increase. Shopping habits can change as well.

We are lucky to have a good range in Tiverton, with a well used market providing local products (purchase of which help the local economy).

The History Evening was well supported and David and Heather had to turn people away; as always best to book popular events well in advance. The bluebell walk was well attended, so thanks to John and Jeanette.

Finally the Embezzler Evening was a great success - there is a rumour around that drink ran out and thoughts turned to sending for a taxi to obtain reinforcements!

Your support for village events is most welcome. The next Village Hall event is the quiz on Saturday 18th May. Do check the calendar for all activities for the month.

Have a good month!

**Your editors**

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

# A new hedge!

We have just planted a new hedge between the village hall and the school, replacing the dilapidated fence. With hedgerows sadly disappearing in the local area, this is a small redress of the balance.

We have planted a mixture of local species- dogwood, bird cherry, beech, holly, viburnum and hazel to name some (that I can remember !) Many thanks to Steve and Mary who put in a great effort into planning the hedge and planting it.

**Richard Somerwill**



## The Embezzlers at the village hall

### A great night out!

The Embezzlers played at the Village Hall on Sat 23rd March- around 80 people, including locals and the band's fanbase enjoyed an evening of well known ska and 2 tone classics- songs originally by the Specials, the Beat, Madness, Bad Manners, Dexys Midnight Runners, the Clash

and even older ones such as Desmond Decker's Israelites. The band played with great energy and enthusiasm and every song had a number of punters dancing- often the majority of the audience ! Bickleigh needs more nights like this.

### More village hall dates...

## Quiz Night #3

**Sat 18th May**



**Book your team a place (6 max)  
or we can find a team for you.**

**Richard 855053 07508071791  
rsomerwill@hotmail.co.uk**

## The longest day

**Fri 21st June**

**'band, barbecue, bar'**

## New Years Eve

**Keep the date free!  
New years eve party at  
Bickleigh Village Hall**

# Bickleigh 500 report back

A very big thank you to all who helped make the Bickleigh 500 event so enjoyable an evening. A delicious supper, much of it donated, followed by a range of colourful costumed characters brought back to life, along with big screen photos of places and people.

Elizabeth (Emily Peters) and Thomas Carew (Dan Lea) whose elopement and marriage began the Carew family connection were followed by stone bridge builder Hiram Arthur (Jim McEwen) and Queen Henrietta Maria (Pam McEwen) who stayed at Bickleigh Court on route to France. Bampfylde Moore Carew (Richard Somerwill) relayed his adventures before settling to live in Rose Cottage (see picture on page 5). The Surveyor, John Coldridge (David Wolfenden) who visited to draw up the Bickleigh Tithe Map and Apportionment Book reported on Bickleigh in 1843 and introduced Susan Jarman (Polly Thompson) widow of the last Bickleigh Tanner and Holway Carew (Amanda Somerwill) wife of the fox hunting Rector.

In the second half Richard Strong (John Greenslade) told his story as New Inn Landlord and was followed by Ernest Bevin MP (Richard Somerwill) who some local people believe may have been the son of village schoolteacher, Ursula Mary Bevin. Mary Daniel (Alison Nelson) spoke about the sale of the Carew estate in 1923/4 and of her purchase and donation of the Parish Rooms. (A stone plaque detailing this gift was displayed, kindly lent by the present occupants).

Jack Vowler (Rodney Vowler, his grandson), village blacksmith spoke about his family living at



Church Green and the tremendous sadness of losing their youngest son, Len, at the very end of the second world war. War Time memories were told by young residents Geoffrey Pullen (Michael McAndrew) and John Gay (David Wolfenden).

Walter Boundy (Robert Harris) New Inn Landlord from 1927 to 1946 was followed by Colonel Henson (Thom Thompson) as restorer of Bickleigh Court.

William Pugsley (Steve Batt) reported on the sad closure of Cadeleigh Railway Station in 1963. Frank Mycoe (Steve Batt) recounted the re-enactment of the Ghost of Bickleigh Bridge in the early 1980's when he fell off the horse and armour borrowed from Bickleigh Castle!

The last person to tell their story was Winnie Buttle (Christine Harris) who lived in Lilac Cottage and was the first person we met after arriving in Bickleigh when she came to welcome us as the newest residents forty years ago.

We now intend producing a Bickleigh 500 booklet containing all of the information and to include parts of the story on the village local history website. With the proceeds from the evening we will investigate other ideas for recording Bickleigh's past. If you have ideas please let me know. Hopefully future generations will benefit from knowing a little more about their heritage.

Total income £566.20 (Door takings £458; Draw £108.20) Expenditure £102.18 (Food £61.60 Printed cards £10.58 and Hall Hire £30). Profit £464.02.

**David and Heather Meredith**

# Thanks for supporting the bluebell walk

May I on behalf of ourselves and Children's Hospital SW thank those who came on the bluebell walk on quite a cold Sunday 14 April.

We hope you enjoyed the carpet of flowers in the old woodland and the refreshments supplied by the ladies supporting Children's Hospice.

The brilliant sum of well over £400 was raised. Thank you one and all

*Janette and John Greenslade*

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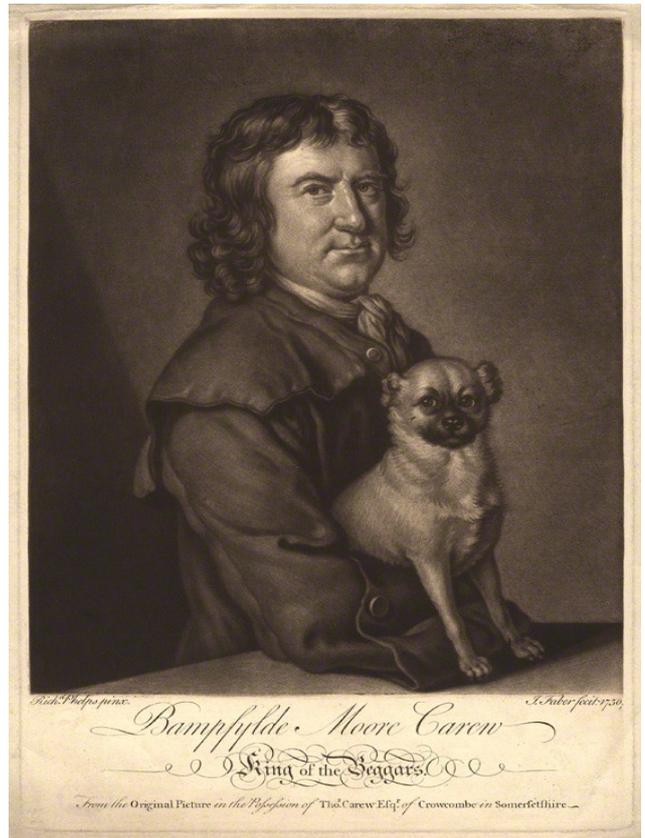
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**The infamous Bampfylde Moore Carew of Rose Cottage, Bickleigh. See page 3 for more details.**

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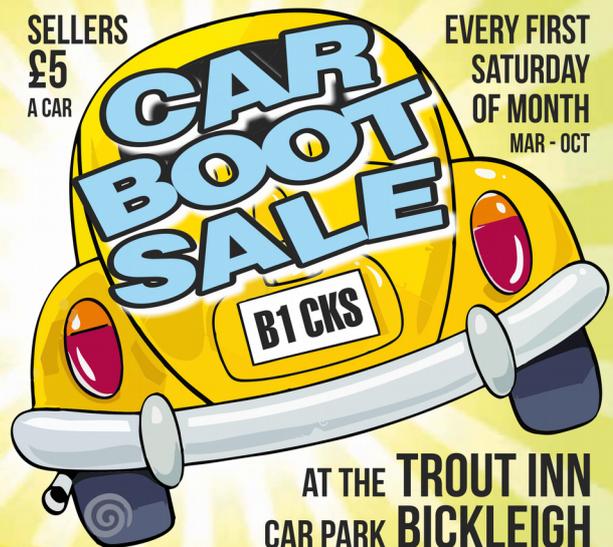
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SATURDAY AUGUST 3RD  
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 7TH  
SATURDAY OCTOBER 5TH

# Pews News

**Eastertide** - On a beautiful spring morning I walked up to the top of St Mary's Churchyard. As I walked I noticed on either side of me and dotted around the graves, posies of flowers. It was Mothering Sunday. Children remembering their mothers. The odd dissonance of the Lenten period of forty days, reflecting the trials of Jesus of Nazareth, as he grappled to overcome successfully the wiles of the devil, sit oddly with the bursting forth of what is often referred to in our time as the "natural world." Now, in our part of planet earth, it is spring time. Humankind appears not to be part of the natural world, rather the cause of the "natural world's" demise.

Bickleigh School Class two led the end of term Easter Service on a day that first saw the traditional Easter Egg Hunt in Joan's Orchard and the Easter Egg Rolling contest down 'Bickleigh Hill'. All eggs must be ordinary hard-boiled eggs, they may be coated in a secret ingredient, to give them more durability, and coloured, but not wrapped in anything. The aim is to see how many times you can go up and down the hill before your egg disintegrates. Much fun and laughter ensued.

Easter Day was brilliant in weather, sprouting leaves, bird song and blossom with a full church for the most important day of the Christian calendar. Now we look forward to Pentecost, fifty

days distant. Thank you to all who prepared St Mary's, the churchyard and all who attended, a wonderful family, parish and village occasion.

## **The Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2019**

Our annual meeting on 2nd April saw Mr Matt Melksham and Mrs Polly Thompson voted in as the two Churchwardens for 2019 and a full Church Council membership. We with the other three parishes of the United Benefice continue to seek how we are to move into whatever new arrangement the future may hold for us all now our former Rector Alan MacDonald has retired. Please keep the Church Councils in your prayers.

**House Group 2019** – Our next meeting is planned for Thursday 2nd May at Gable Cottage with a 7.30 pm start. As we remain in the season of Easter we continue to ask ourselves why Jesus of Nazareth made some of the decisions he did which cause us to question why.

**Soup and Pudding** – Last month we very nearly ran out of soup and pudding. A close call but how wonderful to see so many present even though some regulars could make the occasion. This month we meet again in the Village Hall at 12 midday on Tuesday 21st May.

**Rev TM Thompson, Assistant Minister**

## **Tiverton Plumbing and Heating Ltd**

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# Bickleigh Gardening Club

Bickleigh Gardening Club held its Monthly meeting on Monday 8th April at the Village Hall, the Guest Speaker was Mr Francis Burroughes the subject " The Victorian Head Gardener."

Mr Burroughes ( whose Father was a Victorian Head Gardener) gave a most enjoyable and interesting talk, with his tongue in cheek and dry sense of humour, and his insight into the life of wealthy Victorian Landed Gentry.

Please don't forget it's the Annual Plant Sale and Cake Stall on Saturday May 11th at 10.00am and our next meeting is on Monday 13th at 7.30pm "The Healing Garden" a talk to be given by Dr Gavin Haig.

Hope you are able to come along to one if not Both

**Amanda McCarthy**

## Devon County Show

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May**

Advance Adults £19 (On the Gate £22). Advance Seniors £17 (On the Gate £19). Kids £7.50 and free on Saturday.

Super Saturday – two VIP Adults for £35 including Forward Parking and access to the exclusive Members' Enclosure.

Diamond Deal – buy one get one half price on over 60's tickets for Thursday or Friday.

Tickets available online at or at Mole Valley Farmers, Mole Avon and local Tourist Information Centres; check our website for more details.

See [www.devoncountyshow.co.uk](http://www.devoncountyshow.co.uk) for bus timetables.

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# What's on May 2019

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Apr 29	30	May 1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 <b>Gardening Club plant and cake sale</b>	12
13 <b>Gardening club: The Healing Garden</b>	14	15	16	17	18 <b>Quiz Night at Bickleigh Village Hall</b>	19
20	21 <b>Soup and Pud</b>	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 <b>Notice for pets: Fireworks at Bickleigh Castle</b>	29	30	31	June 1	2

## The origins of some of today's sayings and customs

In centuries past things were very different. For example going back to the 1500s: most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May and still smelled pretty good by June. However, they were starting to smell so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odour. Hence the custom of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water.

The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children. Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying Don't throw the baby out with the bath water.

**Thanks to Olive for these. Look out for more next month.**

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**Submissions to the Bugle very welcome. Email your stories and events to [bickleighbugle@outlook.com](mailto:bickleighbugle@outlook.com) by the 20th to be included in the next edition**