

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]	
Mrs C Lighton 656 639	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	

WELCOME TO THE PARISH

Pam SALMON & Phil COMER to the Old Rectory, 22 Church Lane.

Subscriptions are now due for 2012, so please fill in the form which will be put through your letter box very soon.

PARISH MATTERS - Desmond Venner writes:

Queen's Diamond Jubilee - celebrations will take place in Bicknoller over the weekend of 2 & 3 June, so put these dates in your diaries! Plans are hatching for a sports/fun afternoon for all age groups with a free village tea. This will be followed by evening entertainment, music and food for all the family. Also a special church service and a Flower Festival.

SOCIAL CLUB - Jean Challender writes:

We are a friendly group of Bicknoller residents who meet every third Wednesday in the month, apart from August and December. We enjoy discussions, talks, quizzes, visits and demonstrations (not the violent type!). Highlights from last year included an illustrated talk by James Williams, Chairman of the Otter Group of Somerset Wildlife Trust and a visit from auctioneer Claire Rawle, who talked about antiques and collectables and valued members' belongings.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH - John Lees writes:

My police friends, who know the criminal fraternity, tell me that the latter regard Bicknoller as a "difficult" village. Why? Because firstly we are very "neighbourly" and secondly we are sensible and don't present easy pickings. Leaving a car in the driveway, automatic lights at night, telling your Warden when you are away. Keep it up and a safe New Year to you all!

Our visit last year was a special tour of the basements of Dunster Castle (not usually open to the public). We are already planning our 2012-13 season and so far have a talk on Lady Carnarvon and her time in Bicknoller; a demonstration from the Support Dogs Charity; a visit from a re-enactor of kitchen life at Glastonbury Abbey in 1538; an afternoon with "Miss Joyce Grenfell" and lots more including a cream tea and a fun quiz. So ... do come and join us! Membership costs only £8 a year and we are always pleased to welcome new members. Please contact Jean Challender, the Secretary, on 656760.

BICKNOLLER FLOWER SHOW - Carole Darke writes:

A new Flower Show year has started! The primroses are appearing and the bulbs shooting! So we invite you to come to the **Spring Show on Saturday 24 March at 2.30p.m.** in the Village Hall, to see and smell all the beautiful blooms! Entry forms (for members only) can be obtained in Bicknoller shop. We are repeating the Potato Challenge again this year! Please contact Carole 656222 if you wish to enter.

BICKNOLLER W.I. - Mary Hill writes:

Over the Autumn, WI members enjoyed a Beetle Drive with a fish & chip supper, and our AGM. Our Christmas dinner, which was held at the home of Cerys Randell with catering by Jenny Jenkins, was a great success and enjoyed by all.

Our 2012 programme of events started on 12 January with a talk by Clive Raisey on 'Hatchers' - the inside story of Hatchers from the other side of the counter! (This could be Taunton's answer to "Are you being served?"). In February we will have an introduction to Canal Art from Val and Clem Prior, and in March we will be watching "Made in Dagenham", a very funny film about female Ford workers back in the seventies going on strike for equal pay with their male colleagues. Other highlights from this year's programme include a talk on some outstanding paintings in National Trust houses in the South West, a visit from Valerie Sherwin to talk about Exmoor ponies and a 'Rough Guide to Islam' from Richard Judd, Head of Philosophy, Religion and Ethics at Taunton School.

We are always delighted if new potential members come to our meetings. We are a friendly group and will make you very welcome. Ring our Secretary, Mary ter Braak, on 01984 656 633 if you would like to join us.

OUR VILLAGE HALL- Robert Hardy writes:

Over the years, the Village Hall Committee has tried various ways of making the old electric heating more effective. Now, in a completely fresh start, we have a new gas-fired, user-friendly system installed by Martin Cox that seems to be giving general satisfaction. Grants from the Big Lottery Fund and the Quantock Hills AONB, supplemented from our reserves, made the operation possible. The cost was also reduced by excavation and restoration work carried out by our own volunteers, particularly Clive Raisey and Gary Sears.

At the same time, we put in a suspended ceiling to give extra insulation. In the process the appearance and lighting of the Hall have also been greatly improved. Now that winter has at last arrived, we shall see how well it fares.

After two years of courteous service, Michèle Sears has found herself too busy to continue as Bookings Secretary. Fortunately, Carol Thorpe has volunteered to take over. She can be contacted on 01984 656402 or by email - bookings@bicknollervillagehall.org.

On 11 November we had another successful musical evening, courtesy of Martin Cox's "Regal Rhythm" with an excellent curry supper prepared by Jean Pennington-Ridge.

OUR SHOP - Maggie Pumphrey writes:

With Christmas cards, stamps and gifts, the shop has been doing very well recently. Wrapping paper has been at a bargain price and we sold gift tags, Christmas napkins and lots of stocking filler bargains too.

We are stocking the Big Red Cow range of ready meals in our freezer which are made in Bicknoller and are delicious. We have received excellent feedback from customers. There is a list of products on the counter for you to decide what you would like to try.

The apple juice made in Bicknoller is also selling well, the apple and ginger being the most popular. There is also a spicy one that is better, we are told, if you warm it up like a mulled wine.

We still have some sacks of salt for sale, and a whole range of tinned food stuffs in case you want to stock up your cupboards in preparation for a big freeze (which may or may not come!)

If you have not already joined our list of customers who have a daily or weekly newspaper delivered to the village, please telephone Clive Raisey (656124) for more details.

Don't forget that we are happy to take orders and deliver to housebound parishioners - do call Maggie (656394) if you need this service.

Our Christmas draw took place on Christmas Eve morning and the prize of a £20 Shop voucher was won by Liz Roach.

To all our volunteers and customers, best wishes for a happy and healthy 2012 from the Shop Management Committee - do keep shopping at your own community shop.

QUANTOCK ECO - Julian Anderson writes:

DECC Grant: it is with pride that I let you know that, thanks to the stalwart efforts of Secretary Jill Gray, Bishops Lydeard Village Team leader Ian Myers, and other key members of Ian's team, Quantock Eco has been awarded £22,400 by the Department of Energy & Climate Change under its LEAF programme.

The award will enable QE to set up an Energy Advice Centre in Bishops Lydeard and to perform several important tasks ahead of the Green Deal.

The Advice Centre will be open to visitors on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10am to 2pm and on Thursday evenings from 7pm to 9pm until the end of March. Visitors will be offered free advice and

information on saving money and energy in the home. Local people will be able to request a free Home Energy Audit.

An in-depth survey of energy use in homes will also be conducted by the BL Village Team Eco team. Using this data and special modelling software, the Centre for Sustainable Energy will identify dominant house types. With this data QE will be able to advise Bishops Lydeard's Parish Council how best to reduce its community's carbon footprint.

For those who would like to watch the project as it develops a new page has been added to Quantock Eco's website dedicated to the LEAF project. Please go to link <http://www.quantockeco.org.uk/qe-leaf/>.

Should you wish to have more information about the project please contact Jill Gray on jillgray2@fiscali.co.uk, or listen to her on ORadio, FM 105.3, at 10am on Friday 10th February.

Big Lottery "Communities Living Sustainably":

Quantock Eco has also joined up with Exmoor National Park Authority, Forum 21, Transition Minehead Alcombe, West Somerset District Council and others to present a bid for Lottery funding to help build communities that are resilient to climate change.

In phase one Big Lottery will select 30 winners from all Expressions of Interest submitted throughout England. Should we be one of the initial 30 we will then be given £10,000 to produce a Five Year Project Delivery Plan of action. Only 10 of those 30 will go forth to the next phase, when grants of between £500,000 and £1 million will be awarded to carry out the plan.

Within our group each partner will lead on those parts of the Plan in which it has the greatest experience: ENPA on land management; F21 on energy efficiency; TMA on food sovereignty and personal wellbeing; and QE on energy micro generation and biodiversity.

Our Expression of Interest was submitted on Friday 27th January. Fingers crossed!

Membership:

Quantock Eco now has 120 members drawn from 28 villages across the area, and our newsletter is sent to some 220 e-mail addresses.

Forthcoming Events:

Wednesday 22 February: "Pollination & Biodiversity", a talk by Ken Edwards, Master Beekeeper and President of the Somerset

Beekeepers' Association. Venue: Spaxton Village Hall, 7:30 pm.

Friday 20 April: AGM and a talk by Graham Harvey the agricultural story editor for the "The Archers" and author of several books. Venue: Crowcombe Church House, 7 pm for the AGM and 7:45pm for the talk.

ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH - Cerys Randell writes:

I was just reading through to see what I had written in the last 'Pumpings' report and read that I had gingerly mentioned Christmas. Well that has now been and gone!!

We enjoyed welcoming a large number of our friends & neighbours to our 'Carols around the Tree'. What a shame it hailed and rained just as we were about to begin and we ended up having to hold the event inside the church. It was so nice to see some of our very little neighbours, some of whom we were meeting for the first time joining in with the festivities. Rev Val welcomed them, with their parents to visit the crib in the Chancel. It was chaotic but lovely!

On Christmas Eve we held a candlelit midnight service; again we enjoyed sharing this service with lots of friends and their families who had come to Bicknoller to celebrate Christmas.

Now into 2012 we are in the process of undertaking some remedial works to the fabric of the Church following a recent inspection by the Church Architect. The inspection takes place once every five years and I'm pleased to report that the Church is in reasonably good order, but the PCC does have a responsibility to invest and maintain it as such.

The Church Action Group has organised a coffee morning to be held on Saturday 25 February. It will be serving bacon or sausage sandwiches with tea & coffee instead of the usual cakes and biscuits. A quiz has also been organised with prizes!

On Tuesday March 27th we will be holding a Lent lunch. We will be serving soup, cheese & biscuits and fruit.

You are all invited to attend any of these events. We are always happy to welcome new faces.

We are keenly developing our outreach support for all people in the parish; if you are aware of or know of someone who might benefit or like a Pastoral visit, please contact me by phone on 656956 or email at cerysrandell@hotmail.com.

Finally, we also recognise that having an active

Church in the village is important to all who live in the Parish, whether regular worshipers or not. You and your support are always welcomed with thanks, whether as a member attending services or through financial assistance to preserve the fabric of the Church and maintain the graveyard.

If anyone would like to know more about our services or would like a regular delivery of the Benefice magazine, please contact me on 656956.

MOTHERS UNION - Molly Farmer writes:

In the October 2011 issue of Parish Pumpings I wrote of the worldwide work that the Mothers' Union was undertaking in 81 countries, including the UK. I mentioned three of the many projects which we support with monies we have raised through our Branch meetings.

Our speakers in the first quarter of 2012 include our Rector, the Rev. Valerie Plumb and Mrs Jane Sefton. In May we will be welcoming Peter and Rowena Merson who will tell us of their recent adventure in support of eco systems by "Cycling for Climate Justice".

Their visit to us on 9 May will begin with supper served at 7 p.m. in the Village Hall.

If you read Pathways, you will know that the Branch meets on the first Friday of every month for a short time of prayer for the world, the church and ourselves.

All our meetings are open to everyone. You do not need to be a mother, a married person or a woman! We look forward to welcoming you to any of our events. Check with the notice board in the church porch or with any member for further details.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - Pam Miles writes:

The Quantock Branch of the Royal British Legion will hold its Annual Lunch for members, guests and friends at the Bicknoller Inn on 1 April. Our Coffee Morning on the 5 May will be held at Coombe Cottage, Dashwoods Lane and our annual BBQ will be on the 4 August. A great event to enjoy which is open to all!

If you're not a member already you're welcome to join us - contact the Secretary on 632 742 for a membership form. Your support helps the Legion to provide assistance to existing and past members of the Armed Forces who have been injured or require help in difficult times.

2011 raised over £2000 all of which went to the Legion's welfare needs to help serving and ex-

service people and their families. Thank you for your past and continued support.

AFGHAN MAN IN BICKNOLLER! - Charles Greswell writes: James Greswell has recently returned from a 6 month tour of Afghanistan with 45 Commando Royal Marines. He was based in the Nad-e Ali district of Helmand province at a Forward Operating Base built round the ruins of a fort constructed by the British Army in 1978 during the second Anglo-Afghan war.

His troop formed 45 Commando's protected mobility group equipped with Mastiff armoured vehicles, designed to protect against improvised explosive devices, which pose the greatest threat to the British forces in Afghanistan.

A normal day began at 6.30 a.m. patrolling between the smaller patrol bases and check points dotted around Nad-e Ali, and ended at sundown - 7.30 p.m. The daytime temperature was normally between 40° C and 45° C, made even more uncomfortable by the body armour, helmet and amount of kit they had to carry.

Security was generally good throughout the district, though it did have odd "interesting" moments and 45 Commando were fortunate to have suffered no fatalities, with only four wounded of which only one was serious.

After returning to Scotland, James was promoted to Captain and in January he transferred to 42 Commando based in Plymouth to take command of a company Weapons Support Platoon.

DATES TO REMEMBER

All events take place in the Village Hall unless otherwise stated.

9 February - 7.30 p.m. Demonstration of Canal Art (a Bicknoller W.I. event)

15 February - 7.30 p.m.: Rotary Wine Tasting event with light supper. Book tickets now (£15 each) by calling 656222.

25 February: PCC Coffee morning & quiz with prizes

8 March - 7.30 p.m.: Supper & a DVD "Made in Dagenham" (a Bicknoller W.I. Event)

24 March - 2.30 p.m.: Spring Flower Show

27 March: PCC Lent Lunch

1 April: RBL annual lunch at Bicknoller Inn

5 May: RBL coffee morning, Combe Cottage, Dashwoods Lane.

2 & 3 June: Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations