

Christmas 2019



The Bickleigh Bugle



Welcome to your last Bugle for this year. The next one will be for February 2020 as the school will not be back until early January.

It's time to ask those of you who still have paper copies for the annual subscription which remains at £3 thanks to the school printing it for us. If you advertise we will contact you for your payments: electronic copies are free of charge of course.

Well done to Rose and gang for such an excellent play last month - there

were quite substantial lines to learn and as far as we could see it all went without any hiccups. Money raised goes to Devon Air Ambulance.

Do look inside for details of events for December and January. We are having the traditional Carol Service on Christmas Eve this and a New Year party on 31 December. We very much hope to see you all at these or other events in the village.

Seasons Greetings to you all and good wishes for 2020.

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

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

Snow Warden

The Parish Council is looking for someone who would be able to co-ordinate operations in the event that we experienced snow or icy conditions. The Snow Warden would ensure that grit bins are kept with sufficient grit in case it is required.

The snow warden would assist with the gritting of areas around the village that are not covered by the Devon County Council gritting plan.

Devon County Council do provide training for this voluntary post.

The job of course can be shared by several people.

Contact John Vanderwolfe on 01884 253404 if you're interested in either of these roles.

Parish Lengthsman

Bickleigh Parish Council is looking for a suitable person to act as the Parish Lengthsman.

Whilst Devon County Council does undertake works to gullies and drains within the parish this is on a very limited frequency.

The Parish Lengthsman would not be expected to undertake major works, which of course require specialist equipment, but could unblock drains and gullies and deal with some highway issues on minor roads.

You would need Chapter 8 training and be covered by adequate insurance.

Kerry Peters

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Bickleigh Carol Singing

Wednesday 18 December 2019

Meet up at 6pm at Bickleigh Village Hall.



Come and join us carol singing around the village or let us come and sing to you!

All welcome including accompanied children – remember to bring a torch!

Any queries, please contact Judith on 07799 411885

The Creature Crept in Bickleigh Village Hall!

The stage of Bickleigh Village Hall was transformed into a "Secret Scientific Laboratory" as the audience was welcomed to walk into the sinister world of Baron Von Blitzen at Blitzen Castle, when the Bickleigh Players took to the boards for their Annual Play production at the beginning of November.

Villagers, family and friends of the cast of 12 Bickleigh Players enjoyed two evenings of delicious Thai and Ceylon Curry supper before delving into the mysterious activities of a "Mad Scientist" and his sidekick "Mord".

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This year's play weekend featured the complex and compelling story of "The Creature Creeps" by Jack Sharkey, and the audience was gripped by the comedy and mystery in the "Rich man, Poor man, Beggar man, Thief" concept adopted by the script writer.

With its creaking doors, thunder and lightening and blood-curdling shrieks from the depths of the cellar the sound man was kept busy, while the actors characterised the other main parts of Heinrich, Gretchen, Maritza, Daisy, Babsy and Frank with skill and dedication.

With Maritza Von Blitzen having four sisters, Hannah, Freda, Olga and Heidi the spooky, cob-webby location of the Transylvanian Castle came to life with colour and fun, as reasons for the Baron's creation of a "Creature" became clear and understood.

With the playwright including a variety of accents for his tale the cast had enormous fun at rehearsals trying out their rather insecure German and American accents!

The two evenings were held in aid of The Devon Air Ambulance Trust and the Production team are proud to announce a profit of £1,524.36 for the Charity.

Thank you to everyone who supported in any way to make the whole thing such a huge success.

Rose Chanin

Village Hall News

Thanks to everyone who has supported our events through 2019- bingo nights, film nights, our Embezzlers gig, quiz night, Hidden Kitchen afternoon, the barbecue and the Christmas Craft and Tabletop Fair. We really need as much support from the village (and beyond) as we can get. These are the events which get us together and provide the 'glue' which holds us together as a community.

If you haven't been along to an event yet, what's stopping you?! You can be guaranteed a very warm welcome.

Christmas tabletop fair

From the feedback we've had so far, the Christmas Craft and Tabletop Fair seems to have been greatly enjoyed. We were delighted

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to welcome 15 craftspeople and traders who put on a beautiful event. Christmas came early, with mulled wine, mince pies and an early showing for all those favourite (and not so favourite !) Christmas songs.

Our café did a brisk trade and the stallholders loved the atmosphere and were pleased with some steady sales.

Same again next year then!

Family film nights

**Sunday 22nd December & Friday
24th January**

We have just bought a fantastic 2.65 metre wide screen which will hang just in front of the stage curtains. Given this and our fantastic sound system, this is going to make cinema nights so much fun!

We have a proper Christmassy theme for our film for 22nd Dec: Elf!

For the 24th Jan, please leave your suggestions on our Facebook page. Look up Bickleigh Village Hall, and 'like' the page.

Each film is a 6.30pm for 7.00pm start. There will be a bar and snacks for each night- the Christmas film will have mulled wine and Christmas snacks of course!

New Years Eve Party

As last year's event was such a success, we are running it again ! There will be a bar, dancing and of course, a great chance to socialise with friends and neighbours without the hassle of having to drive home !

Please bring along a plate of food to share.

It would be really useful to know approximate numbers beforehand, so please contact Michelle on 07956314237 to let her know.

Casino and Cocktail Evening

Saturday 18th January



Good Evening, Mr Bond!

Here's a chance to blow away the January blues- we have booked a professional casino night organiser to organise a range of games- we will send out further details about allowable stakes etc. nearer the time.

There will be canapés served and a cocktail bar! Wear evening dress please!

It will be important to pre-book- tickets are £3 each and available by contacting Michelle on 07956314237

Quiz Night

Saturday 29th February

We have had to change the original date of this - apologies for that!

We are able to take 12 teams of 6 for this event- having already hosted 3 of these quizzes, you will find that they are fun events, with a good level of cerebral challenge.... There are questions on a wide

range of subjects, so pick your team members carefully ! Can you de-throne Rachel and Steve Harper's reigning champions? There will be a bar and snacks available.

Book via Michelle 07956314237 or Richard 07508071791 or message Bickleigh Village Hall on our Facebook page

Work Party

We have another work party on Sat 21st Dec from 9.00am. Please come along and help out, even if it's only for half an hour or so. We need to dismantle the old shed and ensure gutters are clear seeing leaves will all have fallen by then.

Wishing you all a very peaceful Christmas and a happy new year !

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

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Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 10th December at 7:00 pm in the Village Hall. Further details, including the meeting agenda, will be posted on the Parish Council section of the Bickleigh Village website as well as the Parish Council notice board.

Please note there will be no meeting in January 2020.

Clive Williams

Bickleigh Gardening Club AGM

Bickleigh Gardening Club held its AGM on Monday 11th November. Chairman John Greenslade opened the meeting, the secretary and treasurer both gave their Annual reports showing that the club has had a successful financial year.

We have enjoyed many varied and interesting Guest Speakers throughout the year, Committee members were thanked as, were members themselves. Members were reminded that the club resumes next year on Monday March 9th 2020, Guest Speaker Stephen Powells with a discussion on "Otters".

The meeting concluded with a Great evenings entertainment from "The Quintessential Tiverton Barbershop" followed by a Delicious buffet. Many thanks to all who came. We wish all a Merry Christmas, and hope to see Members old and new next year.

Amanda McCarthy

Bickleigh Village Hall



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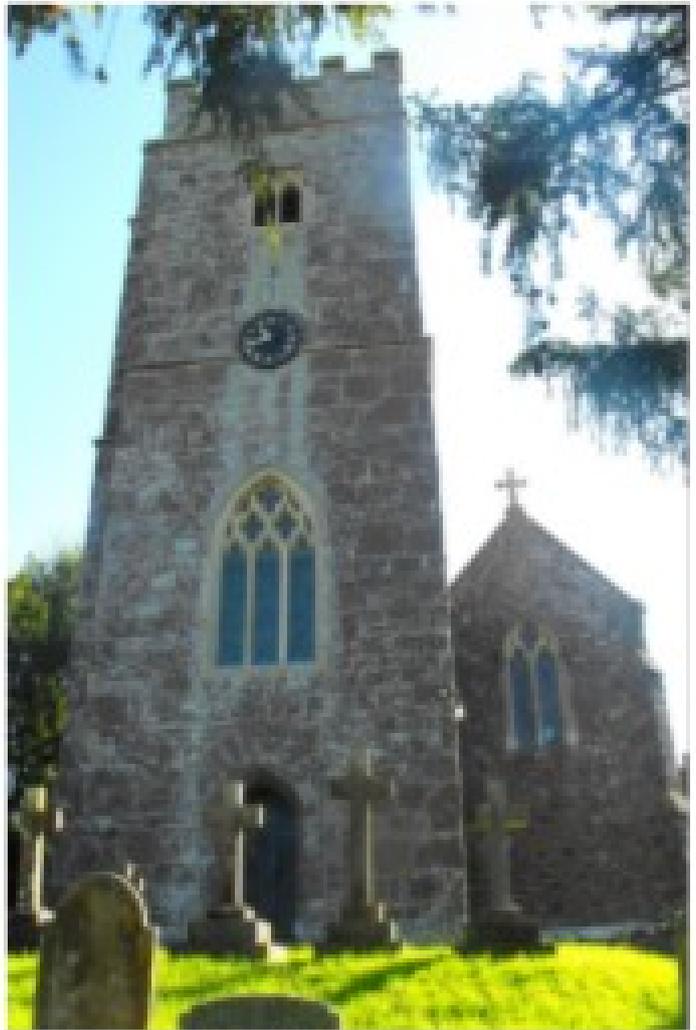
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Candlelit Service at St Mary's

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candlelit
service of
carols and
readings.

Christmas Eve
from 6pm



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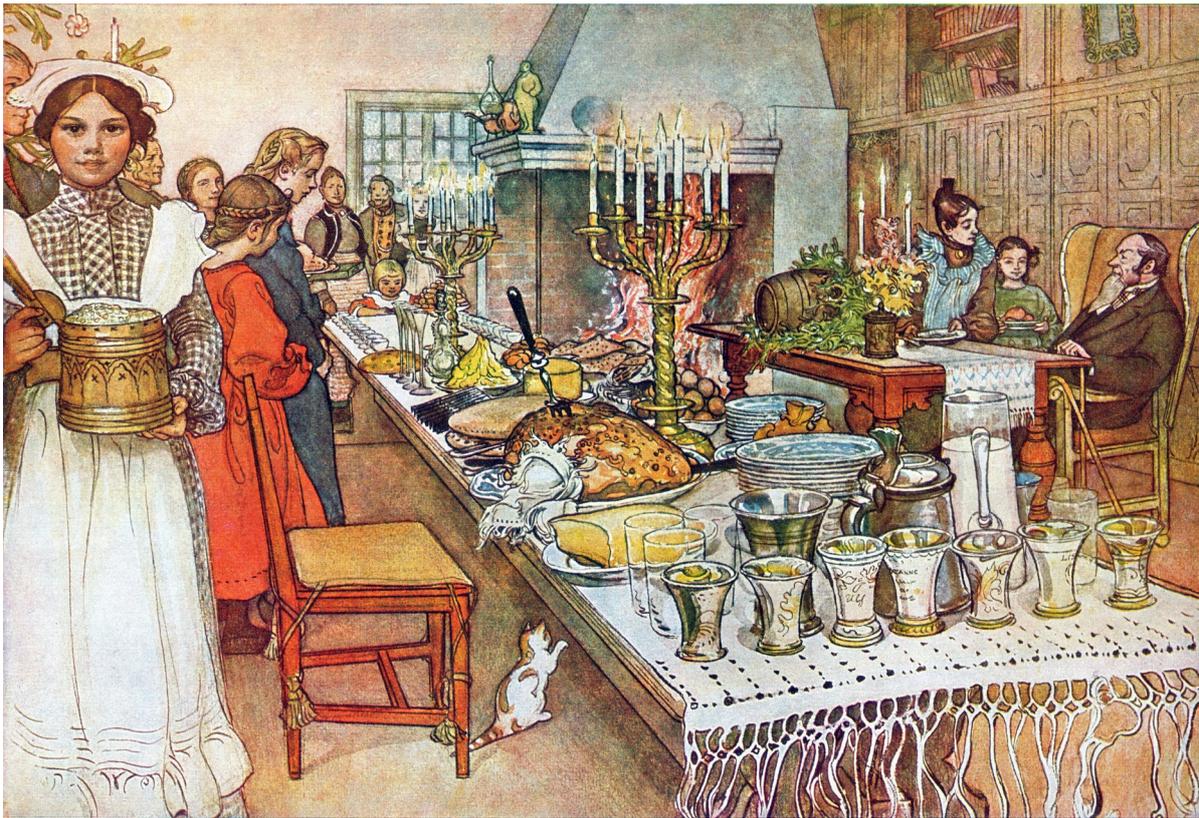


Origins of Christmas Eve

For centuries, Christmas was celebrated not as a single day, but as a whole season in parts of the world, beginning with this day, December 24, Christmas Eve. Perhaps the practice of celebrating the evening before the big day is an echo from ancient Jewish reckoning. Among earlier Jews, a day began at six in the evening and ran until six the following evening. Had not Moses written: "An evening and a morning were the first day"?

Christmas means "Christ-mass." Although the date is a guess, the tradition of observing it goes back to at least the fourth century. Under the influence of the church, Christian traditions replaced pagan solstice festivals throughout Europe. Often the more innocent pagan practices (such as bringing in a Yule log, decorating with holly and the like) were carried over into the Christmas observance, transfigured with new meaning.

God Jul!



Julaftonen (Christmas Eve), a 1904–05 watercolor painting by Carl Larsson.

Carl Olof Larsson was a Swedish painter representative of the Arts and Crafts movement. His many paintings include oils, watercolors, and frescoes. He is principally known for his watercolors of idyllic family life.

St Mary's Pews News

Important notice: The following is an extract from a formal announcement was made at the service on Sunday 17th November 2019 *"The Bishop of Crediton, the Right Reverend Jackie Searle, and Parish Representatives are delighted to announce that an offer of the post of Rector for the United Benefice and Mission Community of Silverton, Bickleigh, Butterleigh and Cadeleigh has been made to the Rev'd Paul Kingdom and that offer has been accepted. His formal institution and induction will be on the 16th March 2020 at 7 pm in St Mary' Church Silverton."*

As we work our way into Advent may we all give some time and pray to those in prison, those who look after the prisoners and, especially, those who suffer the distress of being victims of crime.

Remembrance 2019

Class 5 from Bickleigh-on-Exe primary school (in their guise of A Coy 2nd Battalion the Devonshire Regiment, now long disbanded) formed up on Joan's Orchard Bickleigh to honour the two minutes silence on Monday 11th November at 1050 hours. Their Officer Commanding (Class Teacher) Mr William Young, had them well spaced in three ranks attentive to the gravity of the occasion. Subsequently, all marched to the Village Hall for light refreshments, removed wellies, before listening to two short talks on:

the service of dedication for the stone cross and plaque honouring the fallen of the 1st WW located by the porch and within St Mary's on the north wall (this service took place on the 16th October 1919).

the circumstances in which Leonard Vowler RAF an air-gunner with 223 Squadron RAF

came to die on the night of the 20/21st March 1945 over Germany. Leonard's family lived in Bickleigh at Church Green.

Our Parish Service of Remembrance the previous day raised £100.00 for the Royal British Legion

Christmastide 2019

Saturday 7th – From 10 am – A Christmas Coffee Morning at Gable Cottage Bickleigh with Raffle. An opportunity to meet and greet and to take some early "seasonal" cheer. Please just pitch up for a happy chat!

Tuesday 17th – From 12 Midday – A special Advent Soup and Pud meal with the singing of favourite Advent carols in Bickleigh Village Hall. All proceeds go to the ShelterBox charity. All very welcome. Our January 2020 event takes place on Tuesday 21st at midday.

Bickleigh School

Friday 13th – At 1.30 pm Bickleigh School will conduct their Christingle Service in St Mary's Church starting at 1.30 pm. We have brought the service forward by an hour to encourage attendance from the village and parish. This is a highlight for anyone who wishes to see how engaged the pupils are with this lovely service.

Friday 20th – at 2.30 pm Bickleigh School's End of Term service.

Christmas Services

Tuesday 24th – Christmas Eve at 6pm – A traditional service of carols and readings

Wednesday 25th - Christmas Day at 11am – Holy Communion

Celebrations of Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve (the evening before Christmas day) was then celebrated with roaring fires, story-telling, feasting, drinking, dancing, and sometimes clowning.

Sir Walter Scott described its festive air in a poem:

*On Christmas Eve, the bells were rung;
On Christmas Eve, the mass was sung.
The damsel donned her kirtle sheen,
the hall was dressed with holly green;
All hail'd with uncontroll'd delight,
And general voice the happy night
That to the cottage, as the crown,
Brought tidings of salvation down*



What's on Christmas 2019

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
25 Nov	26	27	28	29	30	1 Dec
2	3	4	5	6	7 Christmas Coffee Morning at Gable Cottage	8
9	10 Parish Council meeting	11	12	13 Christingle	14	15
16	17 Advent Soup and Pud	18 Carol singing	19	20 School end of term service	21 Village Hall Work Party	22 Film Night: Elf
23	24 Christmas Eve Candlelit service at St Marys	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28	29
30	31 New Years Eve Party at the Village Hall	1 Jan New Years Day	2	3	4	5

Christmas Coffee Morning

Saturday 7th December at 10am to Midday
at Gable Cottage Bickleigh - all very welcome!



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