

MAY 2018

EDITOR'S NOTES

What a difference a month makes. This time last month the editorial was being written in a cold room looking at the snow. This month's editorial is being written sitting in the garden on a warm April evening, looking at the new crescent moon with Venus seeming to encourage the new moon onwards into the night sky. The noise of the new lambs is the only sound pervading the silence; two pipestrelle bats are chasing each other against the background of the twilight sky with no streetlights destroying the ambience; the primroses are glowing their soft yellows in the churchyard and the garden. Two visitors commented the other day that we are so lucky to live where we are - the visitor book in the church is often annotated with comments about the peace and beauty of the area and the church in particular. Something that it is easily taken for granted in the increasingly hurly burly world in which we live - we do need to value what we have and be vigilant against the incremental erosion of what most of us hold dear.

It was interesting to hear on the radio the other day that this year is to be the year of the front garden. It is assumed this is coming from, among others, the Royal Horticultural Society. The argument goes that we are losing front gardens at an alarming rate, due to general neglect, untidiness (cars, wheelie bins etc.) and well kept attractive gardens not only benefit the owner but also wildlife and the area in general.

With the onset of spring, there are plenty of events happening in Bickleigh this month to get involved in, including Gardening Club events (annual plant sale on Sat 12th May, and evening talk on 14th May), and a Royal Cream Tea (Sat 19th May), as well as our regular events like Soup 'n' Pud (Tues 15th May) and the services at St Mary's (see Pews News). Please keep an eye on the Bugle calendar and join in!

Have a good month and enjoy the Royal Wedding.

The Editors:

Tim Scott
Calendar Cottage

Steve Batt
The Old School

CHURCHYARD CONSERVATION

The primroses have been spectacular this year, showing that our restrictive mowing regime is beneficial. It is worth visiting Cadbury church where the whole of the churchyard is covered in primroses - something we would love to emulate at Bickleigh.

Yellow rattle has been introduced at the top end of the churchyard in order to suppress the more vigorous grasses. Yellow rattle is an attractive, semi-parasitic, grassland annual. In the past this plant was a serious pest for farmers as it weakens grasses and as a result can reduce hay yields by as much as 50%. In a landscape or garden context however, this suppression of grass growth is welcomed as it produces a better display of wild flowers and eases the mowing required.

Yellow rattle germinates late February to early March, flowers in June, and sets seed in July. At the end of each growing season as the annual yellow rattle plants die away they leave behind gaps into which new wild flowers can establish. As a result, wild flower seed sown into an existing sward will establish more readily in areas where yellow rattle already does well.

Matt Melksham, Steve Batt, Adam Scaife



Image: Yellow Rattle in flower

A THANK YOU LETTER FROM MARY VERNACOMBE

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to all who attended the Songs of Praise to mark my retirement as Churchwarden. Also to all those who arranged and provided the lovely tea in the village hall afterwards. Thank you for the gifts - I will have much pleasure watching or using them.

Mary Vearncombe



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BICKLEIGH MURDER!

Bickleigh Village Hall will be transformed into the Court of King Arthur Crown at Camelot on **Friday June 15th**. Members of the Court in full period dress will meet and greet and set the scene for their play entitled "Alfurian Fury." There will be 3 breaks during the evening for food - a starter, main and sweet course - served by local well known wenches who at all times have to obey the orders of the King! The action takes place around the Court and will include a lusty sword fight. Various clues will be included in the dialogue and actions to help detect the identity of the murderer. Characters can be asked questions to which they have to tell the truth. Solution forms and pencils will be handed out to individuals, pairs or groups to give their answers. After the Raffle comes the big REVEAL with the murderer announced and the winners awarded their prize.

Period dress for the audience is optional. A licensed bar applied for. We are grateful to Alison Harris and her merry band of players for bringing us this event which promises to be an exciting, amusing, entertaining and murderous night to Bickleigh. Help in setting up the Hall, preparing and serving food and drink, would be appreciated, please contact Heather Meredith (855210) Chris Harris (855423) or Kerry Peters (855856). The Court can accommodate 80 evening guests. Places can be booked by contacting David/ Heather on 855210 or email meredithdavid01@gmail.com. Proceeds to charity.

David Meredith

855210

meredithdavid01@gmail.com.

BLUEBELL WALK - NEW DATE

The walk postponed from a couple of weeks ago will be held on **Sunday 29th April**. All welcome from 2.30pm onwards at Byway Farm.

Farmer John

Tel: 855354





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VILLAGE HALL NEWS

We would like to thank Chris T most sincerely for his 18 years of exceptional service as Treasurer and Committee Member for Bickleigh Village Hall. Chris decided to step down from the Committee in March after a transition period of about a year in which Matt M took over the reins as Treasurer. Your input, wit and acronyms are already greatly missed Chris!

We would like to thank Lauren H for agreeing to take over Hall bookings and for keeping the Hall clean. The transition from Robin to Lauren is now complete so there will not be any Flamenco dancers at future Soup and Pud events, unless this is specifically planned in... We would like to thank everyone for their understanding during this period.

We are very pleased to say that Steve B, despite already being busy with the Bugle and Bell Ringing duties, has agreed to join the Village Hall Committee. Steve has been very helpful in his contributions to the set up, running (and bar spend!) at recent events, has lived in the village for many years and was a key organiser of the popular Bickleigh Street Market so we are very pleased to have him on board.

We would like to thank Steve Bosley and staff at Bickleigh Primary School for their extremely generous donation of lighting and sound equipment to the Village Hall. This will greatly reduce the cost of the Sound/Lighting/PA System project that Richard S is working on with the support and advice of Adam Jones. Further updates on this as they take place. The new kitchen equipment has all now arrived and thanks to Kerry P and Lauren H for their help organising this. If we have missed anything obvious please let us know.

By the time you read this, the Quiz will have happened, so we hope it went well! Many Thanks to Richard S for setting the questions and Kerry P for promoting etc. As a Committee, with additional support from Villagers, we are hoping to run a variety of social events in the Hall this year. Forthcoming planned events are as follows:

Saturday May 19th - 2pm - 4pm Cream Tea in the Village Hall to celebrate the Royal Wedding. We were hoping to be able to screen the Wedding at the Hall, but don't think we are quite there yet with the tech! So the idea is to watch at home and then come to the hall to compare notes. Christine H will be wearing a hat. Feel free to join her in doing so! Cream Tea suggested donation £3 for adults (Kids free cupcakes and squash.) Proceeds to be split between the "Heads Together" Charity and Village Hall funds. More info from Lauren H (855022) or Christine H (855423) Please also call if able to donate scones/jam/cupcakes.

Friday 15th June - Murder Mystery Night - Organisation led by David M. Prices, timings and proceeds to be confirmed.

September - Bingo. Organised by Village Hall Committee. Date and Details to be confirmed.

Saturday 13th October - Live Music and Dancin' in the Hall organised by Village Hall Committee. Band to be confirmed nearer the time

Hope to see you at an event or two!

Best Wishes

The BVH Committee

Richard S, Matt M, Lauren H, Kerry P, Derek H and Steve B.



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BICKLEIGH WEATHER WATCH

Following the late winter cold snap that we reported at the end of February, the winter is now over. The northern hemisphere is again tilted towards the Sun and Spring has now sprung. For us this is good news of course; the temperatures are now rising, the days are lengthening faster than at other times of year and our gardens are going through that lovely time of year when everything is green and fresh and changing so fast.

In the Arctic though, things are not so optimistic. From now until September, the amount of sea ice floating on the Arctic seas will not only be in its systematic seasonal melt towards the autumn minimum, but as in many recent years, it is also heading towards ever lower amounts at an alarming rate. In late summer we are now seeing areas of ice that are about half the area that used to be covered by sea ice just 20 or 30 years ago. Imagine our outrage if half of Britain had disappeared in that time?! Well that is exactly what's happened to the Arctic Ice cover and of course it has a dramatic impact on the local residents ranging from the Inuit population to the well-known displacement of wildlife, for example of polar bears which are now starting to struggle for territory due to the lack of sea ice.

Make no mistake, despite what occasional 'climate change deniers' like to suggest, the amount of Arctic sea ice is in severe decline and is not set to recover any time soon. This also has a profound effect on the Atlantic Ocean further South, as the melting of ice adds a lot of extra fresh water to the north Atlantic and can change the whole ocean circulation. Impacts are expected on the warm northward flow in the Gulf Stream that brings mild waters to the vicinity of the UK but we still don't know the strength of this effect or whether it could lead to a complete shut down of the Gulf Stream...

Average Monthly Arctic Sea Ice Extent
March 1979 - 2018

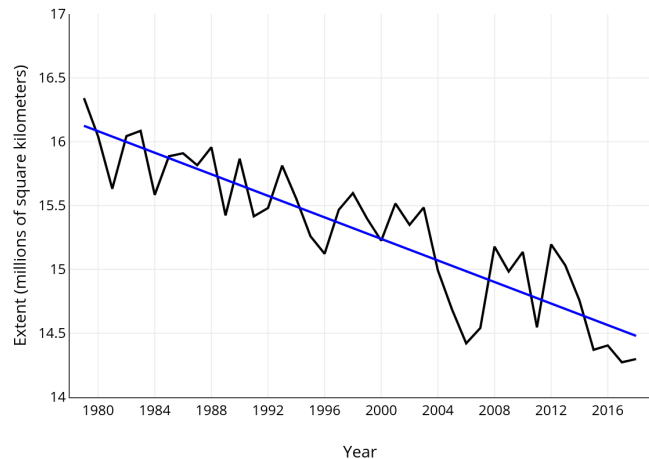


Image: Monthly March ice extent for 1979 to 2018 shows a decline of 2.7 percent per decade (National Snow and Ice Data Center).

In the meantime, we continue to watch the worrying decline in Arctic sea ice extent from our satellite eyes above the Earth and our mathematical calculations are clear that the first day that is completely ice free in the Arctic will be reported in the news in the month of September in around 15 to 20 years from now.

You can keep an eye on what is going on in the polar regions at the excellent web site of the U.S. National Snow and Ice Data Centre:

If you have any questions about this or any other of the articles about our weather and climate then please send them in to the Bugle and I will provide the straight forward, authoritative answer without the hot air...

Resident Scientist

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ROYAL CREAM TEA

Saturday May 19th 2pm - 4pm



Cream Tea in the Village Hall to celebrate the Royal Wedding

Dress Code - A Hat

Cream Tea suggested donation £3 for adults

(Kids free cupcakes and squash)

Proceeds to be split between the "Heads Together" Charity and
Village Hall funds.

More info from:

Lauren H (855022) or Christine H (855423)

Please also call if able to donate scones/jam/cupcakes.



ST MARY'S PEWS NEWS

MAY

EASTERTIDE - The book ends for me this Easter were the preparation of the Church for Easter Day and the Songs of Praise on 15th April followed by a Tea Party in the Village Hall. The first was a happy throng of villagers and others producing a lovely spring time feel to the church interior with children heavily engaged in making the Easter Garden. At the second the opportunity was taken to give Mary Vearncombe a significant "thank you" for her many years of service as Churchwarden. At our subsequent Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Mr Matt Melksham and Mrs Polly Thompson were confirmed as the churchwardens for the ensuing year and Mrs Rachel Harper is to be our new Secretary. The Rector in his comments for the past year thanked the many who work tirelessly to keep the Christian message alive in our local community and the prayer of Saint Ignatius Loyola is always appropriate at this time of the year as we reflect on what we have done and prepare for the future in the present:

Dearest Lord,

teach me to be generous;

teach me to serve You as You deserve;

to give and not to count the cost,

to fight and not to heed the wounds,

to toil and not to seek for rest,

to labour and not to ask for reward

save that of knowing I am doing Your Will. Amen

SERVICES AT ST MARY'S – The month of May this year celebrates three significant events in the Christian calendar – **Ascension Day (10th May)**, **Pentecost (20th May)** and **Trinity Sunday (27th May)**. Ascension Day is probably in our setting more

important to Bickleigh School as in tradition over many decades Year 6 get the opportunity to ascend the steps to the top of the Church Tower. From there they get the most wonderful view of the surrounding countryside. An opportunity to learn something of the church's long history and why we celebrate the final ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ to his Father in heaven (see Acts 1.6-11)

THE ENGLISH PARISH - A dictionary definition of a Parish circa 1935 is I quote "A subdivision of a county having its own church and clergyman and a district constituted for administration of the Poor Law" unquote. A single Parish with a single incumbent is a now rarity in the rural setting. It is not uncommon for there to be one incumbent for up to ten Parishes. A feature of all historical settings in our community is concern for the poor. The charity set up centuries ago to provide footwear continues in the contemporary setting of Bickleigh Charities. Recently Olive Taylor has also drawn our attention to the village's continued support to ShelterBox charity. The environment changes but the essential message of compassion for the needy does not.

SOUP N' PUDDING - Our next "Soup n' Pud" village event takes place in the Village Hall on **Tuesday 15th May from 12 midday to about 1 pm**; a choice of several homemade soups and puddings will be available. All are very welcome – proceeds go to the ShelterBox appeal.

Rev Thom Thompson

Assistant Minister, tel: 01884 855309

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BICKLEIGH GARDENING CLUB

The Annual Plant Sale and Cake Stall will be held in Bickleigh Village Hall on **Saturday Morning 12th May**. Doors open at 10 am. Do come along and snap up some bargain plants for your garden...not just flowers but lots of vegetables – they taste so much better when they are freshly picked to eat! Buy something for tea from the Cake Stall and enjoy a coffee while you make up your mind!

On **Monday Evening 14th May**, our meeting starts at 7.30 pm. in the Village Hall. The talk will be “Shrubs for all the year” and the speaker will be bringing plants for sale. There will be the usual refreshments after the talk, a raffle/draw and the winner of the Flower of the Month will be announced.

Coach Trip – **Wednesday 30th May**...It is with regret that we have had to cancel the planned outing but only 8 people had signed up and paid the deposit!

MAY

A POEM BY PHYLLIS NICHOLS

This is the merry month of May
The children are having lots of fun
Dancing around the Maypole today
It is lovely to have the warm sun

The farmers are busy all day
Getting the fields ready to sow
Hoping the fine weather is here to stay
Because the grass is ready to mow

The birds will soon be busy all day
Making their nests in the trees I can see
It is lovely to hear them singing away
While I sit here drinking my tea

Dealing with The Black Stuff...



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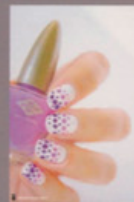
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May 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 Blubell Walk Byway Farm 2:30pm	30	1	2	3	4	5 Car Boot Sale Trout Car Park 8-12pm
6 6 th of Easter Holy Communion St Mary's 8am	7 Bank Holiday	8	9	10 Ascension Day School Service St Mary's 2:30pm	11	12 Annual Plant Sale & Cake Stall Village Hall 10am
13 7 th of Easter Evensong St Mary's 6pm	14 Gardening Club Talk Village Hall 7:30pm	15 Soup 'n' Pud Village Hall 12-1pm	16	17	18	19 Royal Cream Tea Village Hall 2-4pm
20 Pentecost Family Service St Mary's 11am	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Trinity Holy Communion St Mary's 11am	28 Bank Holiday	29	30	31		

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