



PUMPLET NUMBER 82 April 2021

**Bicknoller
Annual Parish Conference
Wednesday 28 April 2021
7.00 pm
(This meeting will be held remotely via ZOOM)**

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85282072969?pwd=RDVNcmN1cFU4dGd0UEhXTVZWSHNSUT09>

Meeting ID: 852 8207 2969

Passcode: 402984

The Agenda and Papers will be published on the Parish Council's website prior to the meeting.

Bickliffs and Covid 19 Vaccinations

Somerset County Council have announced that all trips made for registered passengers with a current Concessionary Travel Pass will be transported to and from their allocated vaccination site appointment free of charge. As Bickliffs are now operating, as soon as you have your vaccination appointment, please book your trip. We require two days notice. We are also available for any other trips at our normal published rates. If you have never used us, please phone 656489 for a Registration form, as we can only transport you if you are a registered member.

BickWatch. Thanks to support from our own Parish Council, as well as Sampford Brett Parish Council, and Watchet Town Council, we are pleased to announce that our Community has been successful in obtaining £64,000 funding from the Somerset Climate Emergency Community Fund to purchase and operate a Nissan ENV 200 conversion, which enables us to transport passengers, Covid 19 compliant, as well as having wheelchair and disabled access. The vehicle can also carry up to 5 passengers in the rear compartment. This community owned vehicle, operated for Bicknoller and Sampford Brett by Bickliffs, will be shared with Watchet Drives, the new Community Car Scheme for Watchet and charged at Bicknoller Village Hall or Watchet, overnight. This is a Pilot Scheme, designed to demonstrate the climate change advantages of operating an electric vehicle, the benefits in lower energy cost/mile and the additional benefits of having a Community owned vehicle that, longer term, could potentially be available for self drive.

Bicknoller Wildlife

There is no doubt that a majority of Bicknoller parishioners value and enjoy their local wildlife as part of their delight in living in a wonderfully scenic area.

Transition Wellington have initiated a local Gardening for Wildlife Campaign and produced a local wildlife map. (Read more at www.ttw.org.uk and whilst our own population is obviously much different, our local wildlife could hopefully be more diverse given a less intensive human population.

If there is sufficient interest, we could form a working group of volunteers to be actively involved in constructing a Bicknoller Wildlife Map. We are hoping to engage with local environment groups like Quantock Eco to help make this happen.'

Bicknoller Village Hall

As a result of the pandemic, regrettably, the Reaching Communities (National Lottery) has revised its strategy and decided it will no longer support capital and refurbishment projects for community assets such as Village Halls. Therefore regrettably, our bid, which funders acknowledged was a strong bid, has been turned down. Writing bids is a time consuming and is a highly competitive business these days, so raising finance for the redevelopment and improvement of the hall is becoming an increasing challenge. Your Committee are still 3 members short and several appeals for new members has failed to attract any community response. Therefore, please ring me at 656489 in the first instance, even if you don't want to sit on a Committee but if you have any experience of writing bids, we could do with your help.

May Morning Market Plant Sale Saturday 15th May

Lucy and Sally have both been very busy growing on plants for our annual Plant Sale. This will be held outside the Village Hall, but somewhat weather dependent, of course. The Community were very supportive of this event last year, and, given the demand last year, Lucy and Sally have increased production of the most popular plants. Despite the adverse weather. Plants are currently growing well and there will be plentiful supplies of Tomatoes, Courgettes, Cabbage plants, Cucumbers, French and Runner beans, Asters, Busy Lizzies, Cosmos, Gazanias, Herbs, Lupins, Pelargoniums, Zinnia, Marigolds, Petunias and many more at very reasonable prices. Please support us by noting 15th May in your diary, from 11.00 to 13.00. Donations of any plants gratefully received, to Sally or Lucy, ideally the night before, please.

Bicknoller Flower Show 2021

Having consulted members and patrons for their views, the Flower Show Committee have decided to postpone making a final decision about the Show until their next Meeting on 5th May. This obviously means, should a Show go ahead, that it will be without many aspects and features, but your Committee are keen to both reflect the wishes of the Community and ensure everyone's safety and wellbeing. At the same time, the Marquee is also used by other organisations so your committee would hope to make it available, if possible. Perhaps now is a good time to mention that some BFSC members have been putting their heads together re staging a mini informal show – no marquee, no computer, no trophies, no entry fees but just friendly competition with limited number of classes in the main sections (cooking, fruit and veg, ? crafts and cut flowers) displayed on trestle tables around the carpark / field. Produce could be auctioned at the end and there could be a (cloakroom ticket) raffle with £100 1st prize!

Local History.

We continue to remain indebted to Mary Ter Braak for producing these fascinating instalments from tapes recorded about our village and community by Mr St.J.Couch.

The St. John Couch tapes – Part 11

We walk on through Culverhayes which in 1910 consisted of five cottages on the left and up on the right an L-shaped block containing two cottages. There is a footpath which takes us up to the railway arch by Yard Farm which was a thriving farm in 1910.

On down the hill into the little hamlet of Newton. It contains 3 farmhouses known respectively as Lower Newton (now Meadowsweet) Saffins and Newton also the cottage known as Turks. In 1910 Henry Charles Parsons lived in Saffins. He had a wife and two daughters - Elsie and Hilda - he also farmed Newton but the Newton house was occupied by two old ladies - Mrs ??? and Mrs Hill. When they passed on the Parson family took possession of the Newton house which has been greatly improved and modernised.

Newton farm was for many years in the last century held by the Duckham family. I think Robert Jennings must have married a widow Duckham for he had 3 stepdaughters, Florence Rose and Edith.

I must say a few words about Henry Charles Parsons' daughters, Elsie and Hilda. Hilda was a bit of an invalid although she got about and helped in the parish, but Elsie had dynamic energy and boundless enterprise. On a lovely June day

in 1915 I saw her married to Sydney Arthur Thomas of Sampford Brett but they moved their home to Newton where Elsie was born, lived her life and died. Whether working on the farm, singing in the new church chancel, dancing in the schoolroom, helping behind the stalls at Jumble sales, serving teas at garden fetes or sitting on the PCC she gave us her best and her best was indeed superlative. She died in March 1957. Happily her daughters, Mrs Ruby ??? and Mrs Peggy Bowerman continue to live in the parish and continue this great family's name.

Mtb 2 March 2021