

# February 2022



**W**elcome to 2022! We hope you all had a good Christmas.

Whilst January and February can be rather gloomy months the signs of spring are beginning - longer daylight hours and the first sign of the awakening of nature. The snowdrops appear to be earlier than normal and even the signs of the first primroses and celandines, again pretty early. Catkins are well advanced.

There does not seem to be any sign of a cold snap this month so

we may even see the first brimstone butterfly later in February which would be quite early again.

For those who have a printed version we ask for your annual contribution of £3 towards the cost of printing carried out very kindly by the school.

Have a good month!

**Your editors  
Steve and Michael**

**Your contributions to the Bugle are very welcome!**

**Email us by the 20th of the month  
at [bickleighbugle@outlook.com](mailto:bickleighbugle@outlook.com)**

# Bickleigh's new library

It's a real thrill to be able to start the New Year with some exciting news! After many, many years the old telephone box, which has increasingly become a bit of an eye sore, has at last, been fully refurbished and re-opened as a community library.

Thom and Polly Thompson were invited by the parish council to open the new facility having had a long-standing connection with the phone box. Back in the 80's Thom got posted to Germany with the army and Polly and the girls were all meant to

travel there together. Unfortunately, due to a change in their circumstances, Polly and the girls had to remain in Bickleigh, and Thom had to move on his own. To keep in touch, they were dependant on the public phone box

in Bell Meadow, so at a pre-arranged time each week Polly would occupy the phone box and await Thom's call from Germany.

Sometimes there was a queue of people waiting to use the phone box (hard to imagine these days!), but Polly didn't budge much to the bemusement of other villagers. We are also very grateful to Elaine and Richard Maudsley who have agreed to manage the library. We already have a good stock of books that will be rotated on a regular basis, but it would be great if we could have some

more children's books so if you have any that you no longer need, please consider donating them.

**Clive Williams**



# Bickleigh links with Tasmania and New Zealand.

The Bickleigh village website recently received an enquiry from Dunedin in South Island New Zealand. They asked for information about the Jarman Family of Millhayes Farm and Tannery.

Those who attended the 500 years of Bickleigh History evening in April 2019 may remember that one of the characters featured was Susan Jarman of Millhayes, spoken by Polly Thompson. In 1843 Susan's husband Richard Jarman died leaving her to run the farm and tannery. In his will Richard left two rather unusual bequests - £50 to a sister who had married a gentleman he despised on condition she used the money only on herself and £50 to sister Esther who had emigrated to Tasmania in case she needed to return to England.

It was a descendant of Esther who made this recent contact. Esther married in 1823 in Bickleigh Church. Being regarded as a minor at age 18 she needed the approval of her mother Mary as her surviving parent and guardian. Her husband, John Badcock Gardiner, was born in Poughill and along with their 2 young children they set sail from London arriving in Tasmania in 1829. With the help of a Government grant they purchased land and property which they named Chudleigh. More children were born. One daughter married the son of an Irish convict and had 11 children resulting in family members widespread throughout Australia and New Zealand.

**David Meredith, 01884 855210**

Both Esther and John died in the 1860's in the town of Launceston so another west country connection. Good to hear that their decision to leave Bickleigh for a new life overseas worked out well for them. There was no need for Esther to spend her £50 on a return fare!

Our ongoing thanks to Michael McAndrew of Bell Meadow for operating the Bickleigh website. We intend to update and add new material to the website local history section and would welcome offers of help whether technical, researching material or offering ideas and suggestions. Please get in touch if you can help,

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## Parish Council News

Christopher Ingles, who has lived in the village for a number of years has been elected as a co-opted parish councillor. We congratulate him on his appointment and wish him well. Following the resignation of Marie Turner as the Chair of the parish council I was honoured to be elected as Chairman in her place.

Cllr. Bob Deed has recently resigned from the parish council. We are very grateful for the service he has given to the village and wish him well in the future. He will continue to represent Bickleigh as the district councillor for the Cadbury Ward.

We are looking forward to building on the work already completed, improving a number of key areas in the village.

**Clive Williams**

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