

**June 2021**



**A**s we leave one of the coldest and wettest Mays on record let's hope June will herald a much more summer-like month.

Clive has eloquently summarised the bridge issues inside the Bugle: it appears there is no easy answer to the problems. One advantage of the closure is the peace and quiet it brings if you are enjoying a drink at the Fisherman's Cott or Bickleigh Mill; this needs to be tempered with the additional traffic that races up and down the narrow village roads.

At the last Village Hall meeting several ideas were put forward for some events and more details will follow. Thanks to all those who turned up in May to help tidy the grounds. Some additional investments will be made for planting and general upgrading of doors and railings. Offers have been made for plants and the Committee is very grateful for such offers.

Have a good June!

**Your editors  
Steve and Michael**

# Shelterbox

Here's an email Olive recently received from Shelterbox...

*Hi Olive,*

*It is lovely to hear from you. Thank you for taking the time to contact us.*

*Our mission continues unabated. Despite the numerous setbacks and difficulties throughout 2020, we have managed to reach more people than we did in 2019. We have had to adapt our ways of working around the world, but our focus remains on providing life changing shelter to those most in need after disaster strikes.*

*I have checked our record and I can see that your donation was received and processed by us at HQ. I am not sure why you weren't sent a kind acknowledgement of this. I can only apologise. I am not sure if you are aware of the staggering amount of money that you have raised in aid of ShelterBox since 2011. It is nearly £7,500. That is an incredible achievement! To put that into context, that is enough money to provide shelter to over 100 families!*

*So it is a huge thank you from myself and the ShelterBox Team. Without the support of amazing people like you, we couldn't carry on our life saving work. Please do take care of yourself and if you have any further questions please feel free to ask.*

And a bit more background from Olive on the history of Bickleigh's involvement with the project...

There were originally four of us who started up the ShelterBox Fund in 2011 and we continued over the intervening years. They are Sally Taverner, Alison Nelson, Polly Thompson and myself. However without the

support of the village we would not have been able to achieve this substantial sum of money. So well done everybody!

**Olive Taylor**

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## Boules on the rec, anyone?

**Penny asks...** would anyone be interested in boules as a village 'sport'? It is inexpensive to build a pitch and would be a good community activity for all ages."

Let Penny know if you are interested  
([pennyaprosser@gmail.com](mailto:pennyaprosser@gmail.com))

# Getting Back to Normal – The Bridge is Closed!

With the end of lockdown tantalizingly close, it's great to be able to plan both indoor and outdoor events and meet up with friends and families - hopefully more so as the weather steadily improves and we head into summer. I'm very fortunate to have my in-laws living close by in Exeter and whilst talking to them on Zoom or FaceTime each week has been better than nothing, it was great to be able to meet face-to-face for the first time in ages and even the hug from my mother-in-law hasn't left me too traumatised!

I've noticed that when I tell anyone from other parts of Devon that I live in Bickleigh, their usual response is either: "Is that the place where the bridge is always closed?" or "Oh no, that's where you have to reverse around a tricky bend when you meet an oncoming vehicle" or "Oh no not that bridge place!"

Or something along those lines, so, no doubt, they were all getting excited over the latest and most serious incident involving the articulated lorry that nearly went over the side of the bridge and resulted in the bridge being closed to traffic for several weeks.

There are many views and opinions about what should be done. Here are some of the suggestions I've heard about:

1. Ban all HGVs
2. Ban all articulated vehicles
3. Install traffic lights
4. Demolish the bridge and build a new wider one
5. Build a new road along the old railway line and old railway bridge, effectively

creating a one-way system by using the 2 river crossings

6. Install warning lights or signs, or - my particular favourite –
7. Make the bridge for pedestrians and cyclists only and let vehicles revert to driving across a ford.

I would add that as far as the Bickleigh Parish Council is concerned, we continue to raise our concerns with Devon County councillors and Highways staff and, whilst it might not always appear so, I do know that a lot of effort has gone into trying to come up with longer-term solutions albeit without much success.

I met up with Richard Sommerwill, the chair of the Village Hall committee, recently and asked him about what had been happening in the village hall and what future events were planned. He told me that the hall had been used extensively by Bickleigh-on-Exe Primary School throughout the last year at no cost and that holiday clubs were held there during the half term breaks.

It was hoped that during the rest of the year, they would recommence some of the favourite events such as Chocolate Bingo, Film Nights, a Christmas Craft Fayre and maybe even a music event.

I can also confirm that the Bickleigh Gardening Club will recommence their well-attended monthly meetings from September. Further details, are on the village website in the Gardening Club section.

**Clive**

# Leonard Vowler



Following approval by the Church Authorities, a new memorial plaque in Bickleigh Church remembers the tragic loss of life of Leonard Vowler age 21 within weeks of the end of the Second World War.

Leonard's family lived at nearby Church Green where his father was the village Blacksmith. Leonard, under age, enlisted unbeknown to his parents who would have prevented him leaving. He collected any post before it reached the house and took care to hide his uniform from them. In March 1945 his plane was shot down over Germany.

His nephew, Rodney Vowler, has researched Leonard's war service, visited the site where he died and worked to achieve recognition for his uncle.

It is intended that a commemoration event for Leonard will be held at the Armistice Service in November 2021.

# Bickleigh School Class 1

## Under the Sea Art

The children in Class 1 have been creating wonderful art in response to their 'Under the Sea' topic. They were inspired by their learning about different sea creatures and the illustrations in the wonderful story 'The Rainbow Fish'.

They began by creating the backgrounds for their artwork. They learned that it was easier and more effective to use a large brush to do this. They painted a base colour and then blended in 2 more colours to give the effect of the sea.



When this was dry, they explored the primary colours red, yellow and blue and used these colours to mix further colours to fill in their outline. Again, they used thin brushes for this.



Finally, they added a shiny, shimmering scale to each of their sea creatures, thinking about what size scale they would need.

Next, they decided which sea creature they would paint and practised this on a whiteboard, using fiction and non-fiction books for inspiration.

Once the backgrounds were dry, they painted the outline of their sea creature. They learned that a thin paintbrush was much better for this job!



I think you will agree their artwork is beautiful!

# Internet upgrade update

Thanks to everyone that filled in the survey about the internet upgrade. In total there were 33 reponses, 20 of whom were for houses with a business, which by my calculations makes us eligible for £89,500 of funding. Not a bad start!

I submitted the form a couple of weeks ago but am still waiting for a response from BT OpenReach. I will let people know as soon as I hear something.

In unrelated developments, OpenReach engineers were recently spotted in the village upgrading the School's connection from copper to fibre and I am hopeful that might bring the village one step closer to a better connection.

In the mean time, if you haven't yet done so, please fill in the form and encourage other people you know to do so too

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

**Michael**

**Submissions to the Bickleigh Bugle are very welcome!**

**Email us by the 20th of the month at**

**[bickleighbugle@outlook.com](mailto:bickleighbugle@outlook.com)**

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