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Covid 19

I have received the following message from Izzy Sylvester, Village Agent Somerset Rural Community Council, today which I have been asked to share.

'As you will be aware, we are continuing to see an ongoing rise in positive Covid-19 cases across the county with the seven day rate per 100,000 increasing in our districts. West Somerset's infection rate is currently one of the highest in the county - 44.5 at the time of writing. We need businesses, schools and communities to take action to help control the spread of the virus. Case levels in particular are higher in Minehead, but this is obviously a centre of population in West Somerset.'

For up to date information, sign up to the Covid Symptom Study www.covid.joinzoe.com

Village Hall

As reported last month, we did have three vacancies, but I am sorry to report that we now have a need for 5 new Committee members/trustees. My wife Lucy has had to step down for personal family reasons and Sally Simpson has also decided to resign. The following organisations currently have responsibility for providing a nomination;

Womens Institute	Vacant
Bicknoller Social Club	Carole Darke
Parochial Church Council	Vacant
Table Tennis Club	Vacant
Bicknoller Shop	Vacant
Bicknoller Flower Show	Dave Simpson
Mothers Union	Not required.

The revised date for your Diary is **October 28th at 19.30** in the Hall. For those expressing a wish to join online, a Whereby link will be sent to you a day or two beforehand. Nomination Forms and Proxy Voting forms are attached here, and can be returned to me, David Croxton via the Shop or delivered to Honeyrow House.

Last months appeal for more members of the community fell on deaf ears, so we would ask you again to consider stepping up. If the current trend of no response continues, the few volunteers carrying an unfair load will also eventually step back and this community will diminish as a result. Please consider coming forward and helping out. Bicknoller needs you..

Electric Chargepoints. I am pleased to inform you that both Chargepoints are now operational as from this week, and are free to use for a short time until the QR Code is displayed. You are invited to make a suitable donation if you wish either through the Shop or into the Collecting Box on the Barn. Both are 7kWh chargepoints. Estimated cost is around £1.50/hour charging per point.

Shop.

Bicknoller Village Shop

A big thank you to our community for your ongoing support.

Although we continue to serve at the shop door you were not deterred by the recent heavy rain. Your effort makes our effort worthwhile.

We are very pleased to once again offer a **dry cleaning and laundry service**. Example price list hand-outs are available from the shop. The service will operate on a 2 week turnaround, Tuesday to Tuesday. Just drop off your items at the shop by 1 pm latest on a Saturday.

With the colder days approaching, don't forget that we can take telephone orders between 9.30 am and 1.00 pm and arrange delivery.

St Georges Church

Ann Leigh has asked me to share the following with you

“I wonder whether you might put a piece in the next Parish Pumpings for the Church. It's about Easy Funding which we hope people in the village will take up. As you are aware the Church is an essential part of any village, and although people may not attend regularly it holds an iconic place in the village structure.

With Covid 19 and the church instructed to be shut for many months did not help our finances. With the use of Easy Funding it enables villagers, and others outside to contribute to St Georges at no cost to the purchaser. I am attaching the email that has been sent to me which will explain to people how to direct the small percentage of the purchase price to the Church but at no cost to themselves the small donation being deducted from the profit of the Company concerned. If you click on the link here or copy and paste it into your browser, it will bring you to the website.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/bicknollerstgeorgeschurch>

Local History.

Once again, our thanks to Mary ter Braak for providing these excerpts.

The St. John Couch tapes – Part 8 for Pumpings

“Now we go further up Trendle Lane - there are only 3 buildings to see. First we come to a block of two cottages, very recently built in 1910 for the employees at Wayvile, and then to a very fine house - Chilcombe House - which was built in the very early years of the century for a great gentleman, the Rev. Martin when he retired as Rector of Holford. I was told by a lady of well over 90 summers who has known Bicknoller all her life that that house was built of stone from Halsway quarry. The stone was transported there by wagons and horses provided by Robert Jennings who then farmed Upcott Farm.

Parson Martin was of great courtesy and kindness. I would describe him as a “period piece” and in saying that I'm not ridiculing him. “Period pieces”, especially if they are perfect specimens of their period, are treasures. He had the most beautiful voice. He was much sought after in civil affairs - he was a Justice of the Peace, Chairman of Williton RDC for quite a time and also Chairman of Bicknoller Parish Council.

For many years even when cars had become the usual mode of transport, Parson Martin would drive himself around in a horse drawn four wheeled dog cart with a groom sitting behind him. In 1910 and after, the groom was Jim Tuckfield to whom I think our present genial host at the inn is related.

On the left up Quantock Moor there are two cottages there today. The higher cottage was occupied by a family named Hays and the lower by the Sullys.”

To be continued...

Bickliffs.

Obviously, Bickliffs, in common with all voluntary Community Transport, has ceased to operate, because it is simply not possible to adhere to Covid-19 guidelines when driving a car. Now we are beginning to experience a second wave, more of our voluntary guidelines are becoming backed up by law.

We are currently trying to find viable alternatives, so that we can resume full service as soon as we can. If you really need a lift, do ring us, as we want to do all we can to help and support through these challenging times. We are undertaking a few journeys when we can.

Our AGM is on October 28th on Whereby online or in the Hall immediately following the Village Hall AGM.

Bicknoller Flower Show.

This year's AGM will be held online on 22nd October commencing at 7.30 p.m. Carole is sending out the Agenda and log on details. Please ring if you haven't received them. Jean Challender has resigned as Treasurer, so we are looking for a replacement.

Finally..... Those of us lucky enough to belong to the Coleridge Probus Club have benefitted virtually throughout the Pandemic by receiving a Minimag authored by one of its members, Geoff Parle. This fortnightly publication has consistently carried interesting facts and anecdotes, some of which I thought are worth producing here. Geoff has generously given me kind permission to reproduce excerpts as needed, which is greatly appreciated.

True or False

True

His name was Fleming, and he was a poor Scottish farmer. One day, while trying to make a living for his family, he heard a cry for help coming from a nearby bog. He dropped his tools and ran to the bog. There, mired to his waist in black muck, was a terrified boy, screaming and struggling to free himself. Farmer Fleming saved the lad from what could have been a slow and terrifying death. The next day, a fancy carriage pulled up to the Scotsman's sparse surroundings. An elegantly dressed nobleman stepped out and introduced himself as the father of the boy Farmer Fleming had saved. "I want to repay you," said the nobleman. "You saved my son's life." "No, I can't accept any payment for what I did," the Scottish farmer replied, waving off the offer. At that moment, the farmer's own son came to the door of the family hovel. "Is that your son?" the nobleman asked. "Yes," the farmer replied proudly. "I'll make you a deal. Let me provide him with the level of education my own son will enjoy and if the lad is anything like his father, he'll no doubt grow to be a man we both will be proud of." And that he did. Farmer Fleming's son attended the very best schools and in time, graduated from St. Mary's Hospital Medical School in London, and went on to become known throughout the world as the noted Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of penicillin. Years afterward, the same nobleman's son who was saved from the bog was stricken with pneumonia. What saved his life this time? Penicillin. The name of the nobleman? Lord Randolph Churchill. His son's name? Sir Winston Churchill.

Or False

Churchill's official biographer, Sir Martin Gilbert, first noticed a flaw in the story: the ages of Churchill and Alexander Fleming. The latter was seven years younger than Churchill. Would he have been ploughing a field at, say, age 7, when Churchill was 14? Hugh Fleming (1816-1888) was certainly able to save a drowning Churchill up to about age 14 (WSC was born in 1874). But there is no record of Churchill nearly drowning in Scotland at that or any other age. Nor, concluded Sir Martin, is there record of Lord Randolph paying for Alexander's education. Another fundamental problem involves Churchill's treatment in 1943. Dr. John Mather, an expert on WSC's medical history, writes: "Churchill was treated for a very serious strain of pneumonia not with penicillin but with 'M&B,' a short name for a sulfadiazine produced by May and Baker Pharmaceuticals. Since the M&B was successful, it was probably a bacterial rather than a viral infection." Sir Martin added: "The diaries of Lord Moran [Churchill's doctor], while mentioning M&B, say nothing about penicillin, or the need to fly it out to Churchill in the Near East." M&B was much appreciated by the prime minister, wrote Kay Halle in *The Irrepressible Churchill*. The patient "took delight in referring to his doctors, Lord Moran and Dr. Bedford, as M&B." He soon found that the most agreeable way of taking the drug was with whisky or brandy, commenting: "Dear nurse, pray remember that man cannot live by M&B alone." "But there is no evidence," Dr. Mather continues, "that he received penicillin for any of his wartime pneumonias. He did have infections in later life, and I suspect he was given penicillin or some other antibiotic by then available, such as ampicillin. And in 1946, Churchill did consult with Sir Alexander Fleming about a staphylococcal infection which had apparently resisted penicillin."

