



Cilla Hall.

It is with huge sadness that we report our loss of yet another Bicknoller treasure, with Cilla Hall, who sadly passed away on 15th August. She was such an elegant and vivacious lady, so vibrant and charming, and we will all miss her so much. If anyone within the family or any close friends would be willing to write something about Cilla and her life, we would be delighted to share it here.

Village Hall

We informed everyone in our July edition about progress with the refurbishment and work is now well under way. ***However, we urgently need some more residents of our village to step forward and join our Committee as we are currently no less than three members short.*** Some of our much loved community organisations and groups, who are represented by a seat around the table need to also accept their responsibilities and nominate a member/trustee, if not doing so. This is YOUR Village Hall and both it and our community will suffer if the Committee is not continually refreshed with new minds and different ideas. Furthermore, our Chairman, Dave Simpson announced last year that he wished to hand over the reins at this years AGM, after 5 years but, so far, no one has come forward. In addition, I feel the time has also come for a new Secretary to take over from me, and both of us are willing to actively continue serving as Committee members and Trustees.

The Committee have decided that, despite Covid-19, we should still go ahead and hold our **AGM**, properly structured for social distancing and in full accord with Govt Guidelines. The idea is that we will allocate as many spaces as possible to community members prepared to attend, as existing Committee members or anyone could choose to follow and participate in proceedings online, instead. I will circulate details shortly, but the date for your Diary is **October 21st at 19.30** in the Hall.

Shop.

As previously announced, the Community Shop is expanding and now taking over the entire barn, and this is now poised to happen quite quickly. The Shop Committee will, of course, be making their own announcements, but you are now seeing work begin on Phase 1 of the Village Hall refurbishment, the Shop extension will likely run alongside. The Car Park will be reduced in size whilst this work is carried out and temporary onsite storage has been acquired as planned.

Local History.

The St. John Couch tapes – Part 7 for Pumpings

Thanks again to Mary Ter Braak who continues to produce these for me efficiently every time I request them. If someone is keeping a similar diary or writing/written memoirs about Bicknoller, please consider sharing them with your community at some stage. I think they add so much depth to Bicknoller as a wonderful place to be.

‘Right opposite the entrance to Warrescote is the entrance to another fine house, now known as Wayvile. For many centuries before it was in fact the farmhouse of a fine farm known as Wayfield. It was also sometimes known as Manor Farm. During much of the earlier part of the last century, and for generations before, the copyholders were a family called Bickham. Of course, the Bickhams held Wayfield as

copyholders of the Dean and Chapter but in 1884 they purchased the freehold and so became the freehold owners. They did not hold it long and it changed hands several times until in 1903 it was sold by James Fresher Giles. He sold it to the West of England Land and Investment Trust Ltd. They sold it immediately to Mr Charles Herbert Greswell. He was a son of the Rector of Kilve. He had a brother who was a great historian and antiquarian who lies buried in our churchyard - William Henry Parr Greswell. Charles Herbert Greswell spent his working life in Ceylon. He retired and bought Wayvile. He added to and greatly improved the farmhouse but he did not farm the land. He had a wife Edith and a daughter Muriel who lived with him. He was a fine old gentleman of kind heart and simple faith. He was a churchwarden as, in later years, was his son Ernest and now in 1975 his grandson Dick.

He was the first person in the village to own a motor car. He also had a wonderful collection of birds' eggs and he had a gramophone - hand wound, large wooden horn. Edith Greswell died in the summer of 1913 but Charles Herbert continued to live in Wayvile until his own death in the summer of 1926 and his daughter Muriel kept house for him.

When Wayvile was still a farm, the farmhouse was occupied by George Henry Parsons, one of the great Parsons family. He also farmed the Dashwoods land but didn't live there. That I think was when James Giles was the owner of Wayvile but he lived in the great house at Woolston, now known as The Grange.

When I tread that piece of road between the gates of Warrescote and Wayvile, I often remember that, to a Somerset cricket worshipper, it is considered "holy" ground for on either side we have connections to two of the greatest cricketers who have ever played for Somerset county.

Bill Greswell (Wayvile) first played in 1908 when he was a schoolboy at Repton. His prowess principally was as a bowler - one of the finest swing bowlers that Somerset has ever had. He was also a very useful bat and in 1909 he scored 100 at Lords in (I think) 114 minutes.

Harold Gimblett (grandson of William James Gimblett - Warrescote) lived in Blakes, Lower Weacombe. In May 1935 he went from Watchet Club cricket to play for the county against Essex at Frome. He made 124 runs in 163 minutes which was the fastest century that season. During his subsequent career he made thousands of runs. He also batted for England.'

Bicknoller Inn

It is never an easy time to be running a pub, but now is particularly challenging. We need to actively support our wonderful local pub or possibly risk losing it. Distant breweries don't care. We do. Our Community organisations are what hold us together, and we have all found the social isolation hard to take at times, so please support all our Community places, whilst they are still here. USE THEM or LOSE THEM!

Isolation in our Community

There are a significant number of residents living alone in Bicknoller who, I suggest, have been more severely affected by Covid-19 than many of us. There has always been a good neighbour(s) I am certain looking out and keeping in touch, but there are many lonely people nearby who are less fortunate.

Contact the Elderly was set up in the 1960's to address this issue, by organising tea parties run by generous hosts in their homes and volunteer drivers collecting and returning our guests. This activity stopped completely with Covid-19 and lockdown. This charity has now rebranded itself as **Re Engage** <https://www.reengage.org.uk/> and whilst social distancing and mutual protection measures are key, they are adopting a different approach.

If you would be willing to sacrifice a little time, please visit this web site and sign up as a volunteer to undertake to telephone people who have requested contact. After that, if you would like to continue and join us as maybe a

volunteer driver, or possibly a tea party host (when they return, as they will) please let me know, or register with Re Engage.

Bicknoller Post has been a wonderful conduit for reaching out and clearly showed how highly valued it still is, by simply the numbers registering. **Re Engage** are currently doing nothing more, other than maybe extending the reach to other communities and other folk who will be delighted to have an informal friendly chat. There is no cost involved, but of course, donations are always welcome.

HAPPY TO CHAT

Now, this should amuse you! I wanted to simply insert a Re Engage Happy to Chat sticker here, which I have on all the paper copies, but computer problems mean this is all I can do here in the short time I have to get this edition out.

Ironic after my comments below about ONLINE!

Bickliffts.

Obviously, Bickliffts, 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.

Bicknoller Flower Show.

To cheer all of us up and, at the same time, remind us how many great gardens there are in Bicknoller, we have been asked to post snaps of lovely flowers and plants growing in our gardens. Carole Darke has now put this into a wonderful collage which is at the pub currently, but soon moving to the shop, I understand.

The Committee are currently considering how we can continue to function under the new virus bound regime, such as a Gardening Club, online activities (Zoom etc) so please share any brainwaves you might have. We need fresh and off the wall ideas, so please let us have them!

Finally ONLINE

If you feel you might be missing out, and are finding all this internet talk, way too complicated, just ask. We have many techno whizzes in our village, and we can achieve lots either by phone, online if you can, or even socially distanced whilst the weather allows! Ring me on 656489 or 07850 740 516 and we can find the best way to get to where you want to be.

It should always be a free choice to join in or reject the internet, but your decision should not create any disadvantage. We will always continue to supply paper copies of Pumpings to anyone who asks for it (Courtesy of Avril and Eddie..Thank you both!) so no pressure!