



Parish Council	Job Responsibility	Area Responsibility
Mr D Venner(Chmn) 656 637	Quantock Hills	Culverhayes, Newton, Kingswood, TA4 4ET
Mr M Andersen 07760 170300	Roads	Dashwoods Lane, Combe Close
Mr J Grellier 656 799	Police Liaison]	Church Lane, Parsons Close, Gatchells Lane
Mrs N Russell 656 710	Young People]	
[position vacant]	Rights of Way	Quantockside, TA4 4EH, Woolston
Mrs C Skinner 618 300	Environment	Hill Lane, Honey Row Lane, Halsway
Mr C Warren 07872 470133	Planning	Trendle Lane, Quantock Moor, Chilcombe Lane
Mrs M ter Braak 656 633	Parish Clerk	

Neighbourhood Watch Wardens		
Murray Bush 632 878	Woolston	
Carol Darke 656 222	South of A358	
John Lees 656 333	Dashwoods Lane, Combe Close	
Mark Ogden 656 371	Church Lane, Gatchells Lane, Parsons Close	
Cerys Randell 656 956	Trendle Lane, Quantock Moor, Chilcombe Lane	
Kees ter Braak 656 633	Honey Row Lane, Hill Lane	

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH - John Lees writes:

Same old story, thank Heavens! Nothing to report BUT keep up the good sensible precautions - car in drive when you're away (having told your warden!) and automatic lights. The police recommend you mark valuable objects with your post code, using an invisible ink pen. Should you want one of these, ask your warden.

YOUR PARISH MATTERS

Parish Clerk - it was mentioned in the last Pumpings that the present Clerk, Mary ter Braak, is stepping down at the end of March after 10 years in the job. We are very pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs Jan Leeming who will take over as Parish Clerk from 1 April 2013. She is at present Clerk to Stogumber PC and we are delighted that she has offered to take on Bicknoller PC as well!

Parish Emergency Plan - the Parish Council has produced an Emergency Plan, following recommendations from several bodies including the Somerset Association of Local Councils and Somerset County Council. The Emergency Services - Police, Fire, and Ambulance - will always prioritise those in greatest need during an emergency. However, there may be times, such as severe weather, flooding, major incident etc. when the emergency services are so overwhelmed they may not be able to immediately attend incidents within our community.

By becoming more resilient and having a formal plan in place, individuals and our community can complement the work of the emergency responders which can reduce the impact of any emergency and assist in the recovery process.

The Emergency Plan is in two parts - the first part details generic information and is available on the Parish website. The second part will remain confidential because of the information it contains. If you require further information about the plan, would like to view a hard copy, would like to be part of the Parish Response Team, or feel you would like to be added to the 'at risk' list then please contact John Grellier (01984 656799).

Welcome to the Parish

David & Clair Jones to Culverhayes Cottage

Bill & Sue Watton, Moor Cottage, Woolston

Davina & Christopher, Archie and Hugo Flanagan O'Keefe to Chilcombe Stables

LIGHT UP THE NIGHT - it cheers us all to see the church lit up. If you want that done in memory of someone, please call John Lees - 656333

BICKNOLLER FLOWER SHOW - Carole Darke writes: we invite you all to fill in the form that will arrive through your letter box, and join us for 2013. We rely on subscriptions and the generosity of patrons to run our 2 annual flower shows.

Yes! the **SPRING SHOW** is on **Saturday 23 March** from 2.30-4.30p.m. in the Village Hall. Please come along and, better still, pick up a schedule from Bicknoller Shop and ENTER some of your daffodils and other garden spring blooms! Further details from Carole 656222.

SOCIAL CLUB - Marian Greswell writes:

This friendly club meets every third Wednesday of the month (excluding August and usually December). Most meetings take place at 2.30 p.m. in the Village Hall with some evening meetings in summer. Our Secretary arranges a wide variety of events, such as talks (usually illustrated), demonstrations, discussions, quizzes and visits; most have a local flavour, others are more general.

We have recently enjoyed a talk and demonstration about the Support Dogs charity - and yes, the dogs gave a great performance in the Hall. We had a most unusual and entertaining re-enactment of life as a kitchen made at Glastonbury Abbey, authentic dress included. A talk with slides on the work of the National Trust at Holnicote had to be called off at the last minute due to dramatic flooding but is rescheduled for July 2013 instead.

We now look forward to an afternoon of **Joyce Grenfell fun on 20 February** - look out for the posters! More entertainment will follow month by month.

So - do come and join us. Membership is only £8 a year; non-members are welcome to attend meetings for a small fee. The more members we have the more advance planning and booking we can do and the more fun can be had by all. Please contact our Secretary - Jean Challender - on 656760.

BICKNOLLER W.I. - Maggie Pumphrey writes:

At our AGM in November 2012 Maggie Pumphrey was elected President, Glen Heaton - Treasurer and Pam Salmon - Secretary. Unfortunately, Pam had to resign before the year got underway and Jean Pennington-Ridge took on the role. Nicole Milton and Barbara Kelsey make up the committee.

The changes in committee resulted in a delay in agreeing a programme for 2013 but at the January meeting ideas were put forward and votes were cast, resulting in a varied programme with most of the meetings involving all members in a variety of activities.

14 February sees a **demonstration of skin care and make up**, sponsored by Boots the Chemist and allowing Shirley Cropper to go to town on one of our members.

Members will be involved in **making lemonade** at our **14 March meeting** and will be learning how to paint on glass in June. Other crafts being covered during the year are making gift boxes and making Christmas cards using a "teabag folding" technique - these will be in November as we get ready for Christmas. However, before that members will be learning how to Belly-dance at our birthday meeting in October.

Our AGM will take place in future in the month of May and a vote on the National WI resolutions will take place then. To ensure we have a full evening of fun, Michele and Gary Sears will be testing our knowledge with a quick fun quiz.

We are hoping friends and neighbours will be joining us for our open meetings on in April and September. **"Life on the Canals"** will be the subject of a presentation on **11 April**, when Bruce Harding of Stogumber will be explaining how people lived and worked on canal boats in the 19th century.

In September you are invited to join us in a visit to Halsway Manor when a presentation will be

given on the wall hangings that depict the history of folk dance. The presentation will be accompanied by appropriate music played by Brian Heaton.

Our Christmas dinner will be at Brambletye, hosted by Glen Heaton and with Jenny Jenkins providing our Christmas meal.

Our meetings take place on the second Thursday evening of each month at Bicknoller Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. but we also meet for skittles and other activities. So, ladies, do come and join us and see for yourself what fun and friendship the WI can offer. For more information contact Maggie Pumphrey on 656394.

OUR VILLAGE HALL- Robert Hardy writes:

The Hall continues to get plenty of use. There have been two changes to the Management Committee with Rose Fish standing down after many years of valuable service, most recently representing the Mothers' Union. Joining the committee, to represent the Table Tennis Club, is David Thorpe who was already helping us in a number of practical ways, particularly in setting up and monitoring our website, as well as re-enforcing Carol's work as Bookings Secretary.

The most striking physical change to the hall is the new tarmac laid on the drive, the cost for which was shared between the Hall and the Village Shop.

A prominent sign is now in place to remind visitors that the car park is not a public one and urging them to make a contribution towards its upkeep. A handrail is due to be fixed on the low wall by the front door.

The Musical Evening with Regal Rhythm, planned for October, had to be cancelled for lack of support. We are putting on a **Quiz on Friday 12 April** in an innovative format, which promises to make a lively evening and the **May market** will take place on **Saturday 18 May**.

OUR SHOP - Maggie Pumphrey writes:

How would you feel if this village did not have a shop?

Would you want to live in a village that does not have one?

Would you be happy that everyone has to travel out of the village for everything they need – unless you shop on line of course, but not everyone wants to, or can, do that!

Would you be concerned that the value of your property would fall if the shop was to close?

Whatever your concerns may be at the loss of our shop we ask you to please help to keep our village shop going by doing some of your shopping here !

ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH - Rev. Val Plumb writes:

Are you feeling flushed? Bicknoller PCC, as part of its mission plan, is currently debating the issue of having a public convenience attached to their church. This is the first of its kind in the Benefice and naturally is something that needs to be decided upon carefully through prayer and practicality.

It is no surprise that such a debate will trigger all sorts of concerns about appropriateness and relevance.

Having said that we do need to think about making these buildings more relevant for the 21st century. As time goes by it will be no longer appropriate to expect people to come to cold premises with poor facilities. We must start to get into the mindset that we are service providers in every sense of the word!

I wonder if these concerns were what originally brought us from candlelight to electric (Elworthy excluded).

Whenever work is done on such listed buildings as ours, the diocesan architect and Advisory Committee spend a great deal of time thinking this through and do not agree to things lightly.

Some of the current recommendations are that the public convenience must be disabled friendly and look like part of the building. Such actions to ensure approval mean it must not be able to be seen from the road and that it must have a sloped roof. A window is required and the correct stonework must be adhered to.

The positives of such a decision are two fold; firstly no longer will those who attend occasional offices or weekly services be inconvenienced, and especially the clergy who run from church to church. Secondly, it opens up the church as a more appropriate venue for Community and deanery events.

This will be an expensive project that we will fund raise for and hopefully attain supporting grants. Part of this will involve making sure all procedure has been completed correctly, including a notice of planning permission that will be displayed on the church notice board shortly. Please keep Bicknoller in your prayers as it seeks to make this pioneering decision.

BICKNOLLER'S JUBILEE BELL - Dr Peter Darke writes: Bicknoller's ancient ring of church bells (the oldest bell, number 3, dates from approximately 1420, when it was cast in Exeter) is to be augmented from a ring of 5 to 6 by the Jubilee Bell, which has been acquired from High Wycombe through the Kelttek Trust. This has cost about £3500 (including fittings), and the cost of hanging the new bell (which we hope should take place in mid-2013) is quoted as £6671 + VAT. The Village Jubilee Bell Fund has been very successful in raising over £6000, thanks to the efforts of the Jubilee Fund Committee and the generosity of villagers. Bicknoller PCC has also agreed to contribute a further £2000 towards the hanging of the new bell.

We have applied for a further grant from the Diocesan Bell Fund, and at least two further village events are planned to help fundraising: first, a **Valentine's dance** in the village hall on **Saturday 16th February** – tickets (£10, to include food) will be available from Marie Robinson (Tel; 656904); and second, Carole Darke (656222) is organising the opening of **village gardens** on **Sunday 5th May**, with a Sunday lunch and afternoon tea to be offered in the village hall. We are very grateful to Marian Greswell for suggesting this and kindly opening her garden for this occasion. We sincerely hope that villagers will be able to support these fundraising events, and we now have plenty of ringers to ring the bells!

MOTHERS' UNION - Molly Farmer writes:

The Branch began the year by welcoming 3 new members. Our programme for this year includes a talk on The Life and Work of Julian of Norwich. We will be hearing from another member of her five years spent as a missionary in Nepal and, for those who missed his earlier talk, Desmond Venner will give a beautifully illustrated presentation of his **"Walk along the Great Wall of China"** during an evening with supper, to which you are invited, on **Wednesday 8 May - 7 p.m. in the Village Hall.**

An opportunity to "Make a Mother's Day" arises again this year. Pick up a brochure or an envelope from any of our 6 churches and make a Mother's day by sending a gift from your mother or in memory of her.

The worldwide Annual Meeting comes to the Bath & Wells Diocese on 11 and 12 June. We are hosting this event for the first time (and probably the only time in our lifetimes) in the City of Bath. A coach will be provided to take us to the General Meeting on 12 June to be held in the City Forum Church. The coach will depart from Porlock, picking up en route from the various branches in Exmoor & Quantock Deaneries.

Full details of all our events are to be found in "Pathways" each month. Thanks to all those who support us each year. If you are interested in becoming a member or want to learn more about the work of the Mothers' Union, call Molly Farmer on 656486.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - QUANTOCK BRANCH

This has been a very busy time for the Branch, despite the serious illness of our Chairman, Pam Miles. Lengthy treatment of her throat cancer has prevented her from leading the Branch. Mercifully, her husband Rob Miles stepped into her shoes and has done a wonderful job as her substitute, including secretarial duties.

The main activities last year were as follows - the Annual Barbecue in August raised over £800 and £910 was raised at the "Pedal to Paris" fundraising supper to sponsor Martin Cox who undertook this national event, paying his own expenses.

Graham High and his 12 door-to-door collectors raised £1,874 during the Poppy Appeal. To this will be added late donations and Gift Aid Tax relief amounting to £150. Finally, Remembrance Sunday was very well attended and the collection amounted to £327.

At the AGM in November 2012 the following officers were appointed: Graham High (President), John Lees (Chairman), Rob Miles (Hon. Secretary), Clive Thorne (Hon. Treasurer), Christine Waters (Standard Bearer) and committee members - Gladys Fillary, Charles Greswell and Martin Cox.

Dunkirk Memorial House - at long last work started on the construction of the new 30 bed Dementia Unit. This is an enormous project and residents refer to the muddy site as "the Somme". It should be open in September 2013, by which time 150 additional staff will have been recruited. Due to the upheaval, there will be no summer fair or other events this year.

DATES TO REMEMBER - all events take place in the Village Hall unless otherwise stated.

Thu 14 Feb - Skincare & make up demo

7.30 pm. (W.I. event)

Sat 16 Feb - "Valentines Dance" - 7.30 p.m. in aid of Jubilee Bell Fund

Wed 20 Feb - "Afternoon with Miss Joyce Grenfell" - 2.30 p.m. (Social Club event)

Thu 14 Mar - "Making Lemonade" - 7.30 p.m. (W.I. event)

Sat 23 March - Spring Flower Show - 2.30 p.m.

Thu 11 April - "Life on the Canals" - 7.30 p.m. (W.I. Open Meeting)

Fri 12 April - Village Hall Quiz evening

Sun 5 May - Village Open Gardens day

Wed 8 May - "Walk along the Great Wall of China" - talk & supper - 7 p.m. (Mothers' Union event)

Sat 18 May - May Market