



Cilla Hall.

No doubt, most, if not everyone, knows Cilla, who very sadly suffered a sudden and severe stroke whilst at home with Lee, last Saturday 4 July. Having spoken to Lee, I understand she is in good hands at Derriford Hospital, in Plymouth, and all our love and thoughts are with them both that she makes a good recovery.

Reducing Lockdown

Very few of us will have enjoyed much about the enforced isolation and distancing from loved ones, neighbours and friends, but what a spring to have distracted us! Maybe, our senses were enhanced, but the bird song and quiet peace of no traffic and hubbub was simply enchanting.

Those of us who love gardening have been in our element, and our Bicknoller avid readers, writers and hobbyists have, without doubt, also enjoyed the extra time they never knew they had!

Interspersed with this 'good' side of the pandemic has been the anxiety and worry, tempered by the extraordinary acts of kindness and care, shown by so many to so many more. What a privilege it is to live in a caring community like Bicknoller! And well done Nigel and Sarah for the wonderful music after our Thursday night NHS claps!

Our beloved pub 'The Bick' has now reopened as best it can, and our super Shop soldiers on, our favourite meeting places for a regular catch up and chat.

From last week, (w/c 6 July) the Village Hall has reopened to accept a few regular bookings, where users can follow Govt Guidelines, and the Childrens Playground is now OPEN..

A big thank you to Bicknoller Post, and the Community WhatsApp Responders Group which swiftly became a daily internet humour sharing venue, that brightened up many days, as well as giving that quickfire response for prescriptions, shopping etc, so often needed.

Zoom bridged many friendships and families, but probably none more so regularly than the Church, where even my 91year old mother in law, Rose, took to the technology in order to join in!

Whatever the misery of lockdown, we are so grateful that it has been a wonderful spring, wildlife enjoyed the peace and quiet, as did we, and the flowers and gardens this year are amazing. What a Flower Show we would have had!

Lockdown may be best summed up with these wonderful words from **Wendell Berry**

*"When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought of grief.
I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light.
For a time,
I rest in the grace of the world and am free".*

Village Hall and Community Shop

Hall

As you know, your Committee are planning a major refurbishment and updating of our Hall, and have consulted with the community and have shared and discussed various concepts over the past few years. However the final redevelopment eventually concludes, several facts are clear. The Community urgently needs additional storage, particularly as the Shop is doing so well and also continues to expand. In addition, the fabric of the Hall and, in particular, the Kitchen, need upgrading to meet modern usage and mandatory requirements.

Therefore, having secured Planning Approval, your Committee have decided to initially press on with Phase 1 this autumn, and construct the Approved extension at the rear of the Hall, as far as available funds will allow. This will result in a reduced car park area, but an immediate benefit is that it will allow the shop to expand into a larger part of its current home. The Flower Show are therefore planning to rent a shipping container for a time, which will sit beyond the shop barn alongside the hedge. This will be cladded to reduce visual impact, and used to store the Marquee and other Community Tents etc which is a more secure and rodent proof environment. In addition, it will considerably reduce the Health and Safety Risks that clearly reside with volunteers having to move heavy materials etc each year, in a less than safe environment, out of the old barn. Your Committee will continue to keep the Community informed and new ideas will be shared for consultation. ***On that note, the Committee is still two members short, so please contact Dave Simpson or me if you are willing to consider becoming a member/trustee.***

EV Chargepoints. Just to let you know that SSE have now finally visited and installed their 3 phase meter, so we are now only waiting for the Consumer Panel to be fitted and we shall be 'full charge ahead'. We will announce more at the AGM (in whatever form), but this should become a useful community asset attracting more visitors to our area and hopefully accelerating the extinction of the outdated and polluting combustion engine.

Shop.

The Shop has been a wonderful Community Asset and its management and volunteers have done a sterling job in providing a superb service to all of us. I am sure you would join with me in offering our heartfelt thanks to everyone involved. Thanks to Community support during lockdown, the Shop Committee now have enough confidence in the future to press ahead with an expansion further into the existing barn. Please continue to give them your ongoing support when you can.

Community losses

Whilst we did have a few sporadic cases, there is little doubt that Covid-19 failed to darken our doorsteps as badly as it could have. But nevertheless, sadly, and not due to Covid-19, we have still lost several village 'treasures', and I invite their beloved to share, if they wish, memories of those departed in future pages of Pumpings.

Hazel Hartley. All of us who knew Hazel were greatly saddened by her leaving us, and at such an awful time. Hazel has lived here for many years, so we are hoping the family may be willing in due course to share some stories and history of Hazels life here in Bicknoller.

Clea Cook. We were all so sorry to hear of Clea's passing, and her illness and hope that Keith and maybe others may feel willing to share some stories and memories of Clea and her life in the village.

Andrew Sillett. Andrew was taken from us at what is now considered to be a premature age, but I doubt few will ever forget the lockdown funeral that was limited to a few close family and friends, but respectfully and affectionately observed by so many. Again, I hope that Angela and friends may have more to share with us about Andrew.

It is always sad to lose ones family, and friends, but from previous comments I have received, many neighbours have been really interested and pleased to learn about someone once in their midst, sometimes with surprise and great joy at hearing previously unrelated events and anecdotes. So, please send me anything you would like to share, but there is no obligation on anyone to do so, of course.

Again, our deepest sympathies to all those who have suffered from the loss of a loved one.

Local History.

The St John Couch Tapes

I am pleased to now reproduce Part 6 from Mary Ter Braaks excerpts from the St John Couch Tapes. Our thanks to Mary, and her ongoing efforts, giving real interest and pleasure to so many of us here in this village.

“Now we walk towards Trendle Lane and on our right surrounded by walls we come to what used to be one of the chief farms in the parish - Warres - owned at one time by the Warres family who were a titled family living at Hestercombe. Throughout the greater part of the last century, Warres farm of Bicknoller belonged to the Lethbridges. They were also a titled family whose seat was Sandhill Park, which has been for so long a children’s hospital.

Warres then passed to the Gimblett family. The entrance to the farm house used to be through a gate opposite Locks barn. It has now been filled in but if you look closely you can see where it was. The farmhouse burnt down round about 1900 and the present house called Warrescote was built.

In 1910 the property was owned by Mr William James Gimblett - he was the father of Percy Gimblett who lived at Blakes (Lower Weacombe) for many years. Some time in the latter part of the last century the Dean and Chapter (who owned Warres and Wayvile) made a very extensive swap over between Warres and Wayvile. All the large fields along the left hand side of Trendle Lane from the outskirts of Wayvile up to Quantock Moor used to be part of Warres. They were given to Wayvile. Lady Furlong and Greatmoor used to be part of Wayvile and they were given to Warres.

In 1910 a Mrs Cuff(?) lived in Warrescote - I remember 3 things about her. First she used to go around without a hat which in those days was distinctly unusual. Secondly she was always accompanied by two very vivacious little terriers and third she had a Jersey cow which was as much out of place as a Hottentot in an Eskimo village. She didn’t stay very long and the house was purchased by a Mrs. Brandeth(?).

In 1916 Warrescote was sold and purchased by a Mr & Mrs James Corner who retired from a fine farm in Fitzhead. They and their family were a great acquisition for the village and they both lived there for a number of years. Mr Corner died some 20 years or so before his wife but she lived on to be a great age until not many years ago. The house was then acquired by Mrs Thompson and Miss Martin and, as we know, Miss Martin is still living there.”

To be continued....

And a more recent and very different villager history....

Marsupilami

‘Ricky’ Hicks, who lived in Trendle Lane for over 20 years until December 2019, was the bass guitarist in the FIRST electric band to play on the now world famous **Pyramid Stage at Glastonbury Festival in 1970**, and the band were based for a time at Leary and Fred Hassons family farm at Langford Budville. They were also the first band to play at the **Isle of Wight Festival**, and the name Marsupilami, inspired by a cartoon character, was created by a Belgian artist, Andre Franquin. Richard has kindly lent me his library of records released and memorabilia if anyone would like to read more about this successful band with some of its roots here in Bicknoller.

The Group, who wrote many of their own songs, were radical and considered anti authoritarian, and had differences with both their management and within members about becoming more commercial rather than controversial. Sadly, this eventually led to disbandment, although some members continued within the music industry.

Richard, now sadly disabled, is no longer able to play, but has stayed in touch with one or two of the original group members.

Footnote; One of the other members, Dave Laverock was the son of the well known Taunton character, Les Laverock, who managed the Classic Cinema for many years.



(Richard is on the right)

Bicknoller Flower Show

If you use Facebook, search for Bicknoller Flower Show and you will find the new Group page, where you can join, and then you are invited to post and share pictures of your garden, flowers etc. Give us a day or two, and hopefully there will also be a link from Bicknoller Post.

To visit directly from here, just click on this link;... <https://www.facebook.com/groups/233202051290898>

Gardening Club?

I know some keen gardeners in the village are members of nearby great gardening clubs like Holford, Bagborough etc. so, do you think a Bicknoller Gardening Club, would attract a reasonable membership in the village, or does the Flower Show meet all that is required? We have discussed this previously within the Flower Show Committee, and I would suggest anything that we may do, would be either under the auspices of the Flower Show or allied very close to it. Obviously, losing both the Spring and Summer Shows has been a major blow this year, and I am sure, like us, you will have missed the pleasure of sharing experiences, successes and failures, with friends and neighbours. Please email or phone me if you think we should do something, and I will initially raise it with the Flower Show Committee, if there is sufficient interest.

Magazine Share

There is a folder in each Newspaper Box containing magazines donated by other villagers. Anyone in our Community is welcome to either put in or take out Magazines at any time. Just help yourself.' If you are worried about infection, leave them on a windowsill for a few days to gently 'cook' and they should be fine.

And finally.... What do YOU think?.

We are soon coming to the usual round of village AGMs, so is it a good idea to hold say Village Hall, Bicklifts, Shop, Flower Show all at the same time with

- a. A socially distanced public Meeting outside, say early September?
 - b. A Meeting inside the hall, with 2m distance, as aerated as possible, with Face Masks etc but nearer the normal time?
 - c. Forget them all and do it on Zoom.
 - d. Postpone until the Covid-19 risk is much lower.
- Email me with your preference, if interested.