



| <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 | Clerk | |

| <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 656 799 | 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:-
 NW works!! Recently a very pleasant young man (with no ID documents) was round "doing the houses". Sally Simpson rang me to report. I rang our Police Support Officer (Peter Bolton). The young man was "sussed", and stopped operating...Good end to story...
 Otherwise be wary! Sheds and garages are targets again.

YOUR PARISH MATTERS

Mike Anderson Chairman writes:
 Mary Hill has formed a group looking at renewing the village playground. Please lend her your support and any fund raising ideas for contacts that you may have.
 John Grellier is looking for Parish volunteers to keep are lovely Parish tidy. Please let him know of your willingness to help. Phone 07745 609174. kjgrellier@sky.com
 Leaf dropping time is upon us as well as the rainy season. If you pass a road gully and see some leaves on top then please spare a moment to brush any loose leaves from the grill – let's try and keep all watercourses free to drain away.

I have received a letter regarding dog's mess. A number of instances of this have occurred on the person's lawn, which is adjacent to a footpath. Any dog can be taken short but please endeavour to clear it up - especially if it is quite clearly on a tended garden lawn.

Please can you contact the clerk at bicknollerpc@hotmail.co.uk with your name and e mail details so that we can automatically notify you of new Parish Pumping publications, as well as Council minutes and meetings.

Welcome to the Parish

Amy and Gareth Lile and Family
 23 Church Lane.
 Jeremy Philips and Elizabeth
 Whites Meadow.

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.

In January 2015, Keith Cook will be inviting us to exercise our “little grey cells” with another of his entertaining quizzes. Come as an individual, or make up a team with friends – no more than **four** in a team please. February sees Ian Anderson transport us away from the cold and gloom to the colour of the Keukenhof Garden in the Netherlands, and the warmth of south-west France with his audio-visual presentation entitled “A Dutch journey” and “Bastide towns of southern France”. In March we have the Club AGM, followed by “An afternoon with Miss Joyce Grenfell”, presented by Joan Knowlman, which has been highly praised.

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

BICKNOLLER W.I. - Maggie Pumphrey writes:

We are coming to the close of a very active and happy year, our final meeting being at the Bicknoller Inn where we will be tucking into a 3-course meal with husbands/partners as our guests. At the suggestion of a few members last year we will be ending the evening with a Christmas song-along!

At our November meeting we learnt about the growing of willow and how to treat it ready for weaving and then our speaker gave an excellent demonstration of how to make wreaths of different shapes. Such was the interest that a workshop is to be arranged so that members can have a go themselves.

At our birthday meeting in October our booked speaker didn't turn up and we had visitors with us from other WIs in the area – what an embarrassment. However, one of our own members – Kate Harrison – stepped into the breach and gave an excellent talk of a fascinating experience when she was “spotted” and asked to do a television advert for Dove deodorants. It was an amusing and absorbing talk and we were so grateful to Kate for getting us out of a fix.

Apart from our monthly meetings, when we always have a social half hour, we meet at The Bick for friendly skittles most months and have now started a Bicknoller WI walking

group ably lead by member Pam Wallace. A four-mile walk around Steart Marshes was much enjoyed and weather permitting we hope to do another walk in February.

Some members will be attending the Somerset Federation carol service at Wells Cathedral in December with lunch first, and Crowcombe Church for the Seven Seas Group carol service.

We have decided how to celebrate the centenary of the WI in England and Wales next year and instead of a garden meeting in July, we will have an open meeting at the village hall with a buffet supper and magical entertainment. A small charge will be made for visitors and there will be a raffle. The funds raised will be given to the Village Hall Committee to go towards their fund-raising for the new children's play-ground.

The 2015 programme has been finalised with an excellent variety of speakers and demonstrations. The range includes serious subjects such as “The History of The Mineral Line” and “Islam and Women” while there are light-hearted subjects such as “Exercise with Dance”, “Puppetry (of an unusual sort)”, “Encaustic Wax Demonstration” with some participation, “Making Celebration Garlands” with full participation, “Hand bell Ringing” with some participation and our New Year Party in January and Christmas Dinner in December. Our external visits will be agreed early in the New Year.

We have been pleased to welcome new members during the year and our numbers are growing. All new members, potential members and visitors are assured of a warm welcome – ladies if you have not already done so, do consider coming along and giving us a try.

OUR VILLAGE HALL- Marie Robinson writes:

We have had several enjoyable fund raising activities this year.

We commenced with a very successful Quiz last March and we hope to have another next March. A May Market, and thanks here to all the volunteers who are now taking on the task of growing on the plugs which Clive has ordered for us - I believe 500 has been mentioned. Previously Clive grew these on by himself and that was quite a job.

The Coffee Morning held in June and November, and the Boot sale in August - the coffee mornings were very successful and the cake stall was particularly successful, thanks to all the Bicknoller Bakers. The Boot

sale was not as successful as the previous year. Do let the Management Committee have any thoughts you might have about a sale next year - or should we go back to the Jumble Sale format?

The Halloween Dance was very successful, we raised £516.33 and I believe a jolly good time was had by all - but I didn't realise just how many witches we had in Bicknoller!

Our grateful thanks go to all the organisers of these events -without their efforts we would be struggling for funds.

ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH -

Belinda Mountain PCC Secretary writes:

What a glorious summer we had this year, it made all the out-door events so enjoyable.

On 14th September the annual Ride and Stride fund raiser started from Bicknoller and we walked, (me on my scooter and Jazz running,) to Nettlecombe Court, about 5 miles, and partook in a Deanery-wide Service 'The Original Hymn Sandwich' which was very well attended, and delicious! The money raised went to The Deanery Mission Project. Rocha.

On 20th September Bicknoller hosted the Joint PCC meeting in the Village Hall entitled, Go For Growth. Looking forward to how we would like our Benefice to develop over the next few years.

On 19th October St George's held a service to mark the 100th Anniversary of the birth of Harold Gimblett, a legendary cricketer who was born on this day at Blake's Farm, Bicknoller. He first played for Somerset in 1935 and for England the following year.

The service was taken by Rev Richard Allen a former local cricketer who umpires in the West Somerset Cricket League. It was well attended by Somerset Cricket Club and locals, also his nephew Malcolm Gimblett, who travelled up from the Isle of White to attend. (Apparently our weather vane on top of the tower is still scarred from the pellets that had been fired at it by Harold in his youth!)

On 9th November, The Royal British Legion held their Annual Service in St George's.

Some dates in your diary to look out for:-

12th December, 7pm. Carols round the tree to be accompanied by The Watchet Town Band.

13th December, Santa is coming to the children's party. 2pm. (By request of Jean Pennington-Ridge 656 555.)

14th December 10.30am, Rev Jon Rose is to be licensed by Archdeacon John Reed, as Assistant Priest in the Quantock Towers Benefice. Congratulations Jon.

No Christmas Eve Service this year,

But 10.30am Family Communion on Christmas Day.

And finally some good news-: OUR BOILER IS MENDED!!! Thanks to Mike Pennington-Ridge who has worked so hard to achieve this and to make us warm again.

**Happy Christmas everyone
From us all at St George's.**

MOTHERS' UNION – Quantock Towers Branch

Molly Farmer writes:

Since reporting in the September edition of Pumpings Members have been busy with events in the Branch, the Deanery and further afield in the Diocese. Speakers at Branch Meetings have included Liz Cummings who spoke of her work with the Royal Family; the Revd. John Franks and Val, his wife whose subject was "Fair-trade and the M.U." The visit of Tony Bagwell whose illustrated Talk was entitled 'Thankful Villages and others in Somerset' drew members from other Branches and visitors who came to see his programme which included those who have no War Memorials because they lost no men and women in the World Wars. Tony showed us other villages of special interest and concluded his Show with photographs of the beautifully modelled SWANS which decorated the city of WELLS during the summer of 2012.

In September Members took part in the monthly Prayer Service held in the Cathedral. One of the highlights of the year was when Mrs LYNNE TEMBEY, our Worldwide President, flew down from Cumbria to spend a day in each of our three Archdeaconries - Bath, Taunton and Wells. Our Branches took a coach from Porlock picking up passengers along the route to Holy Trinity, Bridgwater where Lynne awaited us and took part in a lovely Service led by the Rector and followed by a time for refreshments and conversations with Lynne. At the annual Archdeaconry Meeting held at Creech St Mary one of the Speakers - Mrs Marion Field - updated us on the work of "Mission Aviation Fellowship" and we heard other reports concerning our Child Contact Centres, the Parenting Courses which we run and the making of baby gowns, jackets and 'angel pockets' which are knitted for premature babies and stillborn

babies, together with little Teddies for infant Baptisms. 24 deliveries of such items have been delivered this year. We continue to support the "Women's and Children's Refuge". This year we have sent Toiletries for Christmas.

We are making our programme for 2015 at present and will be publishing our monthly activities in 'Pathways' through the year.

THE SOMERSET COMMUNITY BARN OWL PROJECT Avriel Allen writes:-

Headed by Somerset Wildlife Trust, together with the Hawk and Owl Trust, is now underway in Bicknoller, after a rather slow start. Thanks to the Conservation Officer for the South West, Chris Sperring and Quantock Eco without their help and finance, this project may not have taken off, which goes to prove that local knowledge from experienced Birders and those with a good grounding in Farming and Conservation can go a long way. This Village is blessed with such folk.

The Aim of the Project is to tackle the problem of losing the traditional Barn Owl Nesting Sites in every Parish There are 335 of them in an area covering the Levels and beyond to Simonsbath on Exmoor. Nest Boxes one for every Parish, hopefully, will be installed. The latter have been made by Volunteers (one was on display on the Quantock Eco stand at the Bicknoller Flower Show.) This is a three year Project.

In 2013 Barn and Tawny owl numbers were very low and giving concern. Bad weather at breeding time prevented hunting. Chris Sperring advised that only one Tawny had been fitted with a BTO (British Trust for Ornithology) ring. In Bicknoller, two adult Tawnies and a chick were found dead.

In late spring this year, Quantock Eco volunteers were out and about looking for suitable nesting sites, (the criteria for these being Open Spaces, Veteran Trees, Barns, distant from busy roads, suitable habitat for voles and small mammals, plus suitable cover day roosts. Rough grassland with thatch on a good few acres.

As result we were allocated two Boxes - one at Dashwoods for Tawnies, and one at Wayville for Barns and Tawnies. They were put in place in May and July, ready for the 2015 Breeding Season.

Like the Pandas at Edinburgh Zoo (possible pregnancy!) not a lot happened yet.

Although near Crowcombe a box has been surrounded by owl pellets

Watch this Space!!! Owls are setting up their territories now so we might get some early nesting.

HISTORY IN OUR MIDST Paul Mansfield writes:

In 1866 the landlady at the Bicknoller Inn (then the New Inn) was Mrs Joan Sweeting. She was an elderly lady well into her 70's. Charles Blake Sweeting, her troublesome stepson had already appeared in court a few years earlier for refusing to pay her board and lodge.

In July of that year, after a drinking spree in Williton, Charles returned to Bicknoller in a very inebriated state. On entering the inn he became more and more aggressive and started to threaten his stepmother. In a rage he said he would burn down the house and grabbed a child standing nearby. When he then struck Mrs Sweeting it was the final straw. Her maid leapt into action. Though she had no weapon she laid into him with fists flying. Charles Sweeting was no match for this female bare fist fighter and soon succumbed to her blows. The next day, the damage was evident for all to see. Those who spotted him in the street had to hold back the smirks. His face was a mass of sores and contusions and his eyes were fearfully discoloured. The maid on the other hand came out of the affray with hardly a scratch and said she was rather proud of her actions.

A few days later Charles Sweeting appeared in court charged with violence and threatening the life of his step mother. He complained bitterly that he was served with watered down beer and yet was charged the normal price. The courtroom erupted into laughter when the maid's actions were mentioned, the marks of the fight still being clearly evident. He was bound over to keep the peace for six months. Though the bruises soon disappeared his pride must have taken a lot longer to recover!

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

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 |

Bickoil

Jean Challender 656760

BickLifts

Rose Fish 656489

Beefriends

Richard Hill 656628
Julian Anderson 656844