

May 2021

The Bickleigh Bugle



This will be our first printed copy for the year and hopefully not the last!

Strange weather for strange times - it doesn't seem that long ago we were wading through mud and now this has turned to cement like consistently or dust. No doubt the run of good weather will turn again. It is good to be able to start returning to more of a pre-Covid way of life and get out and about a bit more.

The blossoms are really colourful this year - we think they were last year as well, and the primroses have lasted well, presumably due to the cold nights. Not many a

Swallows so far, though.

Bickleigh Churchyard looks wonderful as usual for this time of year:

**Your editors
Steve and Michael**

Bomb Unearthed in Bickleigh

Since I began submitting articles to the Silverleigh and Bickleigh Bugle magazines nearly a year ago, I have lacked what any news reporter needs, and that is some actual village news! As you will know, lockdown has meant the curtailment of nearly all village activities, so I've got to admit it's been a bit of a struggle.

You can imagine therefore my reaction when I received a message from my wife, whilst I was out walking, that a bomb had been unearthed in village. I'm a little embarrassed to admit that my first reaction was – 'at last something to write about in the Bugle'. My second reaction was naturally to check that the village was not in danger or being evacuated as happened in Exeter recently.

The 'Bickleigh Bomb' (see back page) was actually a World War 1 mortar bomb and was discovered by local residents Greg and Rebecca during recent building work, lying amongst undergrowth in their garden. It was most likely placed there many years ago as a souvenir or keepsake. Greg heroically placed the mortar on nearby waste ground until the Police and Bomb Squad arrived and removed the device to Plymouth, where it was destroyed in a controlled explosion.

As we edge ever closer to being released from lockdown, there's at least one positive that has come out of the coronavirus pandemic, it's that we've learned to appreciate the little things in life. I've noticed that if you ask anyone what they're looking forward to most after lockdown ends, the answers usually involve family, friends and small comforts we previously took for granted. The latest smart

phone or a blowout shopping spree? - not so much.

I'm sure we're each looking forward to a number of things – for me it's being able to sing in church – not that those near me will be rejoicing to the same extent – and going for a pint at the Fisherman's Cot with one of my neighbours.

I've been asking around the village to hear what other villagers are looking forward to most - here are a few of their replies:

Freely visiting places both in this country and abroad

- Just having a proper coffee with a friend
- Hugging grandchildren
- Just having a normal working day in the office (who would have thought it!)
- Sharing a dessert, without thinking twice
- 'Popping' to the shops – just because you can
- Scoffing popcorn at the cinema
- Fitness classes – well, at least for the first week
- Going to the village hall for a pub quiz
- Getting haircut and nails done
- Going on a date with someone you don't live with!!
- Finding bargains in charity shops
- Visiting family abroad

So, it seems the people of Bickleigh just want to get back to normal – and hopefully give me something to write about in the months ahead! I realise I can't expect a bomb to be unearthed every month!

Enjoy your haircuts,

Clive

Upgrading Bickleigh's internet

BT Openreach are running a scheme called *Community Fibre Partnerships* that aims to improve the internet speed for people living in rural communities. The idea is that individuals and businesses get together to support the work necessary to improve the infrastructure.

In many cases, this is at no cost to the individuals and businesses involved as all the work can be funded from *Gigabit Broadband Vouchers* that are worth up to £1,500 for homes and £3,500 for businesses. If we can get enough people together, and if the price is right, we can do this for free!

At the moment, properties in Bickleigh can get a maximum of 50Mbps if they are lucky. Upgrading to FTTP would increase the available speed to a maximum of 900Mbps

and offer a much more reliable connection – handy as we all work from home a lot more these days.

The first step is to collect details of interested people. If you are interested in the project, please fill in this form

<https://tinyurl.com/bickleigh-internet-upgrade>

and I will submit your details to the openreach website to kick things off.

And if you have any questions or other ideas, feel free to email me at michaelmcandew@thirdsectordesign.org.

Michael

Kerry Peters

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The Bomb!

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Bugle are very welcome!**

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of the month at
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