

September 2021



We hope you all had a good summer. As Autumn arrives let us hope that we will

be able to have a return to a more normal way of life. The hall is open again and several events are being planned by the committee - please do support them. It is great to see the redundant telephone box being returned to its glorious red colour, so once again with the final finishing touches we understand it will be in use as a book exchange venue. No doubt more information to follow.

Some of you may be aware that a fast speed fibre cable has now reached the school. Thanks to our

residents' support perhaps it will not be long before more of us can access a better quality internet connection?

There has been debate about Bickleigh bridge. Several expressed concern about the inadequacy of the concrete block; already hit a number of times again and we await the next hit to the structure! Hopefully we will be wrong.

Our church is also having regular services again and it was lovely to hear the bells being rung for the two recent weddings.

**Your editors
Steve and Michael**

Bickleigh Village Hall presents...



Pre-l♥ved sale!

Books, Music, clothes

***At Bickleigh Village Hall
Saturday 11th September
9.00am- 1.00pm***

Drinks and snacks available

***Covid guidelines apply
Sanitise at door
Masks preferred
Number control at door***

Village Hall News

Bookings are available again! We are able to take bookings for the Village Hall again, whether it is for a group multiple date booking or for private events. This will be conditional, based on Covid in the area at the time and with the recommendation that masks are worn indoors, there is hand

sanitising, numbers are controlled and that anyone with the virus stays away. We are hoping to run a number of events. Of course, these will have to be carefully considered so as to stop any spreading of the virus.

Upcoming events

Pre-Loved Sale

Sat 11th Sept, 9 - 1pm

Please contact me (Richard 855053) if you would like to book a table for £5. The aim is so people can move on clothes, books, music etc and maybe buy some new ones! There will be opportunity to set up outside or inside (up to 12 tables inside). There will also be teas, coffees and cakes for sale

inspires her community to breed and raise a racehorse. 6.30 for 7.00pm start. Bar and snacks

Chocolate Bingo

Fri 15th October

Sandra's back! The old tried and tested formula 6.00 for 6.30pm start. Teas, coffees, soft drinks.

Film Night

Dream Horse (PG, 2021)

Fri 17th September

The true story of a village in the Welsh valleys, where Jan, a supermarket cashier and barmaid,

Christmas Craft Fayre

Sat 27th November

Please let Michelle know if you would like to book a table.

Keep checking our Facebook page for details of other upcoming events!

From your Village Hall Committee: Richard, Michelle, Matt, Steve and Katinka.

Bickleigh churchyard conservation

Towards the end of the summer term the school years 1 and 2 spent an interesting morning in the churchyard, despite the rather damp weather. The children found a lot of different flowers and mini-beasts that were taking advantage of the areas left for nature; the woodpiles were particularly rich in the mini-beasts.

We were very impressed by one child who found a lady bird larva - we would never have expected this level of knowledge from one so young. It is good that the Church of England is realising the value of churchyards in terms

of the "ark" as a haven for wildlife as nature continues to crash all around us. If we can encourage our other churchyards to relax their inclination to "tidiness" and give plants and wildlife some respite that would be a good move? Fortunately there is a growing rewilding movement which again would be great to see replicated across the county's churchyards, open spaces, fields and verges. Just one example: <https://knepp.co.uk/home>

Matt Melksham

Steve Batt

Adam Scaife

Bickleigh Village Hall



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Gardening Club

Our meetings will recommence on Monday 13 September in the village hall at 7.30pm.

We will welcome past members and visitors to hear Graham White speak on Pruning. There is a competition for Flower of the Month so bring along a flower from your garden.

You will be made very welcome at our friendly club.

Clive chat

I'm so glad I live in a world that has Autumns. Don't you just love the changing colours all around you and the leaves falling from the trees. I'm in the midst of reading a really good book, recommended by my son, by Delia Owens called 'Where the Crawdads Sing' about a murder investigation in the marshes of North Carolina and came across this sentence - 'Autumn leaves don't fall, they fly. They take their time and wander on this their only chance to soar'. I like that thought.

To me, autumn is a time of preparation for next year and new beginnings. Animals fatten up for the winter ahead, squirrels stockpile acorns, and the trees shed their leaves to make them heartier for the coming cold. When nature reawakens in spring, this long rest will have served them well. So we should use this time to prepare for Winter and eventually Spring. The work done now lays the groundwork for success in the future. It's a solid base that allows later work to build up into something worthwhile. Let go of the old and clean out the clutter now, so you can invest your time in what really

matters- and let's face it – we've all got a lot of time on our hands over the next 4 weeks!

When Judith and I moved to Devon a few years ago we couldn't decide whether to live on the south coast or the north coast as we liked both. I recall vividly my father in law stating that living on the coast with a sea view was all very well but the view was basically the same no matter what the season, whereas living in the country, the view was constantly changing. I am reminded of his wise word when I look around Bickleigh and the Exe Valley, particularly at this time of the year, and witness the autumn in all its splendid God-given glory.

I'll close with another autumn quote, this time from Winnie the Pooh, "It's the first day of Autumn! A time of chocolatey mornings, and toasty marshmallow evenings, and, best of all, leaping into leaves!

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Job Vacancy

Bickleigh Parish Council are seeking a parish lengthsman to work approximately 2 hours a week maintaining the gullies and drains and generally keeping the village tidy.

Duties would also include keeping the grit bins topped up and spreading the grit in areas not covered by Devon County Council. Hours are flexible and variable depending on work required at different times of the year.

This is a paid position and training is provided. Own insurance is required.

If interested or seeking more information, please contact Clive Williams on 07745 407769 or email clivemwilliams@sky.com

As we get back to normal, here is a quick reminder that your contributions to the Bugle are very welcome!

Email us by the 20th of the month at bickleighbugle@outlook.com