



Welcome to the third edition of Parish Pumpings. This is the first edition that will now generally be circulated on line, with hard copies delivered only to those who have specifically asked for it. That will continue until anyone asks to change or unsubscribe.

## Bicknoller Flower Show.

We enclose some pictures of the Show, held on July 27<sup>th</sup>, which was described by many as a very 'Happy' Show, with great weather and everyone enjoying themselves. Judges commented that the standard was again extremely high in what has been a fairly challenging growing year. The Bell ringing stand was very popular and the auction, conducted by Claire Rawle was very successful. (Images reproduced by kind courtesy of Andrew Harrison, Woolston)





## Artists in our midst.

### Stick Dressing

I doubt many Bicknoller residents have ever heard of 'stick dressing' or know much about it. Even fewer know we have a talent in our midst, but who prefers to remain anonymous. This ancient craft, recognised by the Heritage Crafts Association is more established up north, with local competitions, and a more widespread use of horn, rather than wood. Antlers can also be used, as can certain metals such as bronze. I had no idea that horn is actually a thermoplastic, so can be bent, whereas antler is bone. The skill and time involved is immense, and our local craftsman has kindly given me permission to share a few examples, created by him, with you.



(On line? Click on these images to enlarge...worth doing to appreciate the skill and detail!)

## Local Wildlife

### Nature Notes from Avril and Eddy Allen

Avril and Eddy have written another detailed and interesting report, which is attached for information, as it shares a lot of information about local butterflies and moths.

## Readers Corner.

For this edition, I have two contributions from Philip Comer and A.N.Other who wishes to remain anon. Both have kindly shared some interesting comments.

Just over a year ago Pam chose "The Glass Room" by Simon Mawer to read at our book club. I had not come across this author before, but this is a really good read. It is very well written and thoroughly engaging. It is an historical novel set in Czechoslovakia in the period just before and during the 2nd World War with a lot of background to the situation there. The Glass Room of the title refers to the house that the central characters of the book, wealthy Jewish car manufacturer Victor Landauer and his wife Liesel, have built in Brno. The book follows their lives and how the war affects them, but it is also the story of the house. The book is loosely based on a real house and the family that lived there; the Villa Tugendhat in Brno. We and others in the book club enjoyed the book so much that we made a trip to Brno to see the house! The house is incredible; built in the 1930s, it still feels modern today and well worth a visit.

**Simon Mawer** is a British Author, born in 1948 and educated at Millfield School. He went to Oxford University to study Zoology, and has worked as a biology teacher most of his life. He has lived in Rome since 1977 teaching biology at the International School. Having enjoyed The Glass Room, I have since read a number of his books. I enjoyed "Swimming To Ithaca", which was partially inspired by his childhood in Cyprus, something I share with him. In fact he would have been there at about the same time as I was (my father was in the army and stationed there twice), and this book stirred many memories. I then read "The Fall", about mountain climbing and lost loves, and then a pair of novels set during and after WW2, "The Girl Who Fell from the Sky" (2012) and "Tightrope" (2015). Very good thrillers.

**Jojo Moyes**, of Me before You fame, has a new stand alone book coming out in October. It is set in America in the late 1930s. Looks good on the write up and very different to everything else she has written.

**Lucinda Riley** of the seven Sisters fame has got the sixth book coming out in October too. Personally I am really

looking forward to reading it. Also her latest stand alone book published some months ago, *The Butterfly Room*, was a good read and I strongly advise fans of hers to read it!

**Santa Montefiore's** latest stand alone book *The Temptation of Gracie* was for me a good read too. Her books are always ones. Look forward to reading.

**James Patterson's** latest book is an interesting and good read. Also Wilbur Smith has also written a new book published at the beginning of the year. If you like these authors it is worth looking them up on the Internet!

## **Bicknoller Village Hall**

Thanks to everyone who supported our **Vintage Afternoon Tea** on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> August, which was clearly enjoyed by everyone, as no one apparently left early! Our thanks for all the lovely cakes and scones kindly donated, to all our super volunteers, and to all those who were able to join us. Some events planned are not just to raise money, but to also bring locals together, to just simply enjoy themselves, with neighbours and friends. This achieves that, I think. If you have any ideas about something you'd enjoy, do tell us. This is your Hall and your community.

We are progressing towards raising the funds to refurbish the Hall, and some of our neighbours are setting the bar very high, with what they have achieved. Crowcombe and Holford are just two examples of really lovely halls, and although we compete with them in some ways, we often work alongside them in others.

Another event that was thoroughly enjoyed by many was the **RBL (British Legion) Supper** held in the Marquee, on **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August**, and the food was just awesome. We understood it also raised a substantial sum which is very good news as it is a wonderful organisation.

## **Forthcoming Events.**

We hope to make more announcements very soon, but are planning some form of **Halloween Party/Dance**, a **Christmas Quiz**, and are mulling over other ideas. Make *your* feelings known. Tell us what YOU would like to see organised.

## **Farm Walk and Gardens visit.**

**On 18<sup>th</sup> September**, I have organised a Farm and Garden visit to Oliver Dowding and Charles Dowding near Shepton Mallet. Oliver is a leading organic farmer, a trustee of the Soil Association, and has developed interesting farm products such as wheatgrass and broccoli juices, apart from his renowned range of Dowdings Ciders. His brother, Charles Dowding is, these days, a celebrity very well known for his 'No Dig' work, TV appearances on *Gardeners World* etc, and for his many publications about no dig and organic gardening methods. There may be a few places remaining, if you are quick. Depart from Bicknoller Village Hall Car Park at 8.30 a.m. Cost £15/head.

<https://www.charlesdowding.co.uk/>

<http://www.tonicattack.com/content/home>

<https://www.applesjuice.co.uk/the-cider>

**Finally**, thank you to all those folk kindly sending me interesting information and ideas to share in Pumpings. We do not want this to conflict in any way with Pathways and the many other great community publications, and do not wish to be used for any form of commercial advertising. However, if you are arranging local community events that we think are of direct interest to Bicknoller, please let me have them.

Thank you.

David Croxton

[localfuel@gmail.com](mailto:localfuel@gmail.com).

07850 740 516

## Nature Notes from Avril and Eddy Allen, Dashwoods Area

### On the wing this summer

Hornets...Not to be mistaken for Queen wasps, much larger and not quite so savage

**Butterflies.. Dark Green Fritillary, Green Vein Whites. Orange Tip,**

**Orange Tip.** In early summer, Orange Tips lay their eggs on BlackThorn or White Thorn. Their plant food is Soapwort, sometimes called Cuckoo plant. The female is white but is not of the family of 'Whites' this also applies to **Marbled Whites** (not seen yet)

**Brimstone.** Also early, lays eggs on Buckthorn and Alder Buckthorn. Can be mixed up with the Clouded Yellow that comes in Late Summer.

**Holly Blue.** Early mostly. Likes Ivy.

**Common Blue.** Comes later. Likes BirdsFoot Trefoil. Restharrow and White Clover

**Large Skipper.** Likes long, uncut grasses.

**Peacock.** Likes Nettles and Hop

**Small Copper.** Likes common sorrel and Docks.

**Comma.** Likes Nettles, Hops, Elm, Willow and currants.

**Speckled Wood.** Likes early flowers such as violets and common grasses.

**Hedge Brown or Gatekeeper.** Mostly likes grasses

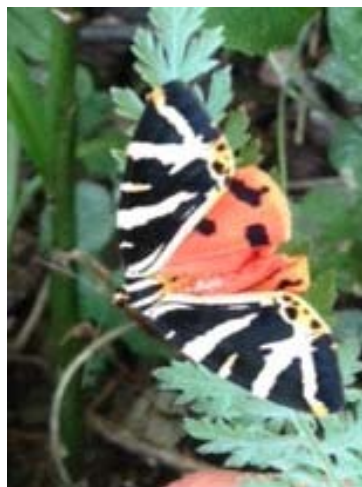
**Meadow Brown.** Mostly likes grasses.

**Red Admiral.** Likes Hops and Nettles.

**Painted Lady.** Migrates from Africa, stops off to breed, can take three generations before it arrives. Has been seen as far north as FairIsle and Shetland, and arrived in thousands one year, stopping off on fishing boats. Feeds on thistles, Nettles, Vipers Bugloss and Mallows.

**Moths. Six Spot burnet, Hummingbird Hawkmoth. Orange Underwings.**

There are a lot of small and large moths, and it is very much a specialist field for recognition. For instance, this moth was photographed recently, locally, and to date, none of our budding lepidopterists can agree on what it is!



For us locally, it is the sounds of grasshoppers, crickets and bumble bees that make the sounds of summer.

We are still waiting, hopefully, to spy Marbled Whites here and Clouded Yellow, which are not seen here every year.

The Marbled White is not a White, but is a specialist where limestone appears. A good area to spot them locally is Selworthy Wild Flower area in August, or on Mendip, but they do appear here locally from time to time.

To encourage butterflies into your garden, you need to have three levels of grass. Mown short, medium height to allow wild flowers to come through, and long untouched grasses (most of the time).

We now start looking up to the sky, as it is the start of autumn migrations, and we have Nest Boxes on Exmoor to check and maintain. The swifts have now largely all left, but look out for the Hobby. It has red knickers and hunts swifts and dragonflies over water. (Dunster Hawn or in the Shapwick area)



### **The Hawn - Dunster Beach West Somerset**

The Hawn, once a navigable channel through the sands and pebbles to Nap Lock ridge on Dunster beach [Day and Masters 1782 map]

Now landlocked. This fresh water lake was the old medieval harbour called Dunster Haven on the old course of the River Avill. It's a footbridge today, but was originally constructed as sluice or lock gate in 1868–1869 after the survey by George Perrie which was commissioned by Mr. Luttrell & D V J Stephenson, civil engineer of Edinburgh.

[Source: Bernard Connannon]



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## BICKNOLLER PARISH COUNCIL

### Parish Councillors, Parish Clerk, County & District Councillors

Councillor	Job Responsibility
<b>Chris Warren (Chairman)</b> Upcott Farm, Culverhayes Lane, Bicknoller, TA4 4EY Mobile No: 07872 470133	
<b>Stuart Dowding (Vice Chairman)</b> Chilcombe House Cottage, Trendle Lane, Bicknoller, TA4 4EG Home Tel. No: 01984 656764 Mobile No: 07852946455	<b>Planning</b>
<b>Julian Anderson</b> Lady Furlong, 6 Trendle Lane, Bicknoller, TA4 4EG Home Tel. No. 01984 656844 Mobile No: 07725525484	<b>Highways</b>
<b>Andrew Harrison</b> Quantock Barn, Woolston, TA4 4LN Home Tel No: 01984 634498 Mobile No: 07791 362538	<b>Police Liaison &amp; Neighbourhood Watch</b>
<b>Kevin Ogilvie-White</b> Bicknoller Mobile No: 07834902734	<b>Rights of Way</b>  <b>Community Resilience</b>
<b>Mike Rawle</b> Chapmans Combe Bungalow, Culverhayes Lane, Crowcombe, TA4 4BG Home Tel No: 01984 618362 Mobile No: 07979653586	<b>Quantock Hills &amp; Farming</b>
<b>Chris Skinner</b> Brendon Lodge, Halsway, TA4 4BB Home Tel No: 01984 618300	<b>Environment</b>
<b>Claire Richards (Parish Clerk)</b> 8A Quantock Grove, Williton, TA4 4PD Home Tel No: 01984 632124 Email: bicknollerpc@hotmail.co.uk	<b>Bicknoller Volunteer Group</b>
<b>COUNTY COUNCILLOR</b>	
Christine Lawrence The Old Custom House, Minehead, TA24 5UL Home Tel. No: 01643 707889 Email: cmlawrence@somerset.gov.uk	
<b>DISTRICT COUNCILLORS (SOUTH QUANTOCK WARD)</b>	
Mike Rigby, Bourne House, High Street, Bishops Lydeard, Taunton, TA4 3AX. Mobile No: 07800858828. Email: cllr.m.rigby@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk Anthony Trollope-Bellew, Hurley Farm, Crowcombe, TA4 4AJ. Mobile No. 07977591940 Email: cllr.a.trollope-bellew@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk	