



December 2019

A very happy and peaceful Christmas to everyone, and now the election is over, hopefully 2020 will see the UK finally begin to unite and move on. Whatever happens, our local community will continue to actively work together and help each other, for sure. For our small part, Pumpings will try and keep you all posted on various topics of interest that are happening locally. Thank you to everyone who has contributed and given their support. We have much to thank John Lees for, and this was definitely one of his great ideas. We will endeavour to maintain his standards.

December and Christmas are traditionally a time for remembering and celebrating all that we have had and still have. so this month, I enclose a tribute to Bill Pumpfrey, written by his wife, Maggie. Bill was a great servant to this community and I would like to produce similar features on other community parishioners, when they depart, whenever the family are willing, as we sadly, and will inevitably, continue to lose much loved members of this wonderful community.

Maggie Pumphrey has also sent me a little poem that she thought I might wish to include as a filler, something which we have never needed to consider, so far! However, as it is such a simple and lovely verse, I thought I 'd share it anyway.

A SMILE

Smiling is infectious, you catch it like the flu
When someone smiled at me today, I started smiling too.
I passed around a corner and someone saw my grin,
When he smiled, I realised I'd passed it on to him.
I thought about that smile, then realised its worth –
A single smile just like mine could travel round the earth!
So, if you feel a smile begin, don't leave it undetected,
Let's start an epidemic quick and get the world infected. Anon

Tribute to Bill Pumphrey, written by Maggie Pumphrey.

Bill Pumphrey did not want a funeral service. He never liked the idea that people would get up and talk about his life. He always said, "I want people to remember me as they knew me not for what I had done before I came here". So I will respect his wishes now and ask you to remember him as you knew him during his 31 years in Bicknoller.

Some remember his time spent on the Flower Show Committee, perhaps for his lack of knowledge about flowers! When he was asked to join I remember laughing and saying he hardly knew a daffodil from a rose. "Yes, but he can put up marquees" was the reply. And he did carry out many responsibilities on that committee which had little to do with flowers.

Many remember his involvement in the shop. John Lees persuaded him very early on to join him in his search for a property in which to develop a community shop and post office. Those early days of researching how to start a community shop and where were very exciting and once the old barn has been agreed and work was completed to turn it into a reasonable building, Bill was responsible for the shop fitting. His team included John Lees, John Barraclough and John Moulton and while the villagers looked on with great interest gradually things took shape and Rita Seamons was able to stock it, while Liz Antcliffe-Clark became the first Post Mistress. Bill worked in the shop for many years and many of you will remember doing duties with him.

The Macmillan Garden Fete was Bill's idea and it was Bill who built it up. Year after year he would add new games many of which were his own idea. He worked hard at the setting up and the clearing away and was known for his patience, hard work and good humour.

How many of you are here now who used to come on the pantomime trips to see the Wayfarers Pantomime Society at Taunton every January. It was Bill's idea to see who was interested and for many years around 30-40 villagers enjoyed the annual trip which included a meal before the show.

Some may remember the annual Christmas parties at the village hall. Bill helped decorate the hall every year and then helped carry the Christmas Tree from the hall to the church and position it there.

Some of you will remember his involvement in the pheasant shoots with our first spaniel, Ben. You will remember going out rain or shine, enjoying the many days of strenuous walking, climbing over difficult walls and sharing packed lunches with banter and humour in Edward Down's barn at Doniford.

Although it was in metals that he earned his living, some of you will remember his love of working with wood and also his love of 18th century English drinking glasses. He spent some happy times with Robert Hardy going to antique fairs around the area.

And some of you will have known him only as an old man who had a love of the countryside and of life and was determined not to give up walking and living.

When I first met Bill he said, "don't let me give up walking when I am an old man". Well, he didn't and was walking along the patio with his walker to get some exercise and fresh air minutes before he died.

Thank you for your cards and condolences and for sharing your memories of Bill with me. Putting them all together as I have done here helps you to realise how much he enjoyed his home and his life in Bicknoller to the very last.

Maggie P.

Maggie has also asked to say that she has three Tri Walkers (Folding wheeled walking aids) and, having asked for one for Bicklifts, she now has two available to donate to anyone who might benefit from having one.



Forthcoming Events.

Never being known as slow in forth coming, Maggie has also asked me include **two W! events for 9th January and 13th February**, both attached!

Simples Lunches and Bicknoller Social Club.

We expect to set out the full programmes in January but Carole has asked me to include these for now;

SIMPLES LUNCH for Church Flower Fund; Tuesday 14th January 2020 at 12 noon in the Village Hall. Lunch will be soup, cheese and biscuits, and a pudding.

BICKNOLLER SOCIAL CLUB welcomes Gary Sears who will speak about '30 years on the beat' at **2.30 p.m. on Wednesday 15th January 2020. ALL WELCOME!**

Local Wildlife

Although we are unamused, when returning from holiday last weekend, every single apple that had fallen around the tree had been eaten by what we estimate to have been a small herd of young deer, given the slot size and numbers, trampling over the lawn. They obviously had a great feast because apart from some celeriac and a few young leeks nothing else was touched.

Community Transport and Electric Vehicles.

We have now installed two public 7kWh Electric Chargepoints on the north east wall of Bicknoller Village Hall. These are the first to be installed in West Somerset as part of a larger project called EV2 Charge, sponsored and funded by Forum 21, and Zero Carbon World, through West Somerset Together. The two small grassed areas will be meshed so that cars to be charged can be parked on them, which avoids any obstruction to the Car Park. There is no cost at this stage but villagers are invited to make a voluntary donation into the Car Park Honesty Box (Guided at £4 per 24kWh battery size 16.6p/kWh) or make a donation in the shop.

Local History.

Mary ter Braak is having a well earned break from producing the excerpts from the St John Counc tapes so the next edition will carry Part 3.

Past Events.

Thank you to everyone who supported the **Village Hall Quiz** night, on December 7th which everyone thoroughly enjoyed, with a great quiz and excellent food. Our thanks also to everyone who contributed.

At the **Village Hall AGM** on 12th November , Kim Martin outlined some oif the revised ideas for the Village Hall redevelopment. Please continue to give your feedback and ideas to Kim, and the revised concept was well received by those attending.

The Meeting formally approved the proposal to alter the status of the Village Hall Charity to a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) which was proposed primarily to allow the Committee and Trustees to apply for funding for the shop and hall refurbishment.

A copy of the Draft Minutes of the AGM will be posted on Noticeboards shortly. If anyone wishes to comment or seek amendment, please email me and copy in Dave Simpson, BVHC Chair.

Fraud and Neighbourhood Watch

I have been asked to include this article from Andrew Harrison in this edition of Pumpings;

As Parish coordinator of the Bicknoller Neighbourhood Watch scheme, I have already burnt the ears of our members on quite a few occasions about various fraud attempts that do the rounds, both locally and nationally. These long-suffering people may therefore choose not to read any further than this! However, for anyone not yet “in the fold”, the threat is so severe and all-pervasive that I feel it is worth giving this subject another airing.

Thankfully we do live in a low crime area, so the chances of being a victim of a physical crime such as assault, burglary or other forms of property theft are relatively low. Unfortunately, wherever we may reside, we are all equally in range of attempts to extract money or valuable information from us by phone, mail and the internet. Unfortunately, the advances in technology that make it easier for most of us to carry out our day-to-day tasks are frequently exploited by these fraudsters.

Fraud now accounts for over a third of all crime in England and Wales and costs an estimated £190 Billion per year. While we may become wise to some of the familiar ones, fraudsters are finding ever more convincing ways of trying to trick us. Their ways and means are too many to list here, as are the ways of spotting and hence avoiding them. However, there is a truly excellent and comprehensive booklet that does just that, accessible on-line and downloadable as a pdf document. This is called “The Little Book of Big Scams” and its 4th edition can be found using the following link:

<https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/the-little-book-of-big-scams.pdf>

Pumpings Editor note; Anyone wanting this, but not using the internet or able to print only has to ask me (David C) and I will print you a paper copy)

This could not be easier to follow and has been updated with the latest information and advice on fraud including on-line, identity theft, courier, ticketing banking, door-to door, investment, scam emails, and so on.

Another highly recommended source of security information, particularly aimed at the senior citizen, is the Senior Citizen Liaison Team website: sclt.us .The Little Book of Big Scams can be downloaded from this website too (albeit the third edition) and this can also be accessed as an audio version read by Esther Rantzen. On this website there are also crime prevention videos on various types of fraud and their magazine Senior Siren which contains a mix of news, interviews, entertainment and advice on crime prevention. As well as the current issue, most back issues are also accessible here. It may be possible for us to obtain some hard copies of both the above publications if anyone particularly wishes to have one.

And now for the plug! If you are not already a member of Bicknoller Neighbourhood Watch we would love to have you join us, one very good reason being that the more there are in the scheme, the more effective it becomes. Our aim is to minimise the chances of members becoming victims of crime by increase awareness on crime prevention measures, maintaining increased vigilance and by the deterrent effect of signs around the area. With cutbacks in funding over the last ten years or so (soon to be reversed, maybe?), the police force is now stretched very thinly indeed. Avon and Somerset constabulary have lost 700 officers and suffered an £80 million reduction in budget over this time. Just two PCSO's now cover our beat area (AW052) that stretches from Blue Anchor, out round Rodhuish, Withycombe, across to Stogumber, Crowcombe & Bicknoller, up to & including Stogursey, & back down the coast to Kilve, Watchet & Williton! Previously this area was covered by 4 beat managers and 6 PCSO's.

The force's limited resources are sensibly being targeted on the highest priority areas of protecting the most vulnerable in society, on knife crime and county lines drug trafficking. Smart working with modern technology helps maximise their time out on the beat rather than stuck in the office doing paperwork but this still does not leave much capacity left for traditional neighbourhood policing, so Neighbourhood Watch plays a vital role in helping keep our area safe from crime.

Our parish is covered by seven Neighbourhood Watch wardens, each with their own patch to look after. The areas they cover and their contact details are on the parish website www.bicknoller.com/neighbourhood-watch/. We already have 68 households in the scheme with whom we share information, offer advice and can help keep an eye on properties when the owner is away. We maintain close links with our local PCSO Sue Thompson who is, as are we, very keen to hear from residents of any suspicious activity, incidents or concerns they may have. Sue also gives us information of local significance in addition to alerts we regularly receive from police headquarters. Via Email I pass on to our members those we think are of particular relevance plus any other news and information that seems useful. We can also help arrange free home visits from a police officer to advise on home security and supply of security devices.

So, if you are thinking about joining us, please contact your local warden via their details on the website or contact me direct (ap_harrison@yahoo.com, tel: 01984 634498, 07791 362538) and I will happily pass your request on to them. Any information you give us is covered by GDPR regulation. Membership is entirely free and you can withdraw at any time, although we hope you won't want to!

Andrew Harrison

Parish Coordinator

And finally.....

Can I just say a huge thank you on behalf of us all, to all the many volunteers who so freely give up their time and so much more to make Bicknoller such a wonderful place to live. Many communities of even larger size do not enjoy a fraction of the community effort achieved here, and we should be all very proud of that, as should have all our many departed predecessors.

So please keep items of interest flowing to me next year. This is your publication and I want to keep it interesting and relevant to Bicknoller life. Thank you again to all those who have contributed and Happy Christmas to one and all.

Bicknoller Women's Institute

starts its 2020 programme with two open meetings on two very different subjects. Please come and join us firstly on

9th January
7.30 at Bicknoller Village Hall

**Not all feathers and fans,
The rise and fall and rise of
Burlesque in Britain**

**By
International star of Burlesque
Leela Bunce
(winner of Tournament of Tease, 2008)**

Non-members £4.00 to include refreshments.

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Bicknoller Women's Institute

starts its 2020 programme with two open meetings on two very different subjects. Please come and join for the second one on

13th February
7.30 at Bicknoller Village Hall

Bees and the Garden

A talk about solitary bees and bumblebees and their importance in our gardens

**By
Brigit Strawbridge**
Brigit absolutely loves bees and talks about biodiversity, bees and reconnecting with nature.

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