

March 2022



Just to remind you that this year's subscription was due in January. If you wish to continue receiving a printed copy we would ask you for the £3 annual cost. This is used to pay the school which prints for us at cost: you can drop the money through the letterbox at the Old School, by the church. Many thanks to those who have already paid.

A couple of quotes for March...

It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade."

— Charles Dickens, *Great Expectations*

*Daffodils,
That come before the swallow
dares, and take
The winds of March with beauty.*

— William Shakespeare (*The Winter's Tale*)

**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

Bickleigh Charities

A bit of a delve into the local archives this week, which I hope you enjoy.

Having recently taken on the role as the Treasurer of The Bickleigh Charities, I thought I ought to find out a bit more about its background and what an interesting path that has led me down.

The current charity is an amalgamation over the years of a number of local charities with the sole aim of providing relief or support to the poor of Bickleigh. But it goes back as far as 1673 when a John Lovell gifted land with 2 cottages on it, called Collishayes, together with half an acre of the share of grass grown on a field known as Hawke's Meadow. This raised about £3 a year for shirts, stockings and shoes for 15 poor people in Bickleigh and distributed on All Saints Day each year. In 1883 part of the land was sold for the improvement of the turnpike road to Tiverton and in 1889 the charity received compensation for land taken by the Exe Valley Railway.

In 1708 a lady called Anne Crockford gifted land of nearly 4 acres, called Ware Park in Cullompton, to 4 individuals who later in 1714 transferred the land to Sir Thomas Carew, whose surname will be familiar to many Bickleigh residents. The annual income from this land was to be distributed at Christmas to the poor of Bickleigh for linen, cloth, hose and shoes. In 1811 the sum of £100 (equivalent to £9,500 today) was added to the trust by Rev. J W Carew from the sale of timber grown on the land.

Sometime before 1852 the Rev. R B Carew founded the 'Charity for the Poor' using the sum of £20 that had been entrusted to him and in 1868 John Carew left £100 in his will for the benefit of the poor of the parish.

In 1898 the first 3 charities were combined into one with 3 of the 6 appointed trustees appointed by the Parish Council.

In 1930 the 3 combined charities plus the John Carew charity made a new Governing Document changing who could benefit from the charity and in what ways. In future it decided that payments could be made to the poor of the parish and who were 'conducive to the formation of provident habits' and specifically for medicines, medical appliances and other medical needs - bearing in mind this was before the formation of the NHS. In addition, clothes, boots, bedding, fuel, tools and food were also provided. Interestingly, the trustees insisted that assistance could only be provided after a full investigation of the character and circumstances of the person!

In 1952 the charity was reprimanded for making a contribution to a children's outing as this was deemed not in keeping with the terms of the trusts.

Nothing much happened until 2005 when Ware Park was sold and the money raised invested in order to continue to provide an income to meet the needs of the parish.

To this day, the trustees meet at least annually and continue to follow the rules established in 1930, albeit in a more modern and holistic way, and a notice is placed in the Bickleigh Bugle and elsewhere each year requesting nominations for those in financial hardship.

I think it's great to think that something started by a kind-hearted citizen over 300 years ago is still active and basically doing the same work as originally intended. It would be nice to think that at some future date the charity won't be needed but I can't imagine that will be any day soon!

I am very grateful to Olive Taylor for providing all the historical documents, of which this is the briefest of summaries, and to Judith Williams for doing all the research and establishing a logical timeline of events.

Clive

Parish Council Update

As a result of some recent comings and goings amongst the Bickleigh councillors we currently have a vacancy for another councillor. For anyone interested in helping the local community with the power to influence decisions for the benefit of the people you serve this is a really rewarding opportunity. If you are interested or know anyone who might be interested please let me know. We are very keen to get back up to our full compliment of councillors as we have a busy year ahead of us.

Our council meetings are not very well attended unless there is a controversial planning application on the agenda. However, unless people turn up and let us know what they think we should be concentrating on, and how they would like us to improve things in Bickleigh, it makes

planning anything very difficult. It's your council so please do come along to our next meeting which is on the 8th March at 6pm in the village hall – we are now offering cups of tea or coffee as an extra incentive!

In the year ahead we are planning on working with other groups to put on an event in Joan's Orchard for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, we intend to add planters around the village to add more colour and we hope to organise talks on issues of interest to villages. We are also looking at how we communicate with those who live in the village – and that's all just for starters.

I look forward to seeing you at the next council meeting.

Clive, Chairman of Bickleigh Parish Council

West Country Wedding Flowers

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Flowers for Church and Reception if required. Also Private or Corporate Functions To make an appointment for me to visit you at your home, daytime, evenings or weekends.

Please contact me on 07772 070818 or pollysflowers@yahoo.co.uk

Mobile Library Visits

Bickleigh will be visited by the mobile library every 4 weeks during term time on a Thursday from 9:50am to 10:20am on the following dates:

Mar 31st
Apr 28th
May 26th
Jun 23rd
Jul 21st
Aug 18th
Sept 15th
Oct 13th
Nov 10th
Dec 8th

St Mary's Church

Services in March 2022

6th March - 1st of Lent - 11 am Holy Communion

13th March - 2nd of Lent - 11 am All Age Worship

20th March - 3rd of Lent - 11 am Holy Communion

27th March - 4th of Lent - Mothering Sunday - 11 am All Age Worship



Bickleigh Village Hall



Available to hire for private functions

**£10ph with kitchen
£8ph without**

Phone 01884 855256

Gardening Club

Bickleigh Gardening Club is raring to go with its first meeting of the year on Monday 14 March at 7:30pm with a presentation on 'Bedding Plants for the Garden' by David Usher.

We meet on the second Monday of most months at 7:30pm in Bickleigh Village Hall. There are refreshments, a raffle and a Flower of the Month competition at each meeting.

Membership is £10 per year with non-members paying £2 to attend an individual meeting. We would be very happy to welcome you to our friendly group - you don't have to be an expert gardener!

For further information, please contact one of our secretaries, **Wendy Baker** on 01884 855548 or the treasurer, **Judith Williams** on 01884 855093.

Notes from St Mary's

No two seasons are exactly alike. The pre-warned approach and damage caused by four recent storms mask the burgeoning life of what Sir David Attenborough refers to as the "natural world", now springtime. The lambs gambol, the daffodils poke up, the snow drops beginning to die back. The Christian year has completed the forty day sojourn from Advent Sunday to the Presentation of the infant Jesus to the Temple. Now, we experience a short period in the Christian year of Ordinary Time. Soon it will be gone. The altar coverings are green. This adds to the sense of approaching springtime. Ash Wednesday will have passed by. The Christian season of Lent having started its own sojourn, a different colour, purple. Another forty days to Easter Day on the 17th April.

Countdown to Easter

House Groups LENT 2022 - Lent is a time to get ready for Easter.

This year we are offering two possibilities

Lent Course 1 – From Thursday 10th March - Bickleigh "Bible and Babble Group" – We have yet to decide our subject for 2022 it will be Bible based. We meet in Gable Cottage at 7.30pm. Please just pitch up – all very welcome.

Lent Course 2 – From Tuesday 8th March: Organised by the United Benefice - Embracing Justice is the Church of England's theme for Lent 2022. It invites us to examine our own lives truthfully, to see the world more deeply and to pray - for the church and the world far and near - that 'justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream' (Amos 4.24).

Do join us for this 6-week course during Lent Starting on Tuesday 8th March 2022 at 2.30 pm Silvertown Church Hall All welcome! If you are interested in joining us, please contact Revd.

Judith Wright revjudithwright@gmail.com
telephone 01392 882019 or Revd. Paul Kingdom.
Please note you need to obtain the book for the course and read the first chapter before the first session. Please contact Maggie Smith (07380 247766) to arrange for a copy of the book to be sent to you. If you need a lift please let me know (01884 855309)

Saturday 27th – A Mothering "Sunday" Coffee Morning to raise funds for the people of Afghanistan in their very great need for shelter and food. Funds will be paid through the national Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) and from their website

Families in Afghanistan cannot afford to buy food and children are dying. Health services are struggling to treat malnourished mothers and children as they lack medicines and supplies.

At Gable Cottage from 10 am to Midday.

Rev Thom Thompson

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Village Hall News

We are calling a meeting on Thursday 17th March at Bickleigh Village Hall, at 7.00pm and would very much welcome your participation

In Bickleigh, we are very lucky to have a fantastic village hall facility. Up until the pandemic, we (the Village Hall Committee) ran events through the year. This was influenced greatly by the closure of the Trout Inn, as it was felt by many at the time that the village needed a centre for social events. We would like to get things up and running again.

The hall can be hired quite cheaply- particularly by villagers, who get an extra discounted rate (£6 per hour, or £8 per hour with use of kitchen)

However, the hall is greatly underused. We are looking at ways of extending the use of the hall and would love to have the input of a wide range of villagers across the age groups.

- 1) Are there any groups/ clubs/ activities that you would like to see running at the village hall? There is no longer a group for older residents, since Soup & Pud stopped running, also Pilates moved out of the village. Is there a desire for a social gathering in the week- maybe a coffee and chat group, or crafting? What about an exercise group? Maybe something for younger residents?
- 2) What sort of events would you be likely to attend at the Village Hall ? We have tried quite a few things- quizzes, bingo, gig nights, fun casino night, films, food events... would

you like more of the same or do you have suggestions?

Also, we are keen to recruit more committee members, please ask at meeting or contact Richard.

Your Village Hall Committee, Steve Batt (bookings), Michelle Dennis (secretary), Matt Melksham (treasurer), Katinka Prentis, Richard Somerwill (chair)

J's Cleaning

**Domestic cleaning
Window cleaning
Carpet cleaning
Gutter cleaning
Pressure washing**

07428 676030

For all your cleaning needs, please call Jacob for more information.

Community Together Support Service

An exciting new pilot project!

Mid Devon Mobility are now providing friendly support direct to your home. If you are feeling isolated or lonely let us know.

Our fully DBS checked volunteers can visit you in your home for a friendly chat and a cuppa and see if there is anything else we can offer.



For more information or to book contact Liz or Lorna
email: strongertogether@middevonmobility.org.uk



01884 242099

Reg. Charity No. 1099477

www.middevonmobility.org.uk

Bickleigh Village Hall presents...

Maintenance morning

Sat 5th March, 10am-1pm

Preparation for hedge planting, sweeping, weeding. Help much appreciated, bring tools please.

Open meeting

Thurs 17th March, 7pm

See Village Hall News!

Return of Quiz Night!

Sat 2nd April, 7pm

Teams of up to 6 participants, £1 a head. Bar.... (cash or card accepted)

Contact Richard 07508071791 to book a team or book individuals and we can add you to a team. We are limiting to 8 teams to enable better Covid safety.

Family Film Night

Fri 8th April

On our big screen!

A Beautiful Day In The Neighbourhood (2019, starring Tom Hanks)

£3 a head or £10 a family. Bar and snacks (cash or card accepted)