



**JULY 2018**

## **EDITOR'S NOTES**

There seems to be no shortage of summer fetes to tempt us and these herald the real start of summer, although 21st June is the meteorological start of summer? As pointed out in the news it is not the longest day - they are of course the same length all year i.e. 24 hours - but on the 21st we have the longest period of daylight for the year.

Many residents and friends enjoyed the murder mystery evening, thanks to all the hard work by many people to prepare the evening, serve the food and clear up once everyone had left. Events only succeed due to dedicated input by so many. The School fete was again enjoyed by many and Joan's Orchard is a fabulous resource for all to use. We have been asked to remind the very few irresponsible dog owners that this facility is used by children as well as adults, so please be responsible and preferably do not use it as a toilet.

This will be the last Bugle until the September version, which may be a few days late due to the start of the Autumn term. Do keep an eye open for any summer events and have a good summer. Let's hope for good weather - have a look at the article regarding St Swithen's Day which falls on the 15th July.

The Editors:

**Tim Scott**  
Calendar Cottage

**Steve Batt**  
The Old School

# BICKLEIGH GARDENING CLUB

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On Monday evening 4th June Members enjoyed a talk on “The secret Nature of the Tamar Valley” along with a fine slide show. The speaker answered all the questions from the floor – mostly about the birds! Refreshments followed with the Raffle/Draw and the “Flower of the Month Winner” being announced. Our next evening meeting is not until **Monday September 10th @ 7.30pm in the Village Hall**, when the talk is on “Autumn Propagation”.

HOWEVER, our “Annual Garden and Craft Show” takes place in the village hall on **Saturday August 18th!** It is an “open show” – ie any one can enter – you do not have to be a member of BGC. If you haven’t already got a Show Schedule and Entry Form and would like to take part – please contact Judi – mob. 07745944158. There are many different sections as well as Fruit, Vegetables and Flower classes we have Domestic, Art, Craft and Children’s classes (91 classes in all!). Doors open to the public at 2.15 pm .Cream teas will be available and an auction of surplus products takes place at 4.p.m. Hope to see you there!

# BICKLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

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This is a note to remind those who may just have forgotten that your Parish Council is here for you. Meetings are scheduled for the first Wednesday of the month – except August – at 7.30pm in the Village Hall where all are welcome.

If anybody has anything they may wish to raise regarding improving the Parish or for that matter anything which we are able to deal with, just talk to any one of us and we will do our best.

For those of you who are unaware, your parish councillors are:

Derek Harrison – 01884855543

Jill Barlow – 01884855472

Adam Scaife – 01884855658

Jaqueline Platt – 01884855846

Amanda Somerwill – 01884855053

Your district councillor:

Bob Deed – 01392861258

Your county councillor:

Margaret Squires - 0136384337

Please note that the agenda, any notices of cancellation or alteration of date are posted on the notice boards both on the ‘Green’ and in Bellmeadow.

***Derek Harrison.***



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# WHO KILLED THE KING?

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A very big thank you to all who supported the Murder Mystery Evening in the village hall on Friday June 15th. The hall festooned as the Court of King Arthur complete with banners, candelabras, greenery, flowers and feasting tables welcomed the King, his family and Courtiers along with the many local guests attending the banquet.

The King's return after a long absence caused upheaval in the Court. One of his first duties was to elevate Squire Robert to become the Earl of Southwood. Unrest and rivalries soon emerged to cause the King's untimely death. The guests, after enjoying a 4 Course meal, were asked to identify the murderer. Congratulations to Steve, Mary, Reg and Alison for spotting the clues and correctly solving the crime. The winner of the best costume was Matthew Peters, dressed as a Crusader Knight.

Special thanks to those who donated, prepared and served the supper and to Stan Sharland who started baking pasties at Bickleigh Bakery 66 years ago! Profit from the evening allowed us to donate £75 to the visiting players, £75 to the village hall and £630 to Hospiscare. A great result.

***David Meredith***

## JULY

A POEM BY PHYLLIS NICHOLS

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We are more than halfway through the  
The children will soon be on holiday a  
They are full of excitement we can all hear  
They always love the ride on the train

The birds are happy singing away  
Now that the little ones have flown the nest  
I hope they are enjoying the lovely sunshine today  
When eating the birdseed they love the best

The gardens enjoyed the shower of rain  
And everything is growing so fast  
It is lovely to see the roses again  
Hoping the strong winds won't last



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# ST SWITHIN'S DAY

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*St Swithun's day if thou dost rain  
For forty days it will remain  
St Swithun's day if thou be fair  
For forty days 'twill rain nae mare*

St Swithun's Day is on 15th July. Will it rain for yet another 40 days?

The St Swithun's Day legend is an old one –the earliest surviving written reference dates back to the 14th century – although its roots are much disputed. St Swithun (or Swithin) was an Anglo-Saxon bishop of Winchester who died in around AD862. The clergyman requested that his remains be interred among the common people outside the church, but in 971, after he had been made patron saint of Winchester Cathedral, his body was dug up and moved to a new indoor shrine. According to some writers, this caused sufficient displeasure in the heavens for a terrible downpour to strike the church and continue unabated for 40 days, hence the legend. The only problem with this theory is a complete and utter absence any evidence, with no early account of the reburial mentioning the slightest drop of rain.

Whatever its roots, the veracity of the St Swithun's Day myth clearly fails to stand up to much detailed examination. Since records began, not a single 40-day drought has occurred anywhere in the UK during the summer months, and there has been not one instance at any time of the year of 40 consecutive days of rainfall. Sunshine on St Swithun's Day in Miami may well auger 40 days of unbroken sunshine, but in Blackpool it most assuredly does not. That said, there is the tiniest glimmer of sense to the rhyme. The middle of July tends to be around the time that the jet stream settles into a relatively consistent pattern. If the jet stream lies north of the UK throughout the summer, continental high pressure is able to move in, bringing warmth and sunshine. If it sticks further south, Arctic air and Atlantic weather systems are likely to predominate, bringing colder, wetter weather. The rhyme just needs a little re-rendering:

St Swithun's day if thou dost rain  
For forty days, relatively unsettled there's a fair chance it will remain  
St Swithun's day if thou be fair  
For forty days, a northerly jet stream might result in some fairly decent spells  
But then again it might not





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# BICKLEIGH WEATHER WATCH

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These days the weather forecasters on TV often show the jet stream meandering across the Atlantic towards Britain and explanations of severe or extreme weather are often given in terms of a shift in its position: if the jet stream sits over the UK we are in for stormy wet weather, but if it wanders off north or south we get calm dry conditions with clear skies. So what actually is the jet stream and is it really as important as they say?

The jet stream is a narrow ribbon of intense winds thousands of kilometres long but just hundreds of kilometres wide that snakes its way not only across the Atlantic but also across the Pacific. There is also a southern hemisphere jet stream which is like a mirror image of that in the north but even more intense because it isn't disrupted by the many mountains and continents found in our hemisphere. The jet stream was discovered by Japanese scientist Wasaburo Oishi in the 1920s using weather balloons which were suddenly swept along when they reached high altitude and it's the fact that the jet stream sits several kilometres above the surface that had hidden it from view before this time.

The Atlantic jet stream that affects us sits just to the south of the low pressure storms that track from west to east across the ocean and storms and jet streams are intimately entwined. While the jet stream

steers storms across the Atlantic towards us, it's momentum from the storms that actually drives the jet stream in the first place. The two key ingredients in the recipe for this are the spin of the Earth and a strong warming as you approach the tropics. It's the increase in temperature from the Arctic to the tropics that means winds must flow from the west to the east (meaning our weather arrives from the Atlantic) and also that the winds get stronger with height as found by Oishi's early weather balloons.

The problems for us arrive when the jet stream starts to behave out of the ordinary. Pretty much every extreme winter or summer can be attributed to the jet stream either being unusually strong or unusually weak. Remember the terrible flooding of December 2015 in northern or the Somerset floods and the collapse of the train line after storms at Dawlish in 2014? Well both of these were directly related to a temporary increase in the strength of the jet stream. The 1976 and 2003 summer heatwaves were also due to the jet stream; this time from a weakening and shift of the jet stream away from Britain. Even the extreme cold of December 2010, when Bickleigh was a foot deep in snow, was the result of a shift in the jet stream much further south than normal.

## Resident Scientist

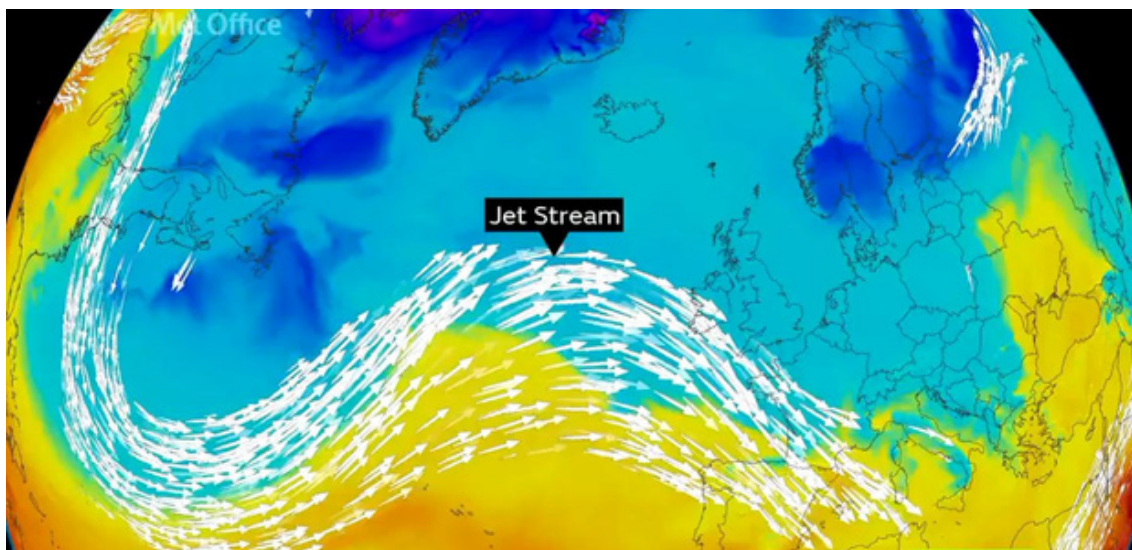


Image: Jet Stream across the Atlantic during spring 2017. MetOffice.



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