



<u>Parish Council</u>	<u>Job Responsibility</u>	<u>Area /Responsibility</u>
Mr M Andersen(Chmn) 07760 170300	Roads	Dashwoods Lane, Combe Close
Mr C Warren(Vice Ch) 07872 470133	Planning	Trendle Lane, Quantock Moor, Chilcombe La.
Mr D Venner 656637	Quantock Hills	Culverhayes, Newton, Kingswood, TA4 4ET
Mr J Grellier 656799	Police Liaison	Church Lane, Parsons Close, Gatchells Lane
Mrs N Russell 656710	Young People	13 Church Lane
Mr R Murphy 639394	Rights of Way	Quantockside, TA4 4EH, Woolston
Mrs C Skinner 618300	Environment	Hill Lane, Honey Row Lane, Halsway
Mrs C Richards 632124	Parish Clerk	8A Quantock Grove Williton TA4 4PD

<u>Neighbourhood Watch Wardens</u>		
Murray Bush 632 878	Woolston	
Carol Darke 656 222	South of A358	
John Lees 656 333	Dashwoods Lane, Combe Close	
John Grellier 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 – Gary Sears writes:
 Telephones, thank you Alexander Graham Bell. What would we do with out them, well, we would not have to answer cold callers selling time shares or any other consumable that we definitely do not want but the person at the other end makes you feel guilty about refusing. We would not have those scam callers from an international number telling us that our computer has a virus and we need to pay them lots of money to rectify the problem (I recently had one of these calls at the village shop, I manage to keep him on the line for some time, of course, at his cost!).
 There are solutions! Read on.
 TPS - Telephone Preference Service. You can online (and by telephone) register your telephone number with the preference not to receive unsolicited calls. My number is registered and I seldom receive any of these calls. If I do (normally 1 or 2 a year), I conduct the conversation as follows; Caller "I represent Opaque Windows UK (or similar) I.....I interrupt at this point and say "Where did you get my number as I am registered with TPS"
 More often than not it goes quiet at the other end and an apology is issued. I ask them to ensure my number is removed from their list. I have never had it go any further than that but my next retort would be to ask for their company name, address

and telephone number and of course their name and forward these to TPS.
 Caller identification. For a very small quarterly fee caller identification is available from your telephone provider. I signed up for this many years ago and initially thought it a novelty, I would not be without it now, it is worth every penny. If you have a phone handset that has a number display then you are able to see immediately who is calling. If you have programmed your relatives, friends and useful numbers in to the handset then when they call their name will appear. Even if the number is not programmed in you can see the number calling, if it is local you will recognise the code and be more relaxed about answering. If the display shows "International number" you can make a decision whether to answer or not, in any case you will already be on your guard. Likewise calls showing "withheld" can be dealt with in a similar fashion.
 Answer machines. The new machines are now far more efficient and no longer use a tape, are clearer and simple to use. I keep my machine on answer all the time, in that way if I see a call I am not happy with I let the machine pick it up. If it is a call I wish to take I simply pick up the phone and the machine cuts out, if it is an unwanted caller they soon disconnect when they hear the answer machine.
 Finally from April this year new legislation will help reduce nuisance calls. Basically the level of

annoyance caused by unsolicited calls will only need to be of a minor nature and action can be taken by the Information Commissioner (ICO) against companies or individuals.

TPS - tpsonline.org.uk or phone 0845 070 0707

ICO - ico.org.uk or phone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745

Answer machines are available at Argos, other retail outlets are available

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

SOCIAL CLUB – Jean Challender writes:

The Social Club meets every third Wednesday of the month (except August and December) at 2.30 pm in Bicknoller Village Hall. Members are not restricted to residents of Bicknoller – we have members from Woolston, Sampford Brett, Williton and Cedar Falls and warmly welcome new members. Membership costs only £15 per year, or if you would like a “taster”, you may attend individual events for £2.50.

April sees a presentation by Derek Briggs, author and volunteer with the RSPB, “Life on the Edge: the Somerset Wetlands”. The Somerset Levels were brought to public notice with the floods of 2013 and 2014, but they have long been recognised as a vitally important over-wintering and breeding sites for thousands of wildfowl. Derek will be showing us the highlights of the species there in this fully illustrated talk, as well as the dangers facing this unique landscape.

In May, Charles Sundquist will be presenting “Pole to Pole”, an extraordinary presentation of the spectacular landscape and wildlife of both the North and South Poles.

For May, Chrissie Payne will be telling us about the work of the West Somerset Food Cupboard, set up to help those who, even if they are working, do not have enough money to feed themselves properly.

For further details, please contact Jean Challender, the Secretary, on 656760.

BICKNOLLER W.I. - Maggie Pumphrey writes:

Our member, Barbara Kelsey will be representing Bicknoller WI at the Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday, 2nd June. On the 4th June, member Daphne Leggetter will be attending the Centenary AGM at the Royal Albert Hall.

Yes the WI of England and Wales is 100 years old this year and great activities are taking place up and down the land.

8 members of our WI attended a supper at Crowcombe to welcome to Somerset the Centenary Batton, (which has travelled around every county).

On 9th July we will have our own centenary celebration at Bicknoller and we are hoping that many of you in our community will come and join us for a buffet supper and to experience some magical entertainment from a member of the Magic Circle – David Beckley. At this event we will be raising funds for the new children's playground at the village hall, Bicknoller. The WI is an important part of the community and we want to share our centenary celebration with you whilst contributing to a worthwhile cause in the village.

Before July though, we have an active time. As well as our monthly meetings we are offering a lunch at Bicknoller Village Hall on 21st April – home-made soup with a roll and butter followed by cake and coffee. Do come ! And we are doing a sponsored walk in support of a water project in rural India. Sponsorship forms will be in Bicknoller Shop.

Our meetings feature some interesting speakers – come to our open meeting in April to see a very professional performance by an unusual lady who makes her own puppets and educates us, in a fun way, using the puppets; fascinating and well worth seeing. We have Richard Judd from Taunton School coming in June to talk about Islam and Women – a very interesting subject.

May I bring your attention to the Bicknoller Bra Campaign. We are collecting unwanted bras – of any shape, size and colour (even off-white) to raise money for the charity “Against Breast Cancer”. In conjunction with the shop Nickerbocker Glory in Minehead, the bras are being collected and sent to developing countries. The Breast Cancer Charity is benefitting by financial donations relating to the weight of each full sack of bras. Ladies please take your bras along to Bicknoller Shop and pop them in the container provided.

From all this you can see that we are a very active and happy WI with, currently, 24 members. If any lady in the parish has not yet joined us and would like to give us a try please come along on the second Thursday of the month, 7.30pm at Bicknoller Village Hall – you will be most welcome.

OUR VILLAGE HALL- Marie Robinson writes:

Once again we held a very successful Quiz on 21 March. Thanks to you, we raised £407.50 towards the refurbishment of the children's playground. Our thanks go to Gary and Michèle Sears for setting the quiz, Clive and Ann Raisey and Michèle for cooking the delicious supper, Belinda Mountain for selling the raffle tickets and to Daphne Leggetter, Avriel and Eddie Allen for serving and washing up.

This year's May Market is scheduled for 23 May, so come along and stock up on your summer bedding. As usual we will have a Trash & Treasure stall, so any donations will be gratefully received. We are planning to have another Coffee and

Cakes morning on 13 June so note your diaries, please.

The Village Hall sub committee dealing with the playground refurbishment have decided to go with a company called Playdale. We have a further site meeting scheduled for 1 April to agree on the final equipment to be installed and the price. We hope to display the plans for all to see when these are finalised.

We will then make grant applications to obtain the necessary funds. If anyone has any ideas or contacts which may be of help in raising funds we shall be happy to hear from you.

Finally, we are pleased that David Thorpe is currently looking into the Hall having its own broadband connection.

OUR SHOP - Maggie Pumphrey writes:

After serving on the shop committee for over 15 years, firstly as Secretary then as Shop Manager I will be giving up the role of Shop Manager at the end of June. Most of you will know that I expressed at the last AGM a wish to step down within this current year and the time has come. The Pumphrey family have been involved in the shop from the very beginning when Bill was approached by John Lees to help him to get a shop going. The first letters regarding the shop were sent out from my electric typewriter (no home computer then). So you will understand that this has been a hard decision to make but a necessary one due to other demands on my time. If anyone is interested in talking over what is involved in managing the shop please talk to me or to Clive Raisey.

The shop is undergoing some refurbishment as I write this and you will see some changes taking place over the coming months.

So many changes have taken place over the twenty years since it was first opened – yes the shop celebrates its 20th birthday this year – and the photograph albums will be displayed in the shop for the benefit of those who were not living here at the time or who just want to reminisce about all the excitement there was at that time.

One of the changes we tried recently was to cut back on the variety of stock of fruit and vegetables in order to try to reduce wastage. However, this has not worked too well and has perhaps resulted in some customers going to Williton to do the shopping they would normally do in Bicknoller. So by the time you receive this issue of Pumpings the variety will have increased back to almost its previous level.

If you are not in the habit of shopping in the village do come and give it a try. It saves time, petrol and parking charges and the service is very helpful and friendly – thanks to our 41 volunteers who give up their time to serve the community.

ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH –

Well it has been a fairly quiet few winter months since Christmas at Saint George's.

Can I just remind those of you who take Pathways that your annual subscription is due, in case you haven't given your 5 to your distributor.

We had a quite moving service on Ash Wednesday evening with Rev Val anointing us with ash, which was the first of the lent course being held weekly in the churches.

On the 18th April, Helen Shapiro is coming to give us a Gospel Outreach evening at Danesfield School,

7.30pm, 5. Tickets can be obtained from Jean Pennington-Ridge tel:- 656555.

Our Annual Church Council meeting is on 19th April 12.30pm after the service, which you are all invited to.

Sadly we are losing Cerys Randell as our Church Warden, she will be sorely missed by us all. And we thank her so much for all she has done for the church during her time of office.

Many thanks also go to Julie Hall-Williams who is coming off the PCC as well. The PCC always needs 'newblood' so if any body feels they could join us, they would be very welcome.

And now as Easter approaches, we are loving the sights and sounds of Spring, I hope you are too.

HAPPY EASTER from us all.

MOTHERS' UNION – Quantock Towers Branch

Molly Farmer writes:

The Branch began 2015 with the A.G.M. when we looked back over 2014 and planned the full programme for 2015.

Our Diocese, Bath & Wells, has links with Dioceses in other Continents. Because there are new Dioceses coming into the Church, worldwide, our Links have changed this year and we have lost those with which we have been linked for many years and have a new set with which to correspond.

We now have the Diocese of False Bay in South Africa, Shinyanga in Tanzania, and Umuahia and Ijebu South West in Nigeria. We are also linked to the Diocese Vellore in India. We look forward to corresponding with our sisters (and brothers) in these countries and know that, over the years ahead, our Diocesan officers will be visiting some of these Branches and will be taking with them anything which they are in need of. If anyone reading this information - and has friends or family in these countries - please let us know.

Branch Meetings this year have already included an afternoon with Martin Southwood who presented a programme with photographs, words and music of visits to the Scilly Isles. In March we also enjoyed an afternoon with our Rector, the Revd. Val. whose Talk and Meditation was based on the words 'BE STILL' and gave us cause to concentrate and enjoy a thoughtful time.

In April we are joining with the Old Cleeve Branch for an afternoon with Dr Shirley Gover whose illustrated Talk is entitled 'Our Canoeing Adventures on the Yukon'. The Revd. Jon Rose and his wife will tell of their visit to New Zealand, during our May Meeting and we will also be taking part the Diocesan Annual Meeting this year at Creech St Michael.

We welcome visitors to join with us for each or any of our Meetings, Services and Outings ,who might wish to do so. Full details can be found in Pathways or can be obtained from Molly Farmer (656486) or from any Member of the Branch.

HISTORY IN OUR MIDST: John Lees writes:-

There are,(as I am sure you know) four semi-detached Almshouses in Our Parish (Woolston). The Chairman of the Committee that runs them is also (by the wishes of the Founder) the Parish Council Chairman.

Eight years ago one of the Licencees/Tenants sadly passed away. She was called Heidi BEER.A socially rather grand character, and a bit reclusive, she seemed to spend her days in a silk dressing gown smoking from a long cigarette holder, (despite being asked not to because of the fire risk!).

We were amazed to read her Obituary in the Times. Born a Baroness , she could read and write five European languages fluently. She became a minor film actress ,and worked with, amongst others, Noel Coward, Basil Rathbone and Marlene Dietrich.

She married A Liverpool textile magnate, who was, amongst many other posts, a Conductor of the Royal Opera House.

During the War Years, they spent much of their time at the Savoy Hotel in London, where many European luminaries stayed , including General de Gaulle.(who took a shine to her French!

After her husband died in 1971, she became a painter of some repute.

A postscript to John Lees' article

Paul Mansfield writes:

The story of how the Bartholomew Thomas Almshouses came into being is one worth repeating (though rather too long for Parish Pumpings). Suffice to say, the Almshouses were built at the start of the 20C on the site of six old cottages, five were thatched and one slated. By 1901 the cottages were in a state of disrepair. They must have been tiny and certainly not suitable for a family of any size. The last we read of them is in the West Somerset Free Press on 31st August 1901 when they were put up for sale. The residents listed at that time were Thomas Nicholas, Hannah Symons, William Burgess, John Hooper and Ellen Williams. The cottages were demolished just a short time later.

A further article on 24th February 1906 stated:

"The block of buildings henceforth to be known as the Bartholomew Thomas Almshouses contain four

cottages, and are situate by the side of the road which runs through Woolston, on a site where six old cottages stood, which have been pulled down to make way for the new building. The architect was Mr T H Andrew of Minehead, the builders were Messrs James Chibbett and Sons, of Williton. The walls of the building are of local stone and are rough cast; the roof is boarded, felted, and covered with Bridgwater hand made tiles. The window frames are of oak, and the glazing of leaded lights, while the floors of the lobbies and the living rooms are of wood blocks, all the internal fittings and the sanitary arrangements being carried out in thorough accordance with the latest modern ideas. The two end houses are somewhat larger than the others and contain each a porch with seats, a lobby, living room, 13ft 6in by 12ft, scullery and usual offices and two bedrooms, one the same size as the living room and the other somewhat smaller, each with cupboards. The other two houses are similar as regards accommodation, but the arrangements differ slightly, and they have the benefit of a large veranda facing almost due south. In short, everything in the entire arrangement of the building has been provided that can possibly make for the comfort of the occupants, while the exterior is handsome and pleasing".

Back in the 18C my ancestor Elias Mansfield lived at Woolston. Considering the size of the housing stock in the area it is quite probable that he occupied one of the six old cottages at some time during his life.

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

QUANTOCK ECO

invites you to Crowcombe Church House on Friday 17th April at 8p.m. Entry £2 Members free for an Environmental Question Time!

Your chance to hear from some local prospective parliamentary candidates about their policies. The debate follows after the AGM at 7p.m.

Helen Shapiro is giving a Gospel Outreach evening at Danesfield School on 18 April

BICKNOLLER FLOWER SHOW

invites you to a free illustrated talk ALL ABOUT PONDS

on June 4th at 7.30pm

Come along and be inspired.

BICKNOLLER OPEN GARDENS

for the British Red Cross

SUNDAY May 10th 12noon-5p.m.

Entry to 6 gardens £5.

Tombola, plant and produce stalls.

Refreshments all day in the Village Hall.

Prebooked 2 course lunches £7.50 - please phone 01984 656222.

LIST OF CLUBS, COMMITTEES AND SOCIETIES

Flower Show Committee

Chairman	Claire Rawle	618362
Secretary	Carole Darke	656222
Treasurer	Jean Challender	656760

Mother's Union Molly Farmer 656486

Parochial Church Council

Rector	Val Plumb	656585
Church Warden	Mike Pennington-Ridge	656555
Secretary	Belinda Mountain	631491
Treasurer	David Gover	656252

Quantock Eco

Chairman	Ian Myers	01823 423370
Vice Chairman	Gill Gray	01823 423017
Treasurer	Carole Darke	656222

Royal British Legion

Vice Chairman	Martin Cox	656224
Treasurer	Clive Thorne	641713
Secretary	Robin Miles	632742

Social Club

Chairman	Marian Gresswell	656285
Treasurer	Brian Towler	632809
Secretary	Jean Challender	656760

Village Hall

Chairman	Marie Robinson	656904
Secretary	Mary Hill	656628
Bookings	Carol Thorpe	656402
Treasurer/Vice Chairman	Clive Raisey	656124

Village Shop Committee

Chairman	Clive Raisey	656124
Treasurer	Ann Raisey	656124
Secretary	Christine Skinner	618300

W.I.

President	Maggie Pumphrey	656394
Treasurer	Glen Heaton	656459
Secretary	Mary Cox	656224

Bickoils Jean Challender 656760

BickLifts Rose Fish 656489

Beefriends Richard Hill 656628
Julian Anderson 656844