



Parish Pumpings

PUMPLET NUMBER 66

SEPTEMBER 2015

Parish Council

Mr C Warren(Chmn)	07872 470133
Mr M Andersen	07760 170300
Mr A Harrison	01984 634498 07791 362538
Mr R Murphy	01984 639394
Mr M Rawle	01984 618362 07979 653586
Mrs C Skinner	01984 618300
Mrs C Richards	632124

Job Responsibility

Planning
 Roads
 Police Liaison & Neighbourhood Watch
 Rights of Way
 Quantock Hills and Farming
 Environment
 Parish Clerk

Neighbourhood Watch Wardens

Gary Sears	01984 656616	NW Co-ordinator
Murray Bush	01984 632 878	Woolston
Carol Darke	01984 656 222	South of A358, Newton, Culverhayes, Kingswood
John Lees	01984 656 333	Dashwoods Lane, Combe Close
John Grellier	01984 656 371	Church Lane, Parsons Close
Cerys Randell	01984 656 956	TrendleLane, Quantock Moor, Chilcombe Lane
Kees ter Braak	01984 656 633	Honey Row Lane, Hill Lane

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Bicknoller Parish Council has a vacancy for the position of Councillor and the Parish Council can now fill

this vacancy by co-option. Those who are interested in serving the community in this way and want to be considered for co-option on to the Parish Council should write or email the Clerk.

Claire Richards Parish Clerk

8A Quantock Grove

Williton

Taunton

Somerset

TA4 4PD

email: bicknollerpc@hotmail.co.uk

VILLAGE AGENT

Debbie Dennis writes

I am the new Village Agent for Bicknoller.

The Village Agent Project is run by the Community Council for Somerset. The project exists for people in rural communities who find it difficult to get help with even the simple problems in life for all sorts of reasons:- lack of information, no access to technology, not wanting to be a nuisance or thinking that no one can help. Village Agents live

www.bicknoller.com

in or near to the parishes they support and offer free and confidential practical support to local people. Village Agents can help to bridge the gap between isolated, excluded, vulnerable and lonely individuals and statutory and/or voluntary organisations which offer specific solutions to identified issues such as loneliness, health, social care, pensions and benefits, home safety, transport and many more.

I will be travelling around the Parish, meeting and getting to know as many local groups and organisations as possible. In this way I can access people who take part in a whole range of activities and ask them to spread the word that help is available for those that need it. If you or someone you know would benefit from this service please call on 07572 024 492.

Or email debbie@somersetccc.org.uk

To look at more of the work done by the Community Council for Somerset (CCS) go to www.somersetccc.org.uk

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Please report anything suspicious to a Warden or your Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Peter Bolton – 07917529464

EMERGENCY DIAL – 999 NON EMERGENCY – 101

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.

16th September brings a visit from the Watchet Town Crier and Shantyman, David Milton. In addition to telling us about his duties as Town Crier and singing for us, he has also promised to tell some stories "a little bit naughty, a little bit saucy, but nothing to offend!" It should be a good, fun afternoon.

On the 21st October, Chris Sidaway, manager of Castle House, in the courtyard of Taunton Castle, will be talking about the Anglo-Saxons in Somerset. We all know that Alfred 'burnt the cakes' at Athelney, but did you know that Watchet was a 'burgh' or fortified town, with its own mint? Or that the 'Herepath' a Saxon army road, runs over the Quantocks?

Finally, on the 18th November, David Wyborn, Head of Planning, will be talking to us about planning and development on Exmoor. It is difficult to balance keeping the National Park unspoiled both for wildlife and for the important tourist income, and providing jobs and homes for local people, and he will be talking about how decisions are made.

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

BICKNOLLER W.I. - Maggie Pumphrey writes:

It has been an exciting year with celebrations of the Centenary of the WI.

Our local effort was the evening of magic at Bicknoller Village Hall with a buffet supper. This was held in July and was great fun. The event was well supported and we have made £400 towards the proposed replacement children's playground. We would like to thank everyone for their support.

Earlier in the year – April – we held our first "Sup-a-Soup" lunch at Bicknoller Village Hall. This was a social time and we were pleased with the number of people who came. We are thinking of doing this again in February.

Our sponsored walk in April, part of the National WI event called "Women Walk The World", raised £100 for a water project in rural India. We had a lovely time with good weather and good views as we reached the highest point on the Quantocks – Will's Neck.

In June we had a talk by Richard Judd from Taunton School, the subject being "Women and Islam" although the talk was much broader than that. There was a lot to take in and it really was very interesting.

This month we are meeting at the Bicknoller Inn to put forward our ideas for next year's programme and to take a vote from all members. This again will be a happy social occasion when we will be having a glass of wine and some nice savouries as we make our decisions.

Our autumn programme includes a demonstration with participation on producing items by "Caustic Wax", a visit by Minehead Handbells in October to help us celebrate our birthday, and a chance to make celebration garlands in time for Christmas.

The Bicknoller Bra Campaign is going well and we have already delivered a black sack full of bras to Nickerbocker Glory in Minehead. Remember ladies to put your old bras into the bin in the shop and help us raise money for the charity "Against Breast Cancer".

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:

The May Market was again very successful raising £541, so too was the Coffee Morning held in June, which raised £388. The proceeds from the Coffee Morning were added to the Playground Fund, which now stands at £2354. We have a long way to go and we shall need some large grants but this is a very good start. You really are a generous lot.

The WI held a very successful 'Magic Evening' and we are grateful that the proceeds of £400 have been earmarked as a contribution to the Playground Fund when we have obtained the necessary grants. Thank you to all WI members.

Two new items for your diaries – on Friday 11 September we are having our very own FLOG IT. Claire Rawle has kindly agreed to give us the inside story about this popular TV programme. Bring along an antique for a valuation. We shall serve coffee and cake, all for the very reasonable price of £8.00, with proceeds to the Playground Fund. Tickets are available from the Shop, Mary Hill, 656628 and me, 656904.

Want to join the Pudding Club? Then come along to the Hall on Saturday 14 November at 7.30 when we shall have our (brief) AGM followed by a Pudding Taster – like wine tasting but with puddings! See you there.

OUR SHOP – Daphne Leggetter, shop manager)

Yes, some of you might not have heard the good news (from Maggie's point of view!) that she has finally found someone to take over her role, after 13 years of dedicated service. After just a few weeks, I can really appreciate the work she put into keeping it running smoothly.

Like me, you may remember the day the shop was officially opened. That was 20 years ago now and like everything else in Bicknoller, the fact that the shop is still here is thanks to the dedicated efforts of our team of volunteers. That is even more remarkable when you consider that we no longer have a post office and neither do we have a school to increase footfall.

We are lucky though, to be right on the path of hardy walkers and cyclists coming down (or up) Hill Lane, many of them following the Coleridge Way. You may have spotted some of them sitting on the bench outside the shop drinking coffee and eating snacks or ice-creams bought from the shop.

However, we are not complacent, and are always looking for ways to improve our service to the community. If you can't find an item you are looking for, you can order it, including fresh fruit and vegetables, and you will usually find it in the shop within a day or two. That is in addition to our milk, bread and newspaper-ordering service for regular customers. We frequently introduce new lines - we are now stocking clotted cream and bread mixes for home bakers for example - and we welcome any feedback you care to give us on our products to help us with our future supply decisions. We have not been idle on the display front either, and are really pleased with the new central unit, made by George Kelsey from our village.

So how about you? If you have not visited us recently, why not come and see the wide range of goods we are now stocking? As well as doing some shopping, you can catch up on the local gossip. Maybe you would like to join us and serve in the shop? Four new volunteers are joining our rota this month and more are always appreciated. It is a great way to get out of housework and gardening for a few hours and will give you that warm glow of satisfaction in knowing you are helping your local community! Dogs are welcome too – we have a dedicated post to tie them to, where they can have a good old tail-wag while their owners are having a good old chin-wag inside. We look forward to seeing you in the shop!

ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH –Belinda Mountain writes

On the 18th April Helen Shapiro, (do you remember 'Walking back to happiness'?) came to Danesfield school to give her witness of how she came to God, and sing some of her songs. The evening was a resounding success in that it was a sell-out and we were even able to donate

£100 towards the Deanery project, Jiggers. (This is a nasty creepy crawly insect which gets under your skin in hot climates and people go through very painful ways of getting rid of them.) Many thanks go to Danesfield, and Jean Pennington-Ridge for organising the event. Jean's daughter Helen hand crocheted a large bed throw which was raffled over a few months and raised approx £204, to the Jiggers project, many thanks go to her for her hard work and donating the yarn which cost her over £45.

On the 19th April St George's held it's Annual Parochial Church Council meeting, when we sadly said goodbye to our Church Warden Cerys Randell and PCC member Julie Hall-Williams. They both spent many years on the Council, and recently worked hard on preparing the rectory in Bicknoller for Rev Val to move into from Stogumber. We welcome Martin Blazey as our new Church Warden, (you may know that he is Church Warden of Sampford Brett as well) Also welcome to John Bridgland (a bell-ringer) onto the Council.

Work on the new toilet and boiler has started, so the church looks like a building site at present. Many thanks go to everyone who has worked hard and spent many hours on getting this going, and also those who have donated towards it. This will facilitate us in being able to make much more use of the church for many more functions, especially where children are concerned.

On 26th July we held our annual Songs of Praise service in the marquee, preceded by games for the children, led by Patrick Weld from the Deanery and a wonderful cream tea organised by Jean Pennington-Ridge. It was lovely to see so many present from around the village, I think we all enjoyed choosing our favourite hymns and having a good sing-along!

On 21st September Mission and Development in the Oxford Diocese, in the Buckingham Archdeaconry near Aylesbury, living in a little village called Ludgershall. She will be acting as a strategic leader for four different Deaneries. Her last service here will be on Sunday 30th August 10.30am at Stogumber church. We send her all our best wishes in this new and challenging roll, she will be sorely missed.

We look forward to welcoming Revs Ben and Katherine Flenley at the end of September. (Ben is joining us in the post of 'House for Duty' (this isn't a semi or even a bungalow!) but a priest who works under the rector in the Benefice. Katherine is an ordained minister also which is wonderful. They are to live in a diocesan owned bungalow in West Quantockhead.

MOTHERS' UNION – Quantock Towers Branch

Molly Farmer writes:

Since the last edition of 'Pumpings' the Branch has enjoyed a Garden Meeting in June and another Garden Tea-party arranged by the Porlock

Branch for all the Branches in our Deaneries when we visited a lovely garden in Bossington Lane.

On 10th August the M.U. Worldwide celebrated Founder's Day, known as Mary Sumner Day, when the nine Branches of the Deaneries gathered in St Margaret's church, Spaxton, for a Service followed by Tea and Cakes. We look forward to our Branch Meeting on September 9* at 2.15pm in Bicknoller Village Hall when our Speaker will be one of our Members - Belinda Mountain - who will tell us of her work as a Magistrate on The Bench. On Thursday, 10* September we will be attending the annual Quiet Day when the Branches will gather in Carhampton Church at 10.30am. To our October meeting we will be welcoming a return visit of Liz Cummings who this time will tell of her time as a Missionary in Vietnam and on Monday 19th October we celebrate St Luke's Day with a Service for all the Branches at 11.00am in Bicknoller Church to be followed by Lunch in the Village Hall. In November our Speaker will be the Revd. Martin Jones of Spaxton.

We continue to support the women and children in our local Refuges and we are grateful to our 'Knitters' who make garments for neonatal and premature babies, Angel Pockets for stillborn and premature babies and who make Baby Blankets, Tiny Teddies, Trauma Teddies and other articles for which there is need - such as 'Beanie Hats' for sailors from warmer climes who come into Avonmouth and feel the cold - and Sweaters (as well as knitted squares for blankets) for those who are in need.

For fuller details of these and all our activities please see 'PATHWAYS' or get in touch with me (656486) Molly Farmer

ARTISTS IN OUR MIDST: Paul Mansfield writes:-

In 1863 an accomplished artist and illustrator by the name of John William North arrived in West Somerset. This was not his first visit to the area for three years earlier he had stayed at Watchet whilst on a walking holiday. On this second occasion he took up lodgings with the Thorne family at Halsway Manor. Here he was joined by two of his close friends, George Pinwell and Frederick Walker. The three young men had worked together in London for Josiah Whymper, a wood engraver and between them produced many of the lovely illustrations which appeared in Victorian books of the time.

Halsway was in a dilapidated state when they arrived but they all fell in love with the old crumbling manor house. They found the old building an ideal subject for their artistic talents and produced a number of paintings and engravings in the years that followed showing both the manor house and its surrounds.

Another subject that caught their eye was Bicknoller Churchyard. In 1866 Pinwell produced two engravings, one showed members of the congregation passing the old cross on their way to church, the second captured the interior of the

church with the rector and clerk shown at the front. In those days the old box pews were still in place. These two engravings along with others of Halsway appeared in the book 'A Round of Days' published by the Dalziel brothers in 1866. Two years later Pinwell produced a lovely painting showing two locals having an argument while sitting under the cross in Bicknoller churchyard. A photograph taken at the same time showed Pinwell sitting under the cross with Warrescote (as it was before the fire of 1901) in the background. North also found the old cross to be excellent subject matter and in 1882 painted 'An Old Cross in a Western Churchyard'. Other illustrations of Bicknoller by North included a small sketch of Cusdons produced for Richard Jefferies publication 'Summer in Somerset' and an oil painting of Bicknoller hill. In 1869 the Thornes were obliged to move from Halsway when the owners, the Crang family took possession and began major renovation work. North and his companions followed their landlady, Mrs Thorne to Woolston Grange. By 1881 North had taken up lodgings at Lock's farmhouse. Sadly, by this time his two companions had passed away, Walker at the age of 35 and Pinwell, a mere 32. Had they survived they would have undoubtedly been known as two of the greatest British artists of their time.

In 1884 North married 21-year-old Selina Weetch at Bicknoller Church, setting up home in Beggearn Huish House in Nettlecombe. The couple went on to have six children. North spent the rest of his life happily painting the scenes of West Somerset hitching a lift home at night on any wagon that passed his way. He died in 1924 at the ripe old age of 82 and was buried at Nettlecombe. His paintings, along with those by his two friends hang in many of the world's most eminent galleries. Though the scenery and location of some of their paintings have not been accurately identified they were clearly painted around the Quantock Hills. Some still come up for auction today so keep your eyes peeled, you may recognise some local landmarks!

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

ALONG THE COLERIDGE WAY

7th October at 7.30.

An evening of music inspired by the life and work of Samuel Tayer Coleridge.

QUANTOCK ECO APPLE PRESSING DAY

Quantock Eco are hosting an Apple Pressing day at Bicknoller Village Hall on Saturday 10th October, from 10:00am to 4:00pm, with a Bring and Share a PICNIC LUNCH at 1:00pm.

Bring your surplus apples and press them into juice for taking home. Advice will be available on juice pasteurisation and cider making!

If you have spare apples and cannot make it on the day please let Andrew or Philip know.

Further details from Andrew Harrison on 634498, email: ap_harrison@yahoo.com

Or Philip Comer on 656720, email:

Philip.comer@gmail.com

ENERGY FAIR. Quantock Eco will also be holding an Energy Fair in Bishop's Lydeard on Saturday 31st October. There will be stalls from providers and talks on the latest developments, so that you can find out how you can be more efficient, save money and reduce your carbon footprint. Details will be available on the QE website www.quantockeco.org.uk

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	David 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

Bickoil Jean Challender 656760

BickLifts Rose Fish 656489

Beefriends Richard Hill 656628
Julian Anderson 656844