

June 2019



As you will be aware the parish is without a Parish Council and the ex-chairman, Derek Harrison, has explained the current situation in this month's Bugle. It is hoped that a new Council can be formed in the near future.

Whilst a Parish Council has little in the way of decision making powers (certainly regarding planning) it forms an important role as "eyes and ears" for us all. Derek and our councillors have done their best over the years and Derek's tenure of some 26 years deserves recognition; thank you.

If you have supported various village and parish events it means much to others who live and work here. It also ensures traditional village and rural organisations continue, against a general decline across much of the UK in community cohesion. We are lucky to live where we do - events and organisations attract a good range of

interested participants but there is always room for more! It is fair to say you will always have a warm welcome at various events, whatever your interests.

Well, here we are in June. Half way through the year already and thoughts turn to the summer. Will we have a re-run of last year? The long range forecast does look reasonably promising so let's hope for a balanced weather pattern. Perhaps lovely sun during the days and some rain at times to please our hard working farmers, who of course supply us all with our fundamental need, food.

Lastly congratulations to Devon County Council. The installed camera on the bridge has stopped (so far) more expensive damage to the bridge. Smile or wave to the camera as you go past?

Have a good June!

Your editors

Steve Batt, The Old School and Michael McAndrew, 2 Bell Meadow

Soup and Pud

The dates for our next two events in the Village Hall are on Tuesdays 18th June and 16th July. If you are in the vicinity and feeling peckish or needing some humour and chat do pop in. You will be very welcome

Bickleigh Gardening Club

On Saturday 11th May Bickleigh Gardening Club held their Annual Plant and Cake Sale. We had a wonderful and vast array of all types of Garden and Vegetable Plants as well as plenty of Delicious Homemade Cakes

Our monthly meeting held on Monday 13th May we had Guest speaker Dr Gavin Hague who gave a extremely Interesting and very informative talk on plants and herbs and their Healing properties .

Bickleigh Gardening Club will hold its next meeting on Monday 10th June with guest speaker Di Wilkins "My Floral World". Hope to see you there.

Sea Sunday Service

Sea Sunday on the 14th July is the global celebration of the enduring and vital work of the Mission to Seafarers. It has been happening every year for over 160 years and is our biggest fundraising event of the year. The Mission will be providing us with material for our traditional annual service also for Bickleigh School. We plan an evening service in St Mary's Bickleigh at 6 pm. All are welcome for an opportunity to say thank you for those whose work supplies nearly all our daily needs.

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Bickleigh Parish Council

Having served as Chair of your Parish Council for 24 of the 29 years living in this village - and as it happens, clerk for most of that time - I have decided the time has come to stand down. Three other councillors – Mrs. Jill Brownlow, Prof. Adam Scaife and Mrs. Jacki Platt are also standing down.

Unfortunately, when the recent notice of election was published, no nominations for councillor were made, so we no longer have a Parish Council. My understanding is that MDDC will appoint two district councillors and one county councillor on an interim basis to act as parish councillors and that they will need to recruit a clerk, as there is also now no clerk.

Probably at some point in the near future, a further notice of election may be published by the District Council, calling for nominations to form a new Parish Council. If then - and again -

insufficient nominations are forthcoming, Parish Council business cannot be transacted and your Parish Council may be dissolved – SO YOU WILL LOSE IT!!

I am sure most of you will agree that having the Parish affairs run by outsiders, which is what the appointed personnel will be, albeit that they will do their best, is not the most satisfactory of situations, far better for the Parish's affairs to be handled by our own.

Being a councillor does not on the whole take up much time, so come on some of you, join Mrs Amanda Somerwill who is happy to remain a Parish councilor, consider standing and do something for your community as and when the time comes, for it would be a great shame if this Parish's collective voice were to be lost.

Derek Harrison, 01884855543

Traditional sayings for June

Houses used to have thatched roofs with thick straw piled high, with little or no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying "it's raining cats and dogs." There was nothing to

stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

Many thanks to Olive. More next month



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Richard goes coast 2 coast 2 coast

Between 26th and 28th May, alongside one of my sons and two friends, I am doing a cycling challenge- riding across Northern England and back again - starting in Workington on the North West coast, riding across the Lake District and over the Pennines to Sunderland on the North Sea. From there, it is up to Newcastle and back across the country via Hadrian's Wall to Carlisle and the Solway Firth and back to Workington- a total of 270 miles.

I am hoping to raise money for ELF (Exeter Leukaemia Fund) through his ride. Our eldest son, Joe, is about to complete his intensive phase in his fight against Leukaemia- he was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia (ALL) in July 2018. ELF have provided superb advice, support and practical help over the last year.

We had a warm up ride back in April, doing the Devon Coast to Coast both ways- so hopefully that training will help! I would be very grateful for any donations to ELF via my Just Giving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/richard-somerwill2>

Many thanks! Richard Somerwill (Shute)



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A vibrant yellow poster for the Bickleigh Car Boot Sale. At the top, the word "BICKLEIGH" is written in large, bold, black letters. Below it, the text "SELLERS £5 A CAR" is on the left and "EVERY FIRST SATURDAY OF MONTH MAR - OCT" is on the right. In the center is a cartoon illustration of a yellow Volkswagen Beetle with "CAR BOOT SALE" written across its hood in large, blue, bubbly letters. The car's license plate reads "B1 CKS". Below the car, the text "AT THE TROUT INN CAR PARK BICKLEIGH" is written in bold black letters, followed by "FROM 8.00AM - 12.00AM". At the bottom, a list of dates is provided: "SATURDAY MARCH 2ND", "SATURDAY APRIL 6TH", "SATURDAY MAY 4TH", "SATURDAY JUNE 1ST" on the left, and "SATURDAY JULY 6TH", "SATURDAY AUGUST 3RD", "SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 7TH", "SATURDAY OCTOBER 5TH" on the right. The background of the poster is a bright yellow sunburst pattern.

A message from David

Thanks for all the help and support Heather and I have received since my slip on the bottom step of the stair at home on St George's Day resulting in a broken ankle. After two operations in Wonford, the bones have been fixed back with metal plate and pins and my right lower leg encased in a bright red cast to remain non weight bearing until the cast comes off on June 12th. My hopping technique is definitely improving!

Offers of help, phone calls, cards and visits have been wonderful. Thank you, Bickleigh. While waiting to have the new plaster fitted along came Dr Fred also with a broken foot. He was seeing the NHS from a different perspective as a patient! Hope it goes well for you, Fred.

The extra non mobile time has allowed me to begin work on the Bickleigh 500 years booklet. I was delighted to receive a phone call from a lady in Tiverton who was very interested in Bickleigh history.

She is a direct descendant of Hiram Arthur, the man who built the first stone bridge in the early 1600's.

The Arthur family she says were blacksmiths from the Uplowman area. Hopefully other information will come to light once our history is in print.

David Meredith

YOGA

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Village Hall News

Quiz night

18th May was a busy evening- there was the Cup Final, Eurovision Song Contest, Devon County Show, Tiverton Variety Show and even Dr Feelgood at Exeter Phoenix..... but 5 teams made the right choice and came along to quiz night at BVH, enjoying some great quizzing and a barrel of Exe Valley Bitter. Our winners were 'Wembley'... Steve and Rachel Harper and friends. Many thanks to our teams for throwing themselves into the event so enthusiastically!

Village Hall maintenance

There is always plenty of work to do at the VH, both inside and out ! We have put together a condition report and site maintenance and development plan, which helps us to prioritise jobs that need doing and their financial implications. We also decided a few dates that we would like to request help from the Bickleigh community in maintaining our great local asset... So if you could help at any of the following dates it would be greatly appreciated

Sat 15th June

Sat 17th Aug

Sat 19th Oct

Sat 21st Dec

Come along from 10am.

FREE BREAKFAST PROVIDED!

Please ring Richard 855053 or Steve 855226 to offer support or with queries.

Facebook page

We are setting up a Bickleigh Village Hall Facebook page to promote the hall and events- look out for it!

Future events

We had to cancel our 'Longest Day' event as there were too many other events happening at once and we risked spending on an event that would be unlikely to be well supported. However, we are hoping to hold an open barbecue afternoon and evening in the orchard on Sat 13th July- we will provide a bar- you bring your barbecue and food.

**Come together for
a village BBQ!**

Sat 13th July in the Orchard

**Bring a BBQ or a picnic,
bring some games!**

Keep the date free!

**New Years Eve Party at
Bickleigh Village Hall!**

Pews News

What do the following have in common and why is it important to know whether you are left handed or right handed? Perhaps if you are ambidextrous (as was my late father) it does not matter. The uncommon items are a "stulch", a "brow course" and a "leggett". The last has an heritage of being derived from Latin. At least I believe this to be the case. A very ancient form but not I think as old as the plough which heralded the change in our common humanity from the wandering to the settled.

I find myself enthralled by mother nature as she forces up the sap to explode the varied hues of green despite a changeable weather pattern. Gardens are beginning to show their splendid growth and colour, I wonder at the trill of the birds and in these parts the mournful cry of the one we have nick named "Percy"; one of Bickleigh Mill's male peacocks searching for a mate. Beware your thatch and mind your road manners on Bickleigh Hill, Percy has little if any road sense.

Bickleigh Parish Council - Over the years I have had two spells as "Clerk to the Council". So I was surprised to learn that we are in difficulties over finding volunteers to fill the vacancies of those Councillors who have stood down. Perhaps the lack of a Clerk made more difficult the process of keeping parishioners aware of the need for others to consider volunteering for the several vacancies that have arisen, to the extent that we no longer have a functioning council. I understand that in these circumstances (a national problem it appears) two Mid Devon and one County Councillor will come together to form a quorum to take on the legal responsibilities of a Parish Council. A meeting of parishioners is then held. At the meeting one of two options will be tabled. One option is to return to the system we have had over many years. The other is to opt for a simpler arrangement an example being that adopted in Cadeleigh Parish. This being so and speaking

personally I think the latter option is now more suited to our needs. What do others think?

Bickleigh School – I went into Bickleigh School the other week to be met by signs which enjoined one to silence. A cathedral quiet over what is normally a boisterous and industrious place to work. It was SATS week. I went there to learn how the End of Term Service, now on the horizon, manages to first purchase and then hand out Bibles to the year six leavers. What other parishes find difficult to afford is made up by generosity from other directions. As Ascension falls in the half term break we have agreed that the tradition of the year six pupils climbing to the top of St Mary's church tower will take place on Monday 15th July. The summer term also brings to a close a long association with the school. Mrs Alison Nelson is retiring from her role as a Foundation Governor. Alison has been a most loyal and effective governor over many years.

On fun here are some diary dates: the camping weekend on the 21st - 23rd June, Summer Fair 12th June Swimming Gala 27th/28th June, Year 3 Wild-side Residential 28th June Class 4 / 5 Summer Performance Afternoon and Evening 5th July Sports Day - 1.00 pm start, 8th—12th July Year 5 & 6 Activity Week (15th July Sports Day Back up date 6pm) —Instrumental Music Concert 16th/17th July Class 5 Swimming at Blundells 19th July Year 6 Leavers Concert -

House Group 2019 – We have taken on quite a task in the summer months and perhaps beyond. We are going to delve into the prophet Ezekiel over seven sessions. One of the few books of the Hebrew Bible that biblical scholarship suggests was in the main written by the prophet to which the book is ascribed. He lived at a difficult time for the people of Israel when they came under the rule of the Babylonian empire. The sort of prophet who sees in disaster the seeds of hope for the future. We meet on Thursday evenings from 7.30 to 9 pm at Gable Cottage. All welcome.

Rev TM Thompson - Assistant Minister

Spiraux, anyone?

THORVERTON, DEVON.
TO be LET by Tender, for a Term of Ten Years from Lady-day next, all that **MESSAGE. TENEMENT, and FARM, called PERRY,**
Containing by admeasurement about 92 Acres, situate in the parish of Thorverton, and now in the occupation of Mr. Wm. WIPPELL.
And, also to be Let, either with the same premises or as a separate Estate, as may be determined on, for a term of Nine Years and Half, from Michaelmas, 1848, all those Tenements and Farms called
WAY, WOODWALLS, AND SPIRAUX.
containing by admeasurement, about 153 Acres, also situate in the said parish of Thorverton, and adjoining the said first-mentioned Farm, and likewise in the occupation of the said Mr. Wm. WIPPELL.
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For viewing the Premises, and for further particulars, application may be made to Mr. VICARY, Fursdon Barton, Cadbury, and Tenders in writing for taking the Estates or either of them, may be sent, on or before the 3rd day of September next, to
Mr. WINSLOW JONES,
Dated Exeter, 23rd July, 1847. **Solicitor, Exeter.**

John Greenslade came across this notice from 1847. The farms called WAY and WOODWALLS are known still but John wonders if any reader knows where SPIRAUX was?

Need a shed?

The Gardening Club's shed, situated at the Village Hall is no longer required. It is FREE OF CHARGE but will need to be dismantled. If interested it can be viewed at the back of the hall on the Village Hall carpark, third one along by the carpark.

Contact michelledennis79@gmail.com (secretary).

Bob Deed, your local councillor

Mid Devon District Council Election

May I thank all of you who came out to vote in the District Council Election on May 2nd, however you voted.

After a campaign lasting some two months, in which residents were treated to visits on the door from both myself and Gavin Donovan, I was re-elected for a fourth term to represent Cadbury Ward.

Of the 42 District Councillors elected this time, 18 were Conservative, 12 Liberal Democrats, 10 Independents and two from the Green Party. I have been elected Leader of the Independent Group.

At the first meeting of the Full Council, on 22nd May, I had the honour of being elected the Leader of Mid Devon District Council. Notwithstanding,

Bickleigh Parish council election

For the Election on May 2nd, no person from Bickleigh Parish submitted papers to MDDC to be a Parish Councillor for Bickleigh.

Therefore, Mid Devon District Council has the responsibility to provide a Parish Council until Members of the Bickleigh community are co-opted or some other arrangement is made. Four County/District Councillors will be deputed to form the Bickleigh Parish Council, of which I will, undoubtedly, be one.

Bob Deed, bdeed@middevon.gov.uk, 01392 861258



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After several weeks the workshop was ready and we founded 'The Old Stable Wood Turning Co.'

Church Council Meeting

We next meet on **Tuesday 25th June 2019** at 6.30 pm in Gable Cottage.

The main business will be to take a finance statement and review the procedures for preparing a "Parish Statement" as part of the interregnum.

What's on June 2019

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
May 27	28	29	30	31	June 1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 Bickleigh school summer fair	9
10 Bickleigh Gardening club	11	12	13	14	15 Village Hall work day	16
17	18 Soup and Pud	19	20	21	22 Exeter Male Voice Choir summer concert (Thorverton)	23
24	25 Church Council Meeting	26	27	28	29	30

Quotes for June

Wisteria woke me this morning,
And there was all June in the garden;
I felt them, early, warning
Lest I miss any part of the day.

Straight I walked to the trellis vine.
Wisteria touched a lifted nostril:
Feelings of beauty diffused, to entwine
My spirit with June's own aura.

Ann McGough, Summons

On this June day the buds in my garden are
almost as enchanting as the open flowers. Things
in bud bring, in the heat of a June noontide, the
recollection of the loveliest days of the year -

those days of May when all is suggested, nothing
yet fulfilled.

Francis King

In June, as many as a dozen species may burst
their buds on a single day. No man can heed all
of these anniversaries; no man can ignore all of
them.

Aldo Leopold

know well
that the June rains
just fall.

Onitsura

Submissions to the Bugle very welcome!
Email your stories and events to bickleighbugle@outlook.com
by the 20th to be included in the next edition