



APRIL 2018

EDITOR'S NOTES

Just when you thought it was all over, back it came again. March is shaping up to be perhaps one of the coldest we have had for a long time and certainly the snowiest many of us can remember for many decades. Those of us who have lived in Bickleigh for several decades are pretty certain the snow and drifts were some of the worst experienced since 1978. Just to remind you of the last month's snow, readers have provided many photographs and we publish a few within this month's Bugle (see electronic version at www.bickleigh.org.uk).

There is some debate within the climate science community regarding the rapid demise of the arctic ice caused by extreme rises in temperatures in the arctic region. Could this phenomenon result in movement of the cold air further to the east and hence more bitterly cold winter spells for the UK? Perhaps our resident scientist may have more to say about this debate? If you have a question about weather or climate that you would like answering by our resident scientist then please feel free to send in to bickleighbugle@outlook.com and we will include a response in the following Bugle edition.

Whatever happens in April we are now well into spring and although the snowdrops have lasted and lasted, the other heralds of Spring - daffodils, celandines and primroses - are showing promises of better weather to come.

Do support Farmer John's bluebell walk for Children's Hospice South West, as well as other events published in this month's Bugle. There are many worthy causes and a chance to meet other residents and friends.

Have a good April. Our apologies if this Bugle is little late as this is due to the Easter break coinciding with the printing.

The Editors:

Tim Scott
Calendar Cottage

Steve Batt
The Old School

BICKLEIGH IN THE SNOW

While the run of snow caused a lot of disruption for many, it was quite wonderful to see how peaceful the village was when the roads were impassable and everything was blanketed in knee deep white powder. The village came together to ensure those that needed support were catered for and school closures meant lots of sledging, snowball fights and snowmen...and of course the Village Hall 'Apres Ski'! After the second bout of snow in mid March I think everyone was ready for spring.





CHURCHYARD CONSERVATION

Visitors sometimes ask why we keep areas of branches and cuttings in the corners of the churchyard. They are there for a very good reason and that is to provide a vital habitat for numerous insects and small mammals, hence providing food for other animals especially birds. Readers may have seen and heard several alarming studies of late all evidencing the devastating demise of much of our wildlife over the last few decades - nearly all due to habitat loss and our obsession of keeping our natural surroundings "tidy". Ecologists are imploring us to be much less tidy in terms of leaving substantial areas of uncut grass, rotting wood and vegetation so as to provide important habitat. Our efforts are a drop in the ocean, of course, and we would hope our small efforts will encourage others to provide more wildlife friendly areas across the village, the parish and into the wider area.

Matt Melksham, Steve Batt, Adam Scaife

LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

We recently received a request via our local history website for information about a family member believed to have been born at Bickleigh Mill in 1893 named Irene Augusta Dadd. We were able to tell her that Irene's mother was Emma Gay who came with her family to Bickleigh and Butterleigh Mills from near South Molton. Emma married Richard Dadd, a Miller, but was left a young widow and with her children lived at Butterleigh Mill where her brother Roland Gay was the Miller. Emma then married, we believe, her husband's younger brother and the family moved to a farm at Huntsham. Emma died, a widow, in 1954 at Higher Ford Farm and is buried in Butterleigh churchyard. I have since been told that Emma and Sidney Dadd were not allowed by UK law at the time to marry and the ceremony took place in the Channel Islands. Interesting that the person who made the enquiry grew up in Somerset, moved to Buckinghamshire and is now living near Bickleigh and Butterleigh with these family connections.

David Meredith

SHELTERBOX SYRIA APPEAL

A special thank you to Polly and Thom Thompson who held a coffee on 10th March to raise money in response to the appeal. The sum of £200 was raised which is an excellent result when considering the size of our village, so WELL DONE Bickleigh. Thank you to everyone who supported this event and thank you again to Polly and Thom for their very kind hospitality which many of us have experienced on other occasions over the years.

Olive Taylor

BLUEBELL WALK

The annual bluebell walk at Byway Farm, in aid of Childrens' Hospice South West, will be held on **Sunday 15th April at 2.30pm**. You will be able to see ponds and trees, wildflowers and finish with some delicious refreshments. Unfortunately the walk itself is not suitable for wheelchairs due to the undulating terrain but refreshments will be accessible to all.

If you cannot make that date, do come up one evening or another day. The walk will be signposted.

Farmer John - Tel: 855354

SPRING VARIETY SHOW

The Spring Variety Show that will be held at the New Hall, Tiverton on Saturday 12th May. This is the sixth year that I have hosted this event and the Devon Air Ambulance Trust have benefited to the tune of £10,000, so far, from this event alone (you will have noticed that the Bickleigh Drama Group also raise funds for this very worthwhile cause, and we will be looking to put on another play in the Autumn).

You may well recognise local people who will be performing at this event for me. I have invited members of the Bickleigh Drama Group and several from the Bickleigh School Community will be involved, too. It promises to be a very entertaining evening with a wide variety of talented performers taking to the stage.

I hope to give you all more information next month but would be grateful for any support from Bugle readers.

Many thanks

Rose Chanin

01884 855251/07856 057 006



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For more information contact Rose
- 01884 855251 -



Friends of Wyndham House Surgery

There is increasingly strong evidence that people who develop regular social connections within their community, achieve an improvement in their mental and physical health and are more fulfilled. This has been clearly demonstrated in a recent social initiative in Frome where emergency hospital admissions were reduced by 17% while they increased by 29% in the rest of Somerset. Participants also felt happier and more fulfilled. (www.healthconnections Mendip.org) (BBC Radio 4 15/03/18 The World at One)

The Friends of Wyndham House Surgery are supporting the development of a wellbeing project to encourage more participation in the many and varied social activities within Silverton and the surrounding villages. Currently this is aimed for those who are “growing older” and who want to maintain their health by doing what they can to prevent illness, depression or becoming more socially isolated. This project is welcomed by the Surgery particularly in this day and age when preventative measures are so important. Better health is the new wealth!

To help to achieve this, I will be the wellbeing co-ordinator for the area. My role is to help people find activities which they might enjoy, encourage them to join in and also assist in setting up new opportunities.

Currently there are many local groups and activities, some of which have an obvious health benefit and are financially supported by the Friends. Others are more social and are financed in other ways. Often people who have been bereaved, have been acting as carers or have been ill, or for other reasons, may have lost the confidence to go out and join in and may be feeling lonely or isolated.

If you, or any one you know, would like a confidential visit from me, to discuss the interests, hobbies and activities you would like to participate in, please get in touch. If you are housebound or not so keen on group activities, I could arrange for a like minded visitor to spend some time with you. Also if anyone has ideas for new activities, please let me know.

Trish Jones

Wellbeing Coordinator

Mobile: 0748 437 7298 email: silverwellbeing@gmail.com



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VILLAGE HALL NEWS

New Kitchen Equipment

We now have matching cups and saucers and should not have to borrow any more glasses from Morrisons! Sugar bowls, milk jugs and “soup plates” too. Mugs and half pint glasses will follow asap.



Quiz Night

A quiz night will be held at the Village Hall on the 28th April, 7pm for a 7.30pm prompt start. Entry is £2 per person and there will be cash prizes. The event is organised by the Bickleigh Village Hall Committee and a donation is made to ShelterBox. Teams of upto 6 people should be booked with Kerry Peters before 20th April (855856 / text 07968889673 / kerry.peters3@btinternet.com)

Kerry Peters

Murder Mystery Night

Bickleigh Village Hall will be holding a Murder Mystery Night in Bickleigh Village Hall on Friday June 15th 2018. A visiting group of medieval players will act out the story with breaks for the serving of 3 food courses. Those attending will need to watch and listen and decide who committed the murder. The play has been written and will be directed by a Tiverton author who has also made all the medieval costumes. A fun and happy evening is promised. Further details next month.

David Meredith.

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Bickleigh Village Hall

Saturday 28th April 2018

7pm for prompt 7.30pm start

£2 per person

CASH PRIZES!!

Book your team of up to 6 people before Friday 20th April.
Payment will be collected on the door.

Cash Bar with local Ale, Wine and soft drinks
Snacks included in price

This event is organised by the Bickleigh Village Hall Committee.

A donation will also be made to Shelterbox. Call Kerry on
855856 / text 07968 889673 or email

kerry.peters3@btinternet.com to book your table.

See you then!

BICKLEIGH WEATHER WATCH

We've all heard of 'chaos theory' but this popular phrase encapsulates something that plagues weather forecasters and infects all sorts of areas of science, providing uncertainty and mind bending complexity to much of the world around us. Lots of strange and counterintuitive things emerge from chaos theory. For example, the so-called 'butterfly effect' which we'll come back to later on.

Although it sounds very modern, chaos theory was in fact discovered more than 50 years ago by meteorologist and mathematician - Edward Lorenz. To appreciate what it is, we first need to understand that the atmosphere is actually a kind of fluid. Have you seen satellite pictures of weather systems swirling around over the UK, with clouds moving along with the wind? Well those swirling weather systems are just like the eddies that result if you stir the water in your bath! the underlying equations are the same and that's where the trouble starts. While the equations can be written on a postcard (or a t-shirt) they are impossible to solve; even Einstein or Newton would have had no hope of ever writing down the solution to this maths problem. Even worse than this, the equations show the curious property that the slightest change to the winds or temperature in one place will eventually grow into an enormous difference in the weather worldwide! This is the crux of the so-called 'butterfly effect', in practice it means that if you sneeze or slam a door, the disturbance in the air really could eventually lead to a snowstorm in outer Mongolia! Don't worry though, it's impossible

to predict such detailed things so far ahead and so there is no way we will ever lay the blame on you.

Lorenz is reputed to have discovered chaos theory when he ran his computer model of the atmosphere and accidentally entered a tiny error in the numbers he input at the start of the program. He went for a cup of coffee and on his return discovered that the tiny error had completely altered the virtual weather in his forecast some days later.

Nowadays we run the forecast on much bigger computers, to do battle with chaos on a daily basis and bring you the data behind the everyday weather forecast. The bigger the computer, the more accurate and longer into the future we can make a useful prediction. However, the nature of weather forecasting changed forever the day Lorenz went for his crucial cup of coffee. We now run the forecast over and over, with tiny intentional changes, 'butterflies' if you like, that alter the outcome days or weeks ahead through chaos and give us the range of possible weather to come. If we do that for the forecast of the famous 1987 storm that caught out Michael Fish, then we see that some, but not all forecasts produce a similar intense storm and so a really smart weather forecaster will always tell you the chance of severe weather happening rather than claiming certainty; not because they're hedging, but rather because the uncertainty from chaos theory is at the heart of the forecast.

Resident Scientist

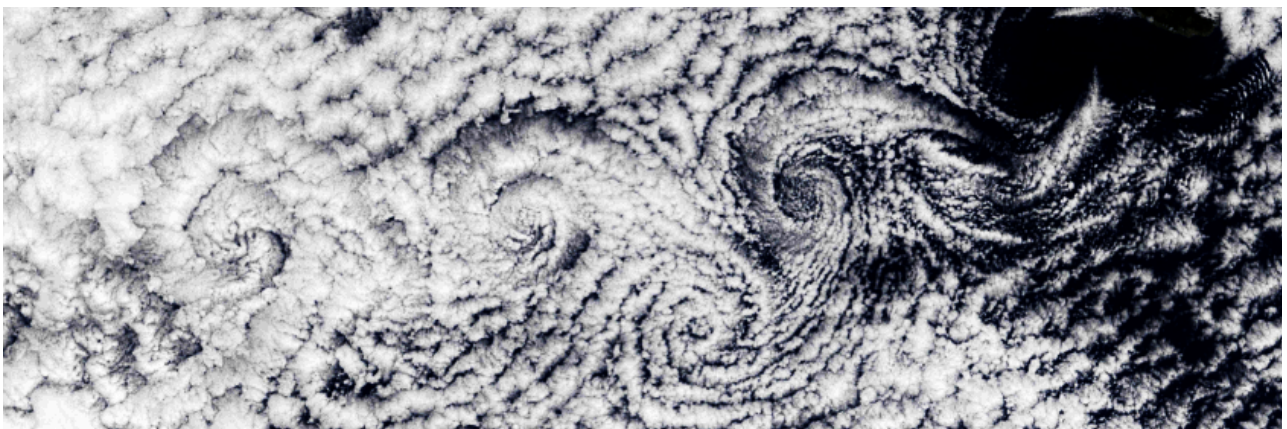


Image: Atmospheric eddies over the Atlantic (Jeff Schmaltz, NASA).



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ST MARY'S PEWS NEWS

APRIL

Sunday 1st April Easter Day Service at 11 am. It is quite possible that you will be reading these notes as we prepare for our Easter Day Holy Communion at 11 am in St Mary's Church. All are very welcome to attend. By a quirk of the calendar (some say as a result of the Gregorian calendar) it is of course also "April Fools' " day – but do not be fooled the wonderful feast day for the worldwide Christian communities will be celebrated as it has been for nearly 2000 years.

Sunday 15th April at 3 pm – The late Geoff Vearncombe, who farmed at Exeland with his wife Mary, was a Churchwarden to the parish of Bickleigh and Captain of the Bells for some 30 years. When Geoff died he passed to Mary through the Church Council the mantle of his responsibilities as Churchwarden. Mary has faithfully followed in her late husband's footsteps; rather like the prophet Elisha who took over the mantle of the prophet Elijah in the far off years we associate with the Old Testament prophets. Mary will be standing down as our senior Churchwarden at the annual church meeting in April bringing to a close a family association with the appointment of Churchwarden of fifty years standing. A farewell Songs of Praise service to mark Mary's dedication as a Churchwarden takes place in St Mary's Church on Sunday 15th April at 3 pm with traditional refreshments afterwards in the Village Hall; all will be very welcome

Wednesday 18th April at 7.30 pm – The Annual Parochial Church Meeting takes place in St Mary's Church starting at 7.30 pm. The first of three meetings is to select the Churchwardens for the ensuing year, appointments that will be ratified at the Archdeacon of Exeter's Annual Visitation at St Paul's Church Tiverton on Thursday 17th May at 7.30 pm. Those entitled to vote at the first meeting include anyone on

the Electoral Roll for the parish of Bickleigh as well as the Church Electoral Roll.

SOUP N' PUDDING

Tuesday 17th April at 12 midday - Our next Soup n' Pud village event takes place in the Village Hall on Tuesday 17th April from 12 midday to about 1 pm with a choice of several soups and puddings. All are very welcome – proceeds go to the ShelterBox appeal also a feature of Olive Taylor's article last month (see below).

SHELTER BOX

We advertised a Village Mother's Day coffee morning last month but had gone to print when we learned of an appeal from the ShelterBox charity about the appalling situation in Syria. Mrs Olive Taylor who coordinates appeals for this charity in the village wrote a short article in which she commented that £500 had been sent immediately. As a result of the coffee morning over £220.00 was raised, the work of ShelterBox advertised, the savings account replenished and a happy throng of villagers was brought together to meet and greet. Thank you to the organisers and to all who made the morning so richly awarding.

HOUSE GROUP 2018

Thursday 19th April - Our Lenten study completed the House Group now looks to the next biblical text. No decision yet made but we meet at Gable Cottage at 7.30 pm for our first meeting of the summer term

Rev Thom Thompson

Assistant Minister, tel: 01884 855309

MARCH

A POEM BY PHYLLIS NICHOLS

The months come and go
It is lovely to see the sun
Hoping we don't get any snow
So we can take the dogs for a run

The daffodils are still looking bright
And the snowdrops are out I can see
Looking forward to lighter nights
So we can go out for a nice cooked meal

The children are happy today
Because it will be Easter time
When they look for eggs hidden away
I do hope they will save me mine

APRIL

A POEM BY PHYLLIS NICHOLS

We think of holiday time today
Looking forward to a ride on the train
We have found somewhere nice to stay
And hope we don't get wind and rain

It is lovely to watch the lambs having fun
They are growing up so fast
Nearly as big as their Mum
And they have plenty of grass at last

Spring is here and Easter time
Gone we hope is all the snow and rain
And the weather will be warm and fine
So we can make lovely sand castles once again

EDITORS NOTE: We all wish Phyllis a speedy recovery after her recent fall.



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April 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 EASTER SERVICE 11am St Marys	2 Bank Holiday	3	4	5	6	7 BICKLEIGH CAR BOOT 8.00-12.00 Trout Car Park
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 MARY'S SONGS OF PRAISE 3pm, St Mary BLUEBELL WALK 2.30pm Byway Farm	16	17 SOUP N' PUD Midday Village Hall	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 QUIZ NIGHT 7pm Village Hall
29	30					

IF YOU HAVE AN EVENT YOU WANT EVERYONE TO KNOW ABOUT JUST SEND US AN EMAIL AND WE WILL SHOUT ABOUT IT FOR YOU!

bickleighbugle@outlook.com