

# East Budleigh with Bickton Parish News

## February 2021



Wildlife in the churchyard, by David White

Please send articles to:

[ebmag.as@rmcommunity.co.uk](mailto:ebmag.as@rmcommunity.co.uk)

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## **February View from the Vicarage...**

Dear friends,

When things look bleak, the situation dark and the future uncertain and full of fear it is so easy to succumb to despair and hopelessness. At a time like this it is instructive to look at another time when things were even darker.

In the 14th century in the midst of the black death, scant social infrastructure and no health service a woman was so close to death that a priest was called to give her the last rites. As the cross was held over her, her sight started to blur, her body went numb and she saw Jesus on the crucifix start to bleed.

What happened next was a series of fifteen visions through which she was assured that no matter what was happening, or how bad things seemed, God's love and benevolence towards all things was certain and assured.

This woman known only as "Julian of Norwich" went on to write the first book ever attributed to a woman called "Revelations of divine love" and I think we need to hear a little of what she wrote.

"From the time these things were first revealed I had often wanted to know what our Lord's meaning was. It was more than fifteen years after that I was answered in my spirit's understanding. 'You would know our Lord's meaning in this thing? Know it well. Love was His meaning. Who showed it to you? Love. What did He show you? Love. Why did He show it? For love. Hold on to this and you will know and understand love more and more. But you will not know or learn anything else — ever.'

This is the knowledge that keeps Christian believers going through thick and thin.

In terms of the pandemic we are in the dark before the dawn. Hope springs eternal in the heart of believers who know that God is love and rest in that knowledge. I'll end with that other well known saying of this visionary woman.

"In the end, all shall be well, all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well"

Love and prayers, Martin

**Pastoral  
Care**



If you know of anyone vulnerable or living alone – whether they come to church or not – who would appreciate being contacted, please phone the Raleigh Mission Community Pastoral Team Leader - Jenny Steele on 443133 or Lynda Bunting from All Saints, East Budleigh on 446731.

**From the Church Register**

**11th November 2020 - Funeral of John Leyman**

**The Church Matters** ..... and is at the time of writing, by popular consensus, and will until told otherwise or change in circumstances, be open for the 09.30am Sunday Holy Communion Service, and for private prayer/contemplation on Wednesdays, although Wednesday morning Prayer will be via streaming thanks to Margaret and Mike Scrivener, all welcome.

Thankfully, The Carol Service at All Saints on Christmas Eve and Holy Communion on Christmas Day proceeded as planned. Neither could have done so in the form which they did, were it not for the technological wizardry of Stephen and Maria, to whom we are most grateful. As in former years and those to come, the Carol Service lifted our spirits as the start of the celebrations. This year the “us” meant not only the limited number who could by ballot attend personally due to Covid restrictions, but extended to all who tuned in via YouTube, Facebook, WhatsApp and telephone. We delighted in choral recordings; two beautiful sung solos by Jola and Nancy and readings from the bible, and a poem called The Carol Concert by Clive Pierce read by Tony Venning. Thus, through ingenuity and hard work, Coronavirus did not prevent the celebration of the Christmas story being celebrated at All Saints whilst following all the rules and restrictions. So: an enormous “Thank you” to everyone from clergy, technicians, soloists, organists, readers, bell ringers, decorators, cleaners, and to the congregations both physically present and over the airwaves.

Turning to a more sombre albeit important topic, in these Covid ridden days, when physical attendance at services is limited and/or inadvisable, this has meant a drastic reduction in income from collections, whereas the church expenses, for example insurance and heating have not reduced. So there is a suggestion ..... it is not a plea ..... from the Treasurer for as many people who willingly can do so, to sign up to the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) It is simple to do and is designed to enable prospective donors to set-up a regular direct debit donation to All Saints over the telephone by calling 0333 002 1271. The process normally takes about 15 minutes or less. All that is needed is the following information to hand :-

- . personal bank a/c details.
- . The PGS code for All Saints, East Budleigh which is 150—615—005.
- . to say if you want to increase your gift in line with inflation each year.
- . if applicable, confirm that you are eligible for Gift Aid.

Donors will receive written confirmation (by e-mail or post) of their direct debit and date of their first donation. If donors wish to make any changes to their direct debit, including cancellation, they should telephone 0333-002-1260.



As we move into 2021, it is important to record a large “Thank you” to everyone who has contributed, and continue to contribute, in so many ways, be it great or small, to the life of All Saints, where you will always be welcome.

John Neligan - Churchwarden



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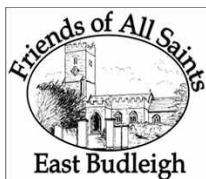
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## The Friends of All Saints East Budleigh help to protect and preserve the fabric of our ancient Church and maintain the Churchyard in good condition

The Friends Committee met virtually on 12th January and started to discuss potential fundraising ideas for 2021 dependent, of course, on the current Covid restrictions at the time of any possible event. These ideas included a fun run, the return of the scarecrows in some format... and a special delivery on 14th February to someone special to show how much they are appreciated. For more details on this initiative – see page 15. So, as you can see, the committee still has plans for appropriate events and is keen to get fundraising again. We thank Elliott Hamilton and Claire Duffield for their work with the Friends over recent years, as they stepped down from the committee in December. We also welcome Lawrence Booth who joined us in January. As always we'd love to hear your fundraising ideas and we're currently looking for others to join our merry little group. If this is something you'd be interested in doing or you have any ideas, please get in touch at [friendsofallsaintschurch.as@rmcommunity.co.uk](mailto:friendsofallsaintschurch.as@rmcommunity.co.uk)

Whilst our event fundraising hasn't happened for nearly a year, the only income we have is from yearly subscriptions and the monthly 200 club raffle. The raffle is a way of supporting the Friends whilst also having a chance of winning a prize each month. If you would like to support us in this way, please complete the form below.

Thank you, The Friends' Committee

More information about the Friends of All Saints East Budleigh can be found at [www.raleighmissioncommunity.org.uk/friends-of-all-saints.html](http://www.raleighmissioncommunity.org.uk/friends-of-all-saints.html)



### 200 Club Raffle

You may wish to join our 200 Club Raffle with a chance of winning a monthly cash prize. **1st prize = £40, 2nd prize = £20, 3rd prize = £10**

All you need to do is send your name, address and telephone number together with a cheque made payable to 'PCC All Saints East Budleigh' totalling £1 a month to the end of the year, eg, £11 from February or £9 from April etc., to the address below.

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Account Name: PCC All Saints East Budleigh Sort code: 30 94 36

Account number: 00601276 Reference: 200 club

## Our Churchyards

**Snowdrops** (see photos on page 15)

We listened to Radio 4's "Open Country" on Saturday 16 January about 'Snowdrop Country' - Alan Street (a galanthophile or snowdrop fan) has spent his life discovering snowdrops. One of the things he said was that the Victorians gave meanings to flowers and "they saw the snowdrop as a sign of hope ... after the dark winter and people died young in those days, people saw sorrow and tragedy all the time, and they would plant snowdrops on their loved ones graves and tend and nurture them and then see them in the spring as a symbol of hope of light after the darkness and they are such a joy to see". So snowdrops are the hope of new things to come.

Our snowdrops near the Yettington Road gate were starting to flower in early January - let us hope for better things this year.

### Churchyard Volunteering

The Churchyard session on 20th November was frustrated by the lock-down. We provided a list of jobs to the regular volunteers and said that if they had nothing better to do ... most of the work was completed by the time we went up there!

The last 2020 Churchyard Working Party on Friday 18th December saw five of us, socially distanced, but able to complete most of the tasks. Using pallets, we made a temporary compost bin in the New Churchyard - the intent is to transfer some of the old compost there whilst we construct better compost bins behind the shed.

January saw a new lockdown ... in line with other organisations that have outdoor volunteers, we sent our volunteers a list of a few jobs to do ... and some of them had their exercise taking on tasks in the Churchyard - thank you.

We will see what we are allowed to do in

the months ahead... in normal times we meet by the shed in the old Churchyard at 10am on the 3rd Friday of the month. Get in touch with us (details below) or check out our webpage [www.raleighmissioncommunity.org.uk/churchyard-working-party.html](http://www.raleighmissioncommunity.org.uk/churchyard-working-party.html) if you would like to join us, all are very welcome. We send email updates to regular working party members.

### More On-line Talks ...

Following the Caring for God's Acre (CfGA) Zoom presentations by Professor Harold Mytum, we went up to the Churchyard to try out his system for documenting memorials. Some of it does appear to be very academic in its basis but some of it is useful with respect to what we are trying to achieve and we will include these aspects. The key thing for us is to record all the inscriptions before erosion means they disappear for ever, the niceties such as the shape and decoration of the stone don't feel so important.

There was a follow-up Zoom meeting in which we gleaned one or two more nuggets but it seemed like we had been the only ones to try his system! There will be a further Zoom in about six weeks so we'll see if that provides more help.

If there is anyone that would like to help by taking photographs of the memorials and/or recording the transcriptions and/or doing some work on Excel spreadsheets to make the information user-friendly and presentable, please contact us.

**Please visit and enjoy the Churchyards – they are wonderfully peaceful places for quiet contemplation and a haven for wild-life**

Penny and Paul Kurowski. Tel: 01395 742942; [pandp@kurowski.me.uk](mailto:pandp@kurowski.me.uk) or [churchyard.as@rmcommunity.co.uk](mailto:churchyard.as@rmcommunity.co.uk).





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## **A different kind of Carol Service...**

Three months ago we started on a journey. It began with the realisation that Christmas was going to be different. A maximum of 90 people not the usual 300+ could attend the popular Carol Service by law. Nobody wants to be part of a church that turns people away on Christmas Eve. So the hunt for a solution began.

We were not alone. Many faced the same challenge. After months of research we found FaithOnline on the CofE Parish Buying support pages. The equipment was deceptively simple looking, just a video camera the size of a mobile phone and a microphone no bigger than an After 8 mint! Small, compact but deceptively powerful delivering clear cut pictures and crystal clear sound.

We watched the training videos, conducted discrete rehearsals, ironed out the bugs - and suddenly All Saints was live-streaming on YouTube and Facebook! History was made in our small ancient church! Importantly there was also a dedicated phone line to call and listen to the service if social media is not for you. Over 100 hits on YouTube, some repeats no doubt, proved it worked. Six people called to listen with most staying for all the service.

The technology saved the day! More important was the lessons learnt. We shared the dilemma on these pages, open and transparent, and asked for your help. Your response was clearly in favour of a live Carol Service that was inclusive and where everyone in the village could participate. The task was daunting and quite humbling. It made us appreciate the sense of community here afresh.

In the dark days of winter, the opportunity to come together and celebrate Christmas brings hope and light in the darkness. We remember our families and friends, those we share our lives with and those who we cannot see, or are passed. The central message is one of love and hope.



### **Next edition of the Parish News**

Please send items for the March 2021 issue of the magazine to  
**ebmag.as@rmcommunity.co.uk**  
**by 6pm on Sunday 14th February. Thank you**

## East Budleigh with Bicton Parish Council

A Happy New Year to you all. If you need information or assistance, please make use of the Parish Council website, which has links to the latest Covid situation and many forms of assistance available to residents, particularly those in need or vulnerable, and for businesses. [www.eastbudleigh-pc.gov.uk](http://www.eastbudleigh-pc.gov.uk)

Our local Community groups are meeting regularly and pooling resources, which included a joint enterprise to check on those living alone and the arrival of three elves in the village just before Christmas, to pass out chocolate coins to excited children (complements of Waitrose).

Despite the restrictions of Tiers and Lockdown, discussions have continued between environmental groups, the Parish Council and residents. The Lower Otter Restoration Project (LORP) was passed by the district planners on 7th January 2021. Discussions continue on the Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS), which is making plans for long term conservation of our landscape following discussions with Farmers, other land users/owners and conservation groups. Government are also asking councils and residents to consider the Devon Carbon Plan to reduce our carbon footprint. You can participate too. Go to [www.devonclimateemergency.org.uk](http://www.devonclimateemergency.org.uk) for information and online webinars.

Locally, the Parish Council is going ahead with the creation of our Nature Trail and the refurbishment of the East Budleigh Phone box as a mini museum and walkers information point. We are also looking at government plans to encourage implementation of Electric Chargers in suitable public places. N.B. There are grants available now for domestic charging points. Our Toilets are being refurbished with more cost-effective washing facilities and will re-open in April. Councillors continue to search for solutions to the continuing traffic problems



too. So there is lots to keep us busy in 2021 and if you want to participate, consider becoming a Parish Councillor or perhaps, just lending us your expertise.

Judith Venning

[clerk@eastbudleigh-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@eastbudleigh-pc.gov.uk)

Photo by Peter Bowler



## East Budleigh in Bloom

Spring is just around the corner with plenty of shoots already showing to cheer us up. Sadly, the snowdrops on the Pound, planted last year under the holly bush, are now behind the screening so we will not be able to see them this year. The bulbs we took from the herb garden were planted in front of the cart and are coming along well, so plenty of joy to come.

Our pansies are looking sad on the whole, and not giving the winter colour we had hoped for. No doubt, as the weather turns warmer, they will flower profusely, so, with the daffodils flowering as well, the village should be a riot of colour; something to look forward to.

Thank you to everyone for supporting our table sales; we raised enough money to cover the summer planting, which is on order. We have very optimistically set a date for our plant sale, which will be our main fundraiser this year. The date is 22 May, so fingers crossed!

If you have any queries please contact the secretary, Jon Roseway, 01395 488739.

Keep safe, keep smiling and keep enjoying your gardens.





# East Budleigh Community Shop

Newsletter No. 129 - FEBRUARY 2021

## CALLING ALL MEMBERS

We will be holding our Annual General Meeting for shop members at **7.00 pm on Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> February**. Sadly we cannot do this in the usual way, so we have arranged for a safe Zoom meeting to be set up on the internet for the occasion. We hope that as many members as possible will be able to access this.

We will be emailing all our members with full details of how this works, and how to obtain help or advice if necessary.

Our accounts and annual report will be available as printed copies and on our website as usual.

If you are not a member and wish to join, we would be very pleased to enrol you in the shop, for a one off payment of £5.

## COMMUNITY SHOP NEWS

We would like to say a massive THANK YOU to the many customers who sent cards and gifts over Christmas to the volunteers and staff at the shop. It was truly lovely and we were quite overwhelmed!

As a shop, we have taken the decision to allow only one customer in at a time, for now. This keeps everyone safe and allows our volunteers and staff to head on to the shop floor should they need to process telephone orders. Your patience will be greatly appreciated.

Hand sanitiser is provided outside the shop which we ask everyone to use. We also remain a "card payments only" shop for now.

For everyone's safety we require facemasks unless someone has a medical card exempting them – and, if you cannot come into the shop, for shielding or isolating reasons, then do please use our facility of telephone orders for collection or FREE delivery.

**Just call, any weekday morning on 01395 445550.**

## SUPPORT FOR THE COMMUNITY

More than ever this Christmas, it was really important for us to help support our local charities and organisations.

It is wonderful to let you know that we helped Stallcombe House with a fantastic sale of 75 packs of Christmas cards, raising £254 for them – beating last year's sales. They are so grateful in, what has been for them, a very difficult year for fund raising. This is a lovely partnership with a great local charity and we look forward to continuing this support into the future.

The beautiful cards that were produced by Hugh Blagdon were also extremely popular this Christmas (and rightly so) and raised £185 for Cancer Research. Well done Hugh!

We also helped Drakes School sell their wreath-making boxes (£720) and Yettington Village hall sell their raffle tickets (£127).

## VILLAGE VEG

Calling all gardeners! We have had great supplies of home-grown veg for the shop in 2020, and the mainstay has been the produce from the shop allotment.

Thanks to the hard work of Nick Ward, this has ensured a steady stream of fresh and local fruit and vegetables for the shop.

Now we need a new organiser and volunteers to give whatever time they can spare to keep this valuable project going in 2021. Without support we will be unable to keep our allotment.

If you can help in any way, please let us know in the shop.

**For someone special...** Valentine's Day will soon be upon us. This is the perfect time to show your appreciation of that Someone Special. Let's face it, we could all do with something to smile about and even better, to put a smile on their face. Maybe it is to say thank you to your loved one, or maybe to your neighbour for that phone call or chat.

The Valentine's Day Gift at £5 is the perfect answer! A personalised chocolate heart, a rose and a glass of wine all beautifully wrapped in biodegradable gift wrap and delivered to their door within the parish, at no extra charge by the Friends of All Saints.

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Snowdrops in the  
churchyard



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## East Budleigh with Bicton Women's' Institute

I hope you are all managing to keep busy & cheerful throughout these worrying times. Hopefully, now that we are into a new year with the prospect of imminent vaccination, things will get better.

The Christmas Goody Bags containing a 'Meeting in a Bag' were well received. The contents included a Speaker's written talk, a Competition, Refreshments (teabags & a chocolate biscuit & craft projects.

The winner for the 2020 Flower of the Month was Maureen Welch's beautiful pink Tree Peony. Well done Maureen.

Please look at the Devon Federation (DFWI) & National (NFWI) websites for interesting articles, recipes, courses & ideas. You don't have to be a WI Member to access them!

Your Committee are still in contact & working behind the scenes! Please continue to be very careful, & best wishes to you all.

Rosemary Jerrard



New bat barn at The Pound -  
read more on page 27



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## Village Hall: Chairman Position

Following 3 years of rewarding and very interesting time spent as a Trustee of the Village Hall, I am looking to stand down as Chair with effect from the AGM which is set to take place April/May of this year.

The Trustees therefore are looking to appoint someone to join the group who will quickly come up to speed on the Trustee role and matters involved and be able to take on the Chair role and guide the Trustee team going forward.

It is as said, rewarding and interesting, and of course important for the future strength and direction of the Village Hall.

There are no specific skills required, the current team has a considerable range of experience, but most important is a desire to see the Village Hall develop for the benefit of the community.

I am more than happy to discuss the role with anyone interested and I will provide continuing guidance and advice in the early stages if required.

Please contact me on my mobile: 07866 660 196, I look forward to hearing from you.

Chris Dearsley

## Drake's C of E Primary School



It has been a strange start to the year in school with the news of school closures coming just before we were due to welcome everyone back from their Christmas holidays. Drake's school is closed to everybody but we have our Key Worker children attending Otterton C of E Primary School. The children, and staff, have adapted well to online learning and are enjoying online lessons. We have signed up to a BBC Scheme to ask for donations of laptops or tablets for children who currently don't have devices, to enable children to access schoolwork from home. If you have a device you no longer need, please contact us on [admindrakes@thelink.academy](mailto:admindrakes@thelink.academy) or call 01395 568 326.

Follow us on Facebook to keep up to date with all the exciting things happening in school.



Search for - Drake's CofE Primary School



## Village Hall Refurbishment Project - Update



A Happy New Year to you all from the Village Hall Refurbishment Project. We wish you all the best for 2021. Last year was a strange one to say the least, but there were also some moments that shone through like nuggets of gold including seeing the boules court being used on Christmas morning, which was just wonderful!

The village hall has some exciting announcements to hopefully bring a bit of cheer. First of all we can assure you that in the background we are chomping at the bit to get organising village social events again, the days of village BBQs, events in the hall and community lunches will return, with all the trimmings! I think we all need something to look forward to.

Moving on from the fantastic work accomplished on the village green, we now have our sights firmly set on making our already successful village hall a venue for each and every one of us to utilise in the future. After securing some funding for plans we are now in a position to ask for your help again as a community to get involved and help mould the shape of the hall and surrounding area for future generations.

We will be sending out a questionnaire in the next newsletter, please, please fill it out. We would love to hear any ideas you might have. We are hoping to spend at least the first half of 2021 in a phase of consultation with everyone. Then fingers crossed we will have plans finalised by the latter part of the year, ready for fundraising and finally works to begin hopefully in 2022.

So please don't forget to fill in your questionnaire which will be in the March edition of the Parish News.

The Village Hall Refurbishment Project

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## CLINTON DEVON ESTATES

### **A positive start to the new year as the Lower Otter Restoration Project is granted approval**

A very local but landscape-scale project to address the impact of climate change by returning the Otter estuary and flood plain to a more natural condition was given unanimous support by East Devon District Council's planning committee at the beginning of the year.

The embankments built more than 200 years ago at the far east of East Budleigh to reclaim land from estuary are now failing as we face rising sea levels and more extreme weather events. This timely initiative will ensure a sustainable future, deliver key government objectives set out in the 25 Year Environment Plan and Environment Bill and include the creation of new areas of intertidal habitats, to provide a home for numerous rare and endangered native and migratory species.

Landowner Clinton Devon Estates started investigating options for the floodplain in 2003 and commissioned a number of studies. In 2014 along with the Estate's Pebblebed Heaths Conservation Trust, responsible for managing the area, a partnership was forged with the Environment Agency, forming the Lower Otter Restoration Project (LORP) to explore ways of managing and funding the project, working alongside a wide-ranging group representing local people.

As well as recreating the former habitats, the project will also involve the realignment of South Farm Road, a new road bridge and footbridges and footpath improvements ensuring public access to the much-loved area will be assured into the future.

Budleigh Salterton Cricket Club's Otter-mouth ground, an important community and regional asset, will be moved from its current location in the flood plain to land off East Budleigh Road, permission for which has already been granted under a separate planning application. Ideas on how this ambitious project might proceed were shared with the public over a number of years before a planning application was submitted by the Environment Agency at the end of 2020. The application was supported by a wide range of conservation and other bodies including RSPB, Natural England, the Jurassic Coast Trust and Devon Wildlife Trust who are keen to collaborate as the project moves forward.

Mark Rice, Environment Manager for the Environment Agency, said: "Climate change is affecting the way we manage our coasts and estuaries, and we must adapt to that change. The Lower Otter Restoration Project is an example of how we can do that. We aim to deliver long term benefits for people and wildlife by working in partnership and through more sustainable management of the Otter Estuary."

Dr Sam Bridgewater, Head of Wildlife and Conservation at Clinton Devon Estates, said: "It is our belief that the Lower Otter Restoration Project will provide a more sustainable and certain future for the threatened Otter valley. It will also deliver very significant benefits to people and wildlife in the long term. The granting of planning approval is a major step forward in helping us deliver this vision. We have worked closely with a range of stakeholders representing local people who have helped us reach this milestone and we are grateful for their input over many years."

Planning approval means work on the project can start this spring and be

completed in 2023. The LORP is part of a wider project PACCo – Promoting Adaptation to Changing Coasts – which will receive €17.8m from the Interreg VA France (Channel) England programme.

For more information, please visit [www.lowerotterrestorationproject.co.uk](http://www.lowerotterrestorationproject.co.uk)

### **BAT BARN AT POUND BARN, EAST**

**BUDLEIGH** (photo on page 21)

The approved development at Pound Barn has been designed in consultation with East Devon District Council and their independent ecological advisor Julien Perrett of Encompass Ecology.

A European protected species licence (ref. 2020-48763-EPS-MIT) has been obtained from Natural England to legally allow the demolition of the existing barn, in which a number of bat species roost in small numbers (survey reports are available on EDDC Planning Portal). Surveys to inform both the planning and licence applications followed best practice guidelines. Several mitigation and compensation measures are being undertaken to provide alternative roosting provision for bats, minimise any potential disturbance of bats and maintain the favourable conservation status of the bat species present. These include works being carried out under an ecological watching brief and the construction of a purpose-built ‘bat barn’ to provide a roosting site for all species using the existing barn before the existing barn is demolished. In addition, additional trees and hedges will be planted to provide better bat commuting and foraging habitat around the site.

The design of the bat barn follows advice within English Nature’s Bat Mitigation Guidelines (2004). The new building, whilst smaller than the existing barn, has been designed to provide conditions far more suitable for breeding bats in the summer.

For example, it has a slate roof to provide a warm loft. It also has a cool ground floor to provide fairly stable winter temperature and high humidity, with the aim of providing a potential winter roost. The building has several different areas so that different species can roost separately. For horseshoe and long-eared bat species, a dedicated loft area and ground floor with free flight access is provided. For crevice-dwelling bat species, roosting provision is provided in various places within the bat barn, including bat slates, a raised ridge tile, timber cladding, a Schwegler bat tube and internal crevices. Most importantly it will be undisturbed, unlike the existing barn which was used for storing agricultural machinery and subject to frequent human disturbance.

The bat barn will remain within Estate ownership and as part of the Natural England licensing process and Clinton Devon Estates’ ecological management plan, maintenance and monitoring of future bat use of bat barn will be undertaken indefinitely by Richard Green Ecology Ltd. It is the intention that survey results will also be shared with the local community. Richard Green Ecology has designed a number of bat barns, dating back to 2004. Over this time, they have gained significant knowledge to understand features of value to bats, and working with builders, to ensure that proper mitigation/compensation is delivered during construction. Richard Green Ecology also undertook a site survey prior to work and confirmed that badgers are no longer using the previously identified badger sett on the site.

Whilst works to convert Pound Barn take place, fencing will be used to protect the roots of the trees, whose wellbeing is being monitored by East Devon Tree Care.



# Yettington Village Hall

## **Covid-19**

Due to the current national lockdown, the Hall closed on 5th January 2021 & will reopen when government guidance allows.

## **Christmas Raffle 2020**

A BIG thank you to all who supported the Yettington Village Hall Christmas Raffle by either donating a wonderful prize or purchasing raffle tickets or both! We're delighted to say that 1172 tickets were sold with £1008 being raised.

This will go a long way towards the internal work required at the Hall.

The draw was held at the Hall on the 21st December with a small audience in attendance. All lucky winners were notified within 24hrs of the draw.

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## East Budleigh Collaboration

To bring comfort during these difficult times, our village has found a way to pool resources and care for our residents. The Parish Council initiated the formation of regular virtual meetings with local volunteer groups. Representatives from the Village Hall, Community Shop, All Saints Church, Drake's School PTFA and the Parish Council are now meeting online regularly. It has proved a very successful way to understand the many activities of each group and to identify joint initiatives. You can read more about them and their contact details in this magazine. All groups have faced up to tremendous challenges in order to support our Community and to plan for ongoing needs and events.

A collaboration took place to provide some Winter cheer, by distributing Christmas puddings to the elderly or those who live alone and chocolate coins to the children. The next collaboration will be on "Sandbag Day" when sandbags will be filled and distributed ahead of any future floods. Meanwhile, the Friends of All Saints are planning for the summer Scarecrow Festival and for a Valentine's Day Gift Scheme. We continue to think of ideas for celebrating our return to "normal" in due course.

The greatest challenge continues to be the difficulty of identifying those who may be in need at this time. The church has telephone chat and other support services. Also, the Parish Council can direct residents to a wide variety of solutions. Assistance is available from the Parish Council and the Church to help with any Covid-related difficulties. If you or anyone you know would welcome such help, please be encouraged to make contact with one of the groups listed above.

Judith Venning

Clerk to East Budleigh with Bicton Parish Council

1 Chichester Way, East Budleigh, Devon, EX9 7ER, Tel: 01395 489155

Mobile: 07770764663 [clerk@eastbudleigh-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@eastbudleigh-pc.gov.uk)

### East Budleigh Church Hall

The church hall has lovely views across the village and surrounding countryside.

It has a modern kitchen and is available to hire for functions and activities.

Please contact:

Richard Slade 01395 443609 or church office 01395 443397

where frost in the dark corners of fields is still there in the evening. Indeed, we had the year's first Sunday volunteer work party on such a day but it was the blue sky variant of bone-chillingly cold, and so once warmed up through hard work (temperature regulation in mammals – brilliant, helped by thermal textile technology) it couldn't have been a better day to be out. One of those days where the hoar frost keeps on growing thicker white on the edges of needles, leaves, thin branches, until it eventually it reaches a tipping point in temperature and melts. By 11:30, we noted it was all coming to a swift end because the frost, which had been dropping shards of white all morning, by this time was falling from the trees like rain.

If the winter keeps on going, so does our winter work programme. We are running to a seasonal schedule with work that is only feasible during certain months, if at all this year. For us in conservation and land management, we are largely governed by the breeding season. So now that we're outside of this, we are hard at work in clearing scrub and small trees. We are doing a lot of pulling up of small pines and birches, with volunteers working to cut out/down the larger ones. But if this may seem a bit brutal, take a look around. There will always be birch. We cannot get rid of it all and there will always be patches of scrub and young woodland in amongst the more typical heath. It's all about trying to make space for the heathland mainstay plants to thrive. The heathers, the gorse. But we also want to make sure that these two plants (here in East Devon there are

three species of heather, and two or three gorse) are represented in all their life stages. We want seedlings, one year olds, bushes and tall denser plants across a heathland site. So we choose areas of gorse to coppice too, on a rotational basis of about 15 years, cutting it down when it reaches its final life stage, when it is very tall and leggy and doesn't allow anything else to grow under it. The Dartford Warblers have no use for it when it gets to this stage. And it responds very well to coppicing.

On Aylesbeare at the moment, there are no more cattle but the Exmoors and Dartmoor ponies here will stay throughout the winter. This week we have got machinery on site. A digger will be creating 'scrapes' of bare earth, in various patches, returning again to continue in a month's time. You may have seen these areas on heathland. They are striking and deliberate looking when new but often people approach us, unsure what the intention is. It's an effective mechanical way of taking the vegetation back to zero, starting from scratch. In a lot of cases, scraping the surface soil takes away the shallow bracken rhizomes as well, and it's a most effective way of tackling dense bracken. Bracken is another excellent colonizer but quite thuggish and, unchecked, can create great swathes of monoculture. If biodiversity is what we're trying to increase (which it is) then this is no good. The bare earth will become recolonized in the coming years and the seeds of grasses like bristle bent, and heather and gorse will germinate. Until it becomes fully covered again by vegetation, it is a dry environment for invertebrates like ants and reptiles, particularly with its capacity in the summer to absorb the sun's heat, useful for cold

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## **200 Club**

We would love to welcome new players to our monthly raffle;

The 'Friends of East Budleigh Church' run a monthly raffle throughout the year to help raise funds for the upkeep of the church and churchyard.

Three winning numbers are drawn at the shop at the end of each month with three cash prizes of £40, £20 and £10.

### **November 2020 winners:**

- 1st Mrs Bodley-Tickell
- 2nd Mrs B Fowler
- 3rd Mr Rob Withers

### **December 2020 winners:**

- 1st Mr T Pyne
- 2nd Mr and Mrs J Duke
- 3rd Mrs B Rainford

If you would like to subscribe for the 200 Club for 2021, please send your name, address, telephone number and email together with a cheque for £11 per number (£1 per month until the end of 2021) made payable to

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## **Who's who in East Budleigh & Bickton**

### **Vicar - Rev'd Martin Jacques -**

01395 443473 / 07795 025 016

[vicar@rmcommunity.co.uk](mailto:vicar@rmcommunity.co.uk)

### **Associate Priest – Rev'd Karen Young**

01395 488121

[associatepriest@rmcommunity.co.uk](mailto:associatepriest@rmcommunity.co.uk)

### **Churchwardens -**

Marilyn Hobbs 01395 488739

John Neligan 01395 442781

[churchwarden.as@rmcommunity.co.uk](mailto:churchwarden.as@rmcommunity.co.uk)

### **RMC Administrator -**

Fran Mills - 01395 443397

[raleighmc@gmail.com](mailto:raleighmc@gmail.com)

The office at St Peters church is open;  
Mon 1-3, Tues-Thurs 10-12 & Fri 10-2.

### **Parochial Church Council -**

#### **Secretary -**

Fran Mills - 01395 443397

[pccsecretary.as@rmcommunity.co.uk](mailto:pccsecretary.as@rmcommunity.co.uk)

#### **Treasurer -**

Maria Malinowska 07773 218582

#### **Bellringers Captain -**

Alan Murdoch 01395 445230

#### **Organist - Geoff Aplin 01395 442951**

#### **Church Hall bookings – 01395 443609**

or church office 01395 443397

#### **Parish News -**

[ebmag.as@rmcommunity.co.uk](mailto:ebmag.as@rmcommunity.co.uk)

blooded creatures. The ants it supports are particularly of interest to us on Aylesbeare because they are a symbiotic part of the life cycle of the Silver Studded Blue butterfly, one of our key species.

If you find yourself stepping out into some of the wetter parts of the reserves now, you may well find you flush out snipe. These are the birds with the extraordinary 'drumming' call of the male at dusk in the breeding season. Look that up on YouTube or, better yet, return in the early summer to hear for yourself. They skulk in the mires and water edges, gathering there in the winter (although they are resident birds and this is not a case of them gathering in flocks as such) and often if you flush out one you can be assured you'll flush out a few more. A methodical survey of the area of Thorntree at Blackhill

Quarry came back with a count of 64 snipe in one session by one volunteer! They can be told by the habitat for starters, by their quick ascent and erratic, zig zag flight away, and they will often emit a quick scratchy call.

So, work continues on the heath! You may see our staff or volunteers out on the reserve. Following government guidelines, the RSPB has decided this essential conservation work can continue during this latest lockdown, albeit with a tightening of the restrictions we already had in place, particularly in limiting the work we carry out so that we're just doing jobs where 2m social distancing is easy to maintain. We have reduced our group numbers, and volunteers work together in small 'bubbles' to limit contact. And the car park at Joney's Cross is still open.

## **Services at All Saints East Budleigh in February**

If guidelines allow, we will continue to hold a spoken Holy Communion service at All Saints Church each Sunday;

### **Sunday 9.30am Holy Communion**

This service will be live streamed and can be watched in actual time and is available to watch afterwards. Please visit

<https://app.faith.online/p/organizations/RmDbLUElb>

and Morning Prayer by Zoom each Wednesday

### **Wednesday 10am Morning Prayer on Zoom**

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