

THE BUZZ

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2018



**Dear Buzz Readers,
BEST WISHES TO EVERYONE
FOR 2018
and thank you for your
continued support**

As editor of The Buzz may I thank those, especially Rose who makes our covers so special for each issue and the volunteers who see that everyone receives their regular Newsletters.

You will see in this newsletter that mention is made of a forthcoming Craft Fair which will take place in our hall in March. Rose and I invite all our very own village Art and Crafters to take part and show off their skills!

Please remember that if you have anything for the next issue of The Buzz the Editor would like it by the 20th February.

Sheila Cholwill Editor

E-mail :

sheilacholwill@btinternet.com

Telephone: 01288 381350

OUR NEXT LUNCH IN THE HALL

will be

Thursday 11th January

Chefs Gill and Fran

Main Course Choice

Lasagne or

Chicken Tagine with cous cous

Served with carrots and

green beans

Dessert Choice

Baked pears with almonds and

honey or

Sticky Chocolate Pudding

£7.50

Open to All

Please book by calling

Sheila 381350

or

Audrey 381402

**BE ENTERTAINED or
DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY
WITH**

BRIDGERULE JAMMERS

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 17TH

VILLAGE HALL

7.30—11.30PM

TICKETS £5

See Poster for more details

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE AT ST. BRIDGET'S CHURCH



Mary Aicheler led the recent Christingle Service



Happy New Year to everyone.

Sorry to anyone we missed before we left for our base near to Exeter, visits were getting very frequent to the RD&E. We are very comfortable and I have just finished week3 of 7 , it's getting tough but the hospital staff are marvellous, and so is Sarah. Thank you to all our lovely friends for their cards and messages, it all helps a lot. We hope you all have great parties .

Love from Barry and Sarah. X

Required immediately – Bridgerule Primary School

We are seeking to appoint a caring and friendly individual to look after a pupil with special educational needs during the school lunch break.

You will be required to organise play activities and supervise the pupil to ensure their safety and well-being during their lunch, in the play-ground and dining hall, and support them in their play.

You will:

- Be confident, flexible, proactive and committed to ensuring our children learn in a happy, safe and secure environment;
- Be willing to go that extra mile for our children;
- Be able to demonstrate good food hygiene practices and follow the school health and safety policies;
- Undertake lunch-time play duty, supervising by interaction and inclusion.

Previous experience of working with SEN children would be an advantage.

This post is temporary to support the special needs of a child and is subject to their continued attendance at the school and/or the result of any review of their special needs. 4 days a week, 12.15pm – 1.15pm.

We also require an additional Mealtime Assistant

Bridgerule Primary School requires a friendly and happy mealtime assistant / play leader to join their supportive team to help organise lunchtime play activities and supervise pupils whilst eating lunch. You will enjoy working with children in an active role.

Responsibilities include:

- Securing the safety and welfare of pupils during the midday break
- Supervision of pupils in and about the premises and site

The successful applicants will need to work within our Church School Ethos, be able to communicate clearly, have a good understanding of how to work with children and most essentially a sense of humour.

3 days a week, 12.15pm – 1.15pm.

For further information please contact – Susanne Kiff –

skiff@hcc.devon.sch.uk – 01409 253430

Holsworthy Area Federation is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people.

MONTHLY TABLE TOP SALE

BRIDGERULE VILLAGE HALL

TRADERS £5 A TABLE

Can set Up from 12.0 Noon - Buyers from 1.30pm

NEXT TABLE TOP: SATURDAY FEBRUARY 3RD
SATURDAY MARCH 3RD

PLEASE show your support to this regular sale

Come and browse, stay for a cup of tea/coffee and a piece of cake.

Christine can be contacted on 01288 381033 or

Sheila on 01288381350

We are always very grateful for fresh items you may no longer have a need for to sell at our Table Top



On Tuesday November 21st Bridgerule C of E (VC) Primary School's PEGS (Pupil Ethos Group) led the regular school worship with Noah's Ark as their theme. Pictured above are Phoebe Lucas, Holly Price and Sam Linney who re-enacted the Old Testament story of the Great flood. They led the pupils in both prayer and song during this time of Collective Worship.

Sheila's Mentions:

Happy Birthday to:

Betty Ingram for the 4th January
 Brenda Tole Happy 80th for the 9th January
 Happy 60th Gary Abbott for the 14th January
 Pat Hodges for the 15th January
 Ron Cameron for the 16th January
 Vic Pickett for the 23rd January
 Joan Marshall for the 24th January
 Ron Abbott for the 8th February
 Happy 40th Paul Cholwill for the 13th February
 Marie Field for the 21st February
 Harry Hillier-Cholwill for the 24th February
 Tony Wallis for the 26th February

Our thoughts and Best Wishes go to Barry and Sarah Williams. Love the beard Barry!

The Editor would like to welcome Matt, Suzie, Brooke and Damien to Jubilee House and any other new families who may have recently moved into our great village.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ALAN For the 21st February



Marhamchurch is where most of the Tamarside Singers travelled to on Sunday 10th December.
 Never mind, better luck next time Alan as they want us again in 2018. We love you really!

CONGRATULATIONS MATTHEW



Congratulations to Matt Gliddon on winning the TAL19 Race.

This was a half marathon in memory of Talan Penny who at the age of 19 passed away earlier this year from a rare form of cancer.

200 runners ran the route covering all Talan's favourite spots in Bude starting at the Cliffs at Crooklets.

Matt finished the race in 1hr. 17 mins and 50 secs.

ST BRIDGET'S CHURCH APPOINTED SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2018

7th January	Family Service	11.15am	1st Sunday in Month
14th January	Plough Sunday Service at	2nd	"
	Pancrasweek 3.00pm	(normally Morning Prayer)	
21st January	Holy Communion	11.15am	3rd
			"
28th January	Family Service	11.15am	4th
			"

These services will be repeated each month

The following are extra Services for February

Friday February 2nd 7.00pm Candlemass & Patronal Festival

Tuesday 13th February After School Shrove Service

**Wednesday 14th February 7.00pm Holy Communion with
Imposition of Ashes**

**Bude Metric Brass proudly announce their forthcoming
Band Together 10 Concert in aid of 3 charities**

**Friends of Bude Sea Pool Cornwall Air Ambulance Breast Cancer Now
Saturday 24th February 7.30pm Penstowe Manor**

TICKETS £10 Available from Ark Angel Bookshop Bude

Bude Metric Band would love to see their friends from Bridgerule

BRIDGERULE COFFEE CLUB



Recently Janet McCauley and Jo from Bude Mobility Exercises visited the Coffee Club. With the help of the regular coffee club members Jo went through a series of exercises to music which she regularly holds in The Parkhouse Bude each week.

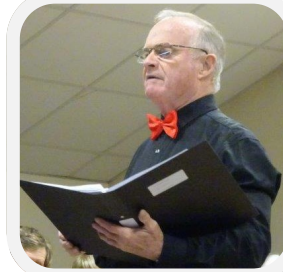
Carol Singing in Bridgerule – Christmas 2017

Chris Hitchings wishes to thank everyone in the village who donated money or gave the carol singers “refreshments”. Also all the Carol singers who sang so beautifully and especially to Father Christmas and his reindeer driver!

The money raised , £204, will be divided between the Church, Chapel and School .



TAMARSIDE SINGERS ENTERTAIN ALONGSIDE THE METRIC BAND FOR CHRISTMAS



The hall was decorated, the candles lit and a Christmas Carol Concert was performed recently by The Metric Band led by conductor Colin Gay and The Tamarside Singers led by Mr. Vic Bickle and Mr Alan Quilter. Chairman for the evening was Chris Hitchings.

After the concert everyone tucked into a pasty supper. A great profit of £464 was raised for hall funds. Grateful thanks to anyone who helped to make it a success.

SENIOR MOMENTS!

A hair in the head..... *is worth two in the brush.*

I know my secrets are safe with my friends..... *because at our age they can't remember them either.*

Old age? The time of life*when actions creak louder than words.*

Every year it gets harder to make ends meet*ends like hands and feet.*

Heather Darwin kindly sent the editor this recently:

Thank you for your email. I am sorry to hear that people in your area are having trouble with otters raiding their fish ponds. Otters will range a long way in search of food, often following small waterways and ditches that are hardly noticeable. Looking on a map it does look like there is a small waterway running from the Tamar almost to Jewell's Cross. Juveniles in particular will roam until they find a home range of their own and they are often the ones that raid ponds. As suggested in the article, where possible the best idea is to leave the pond "fallow" for a period of time and the otter should move on if no food is available

Janet Wildgoose
International Otter Survival Fund

‘BRIDGERULE’S GOT TALENT’ ... EVENT

CRAFT SHOW (2 day event)

SATURDAY/SUNDAY – 10TH AND 11TH MARCH 2018

10 am. to 4.00 pm. – at BRIDGERULE village HALL

**Come and see some of the clever craft items Bridgerule people produce
- you’ll be amazed !!!!!**

**GLASS – POTTERY – PAINTING – BOOK ILLUSTRATING – PAINTING MIN-
IATURE FURNITURE – MACHINE EMBROIDERY – DRAWING – WOOD-
WORK – EMBROIDERY – SEWING – ETC. ETC.**

(Some items are for sale)

FREE ENTRY – Refreshments on Sale.

The JAMMIN’ group and Tamarside Singers may be entertaining us !

Pyworthy Toddlers Stay & Play **Tuesdays 10-12 Pyworthy Village Hall**

Great News! Stay and Play is now running weekly, so if you're looking for something to keep the little ones entertained on a Tuesday, please pop over the border and join us in Pyworthy.

Sessions cost £1 per adult, 50p per child (under 6 months free) and include drinks and snacks for the little ones and a cuppa for you!

Dates for January

Tues 9th – Homemade Calendars

Tues 16th – Biscuit Decorating

Tues 23rd – Junk Modelling

Tues 30th – Music & Dance

Don't forget to you can keep up to date on our Facebook page @Pyworthy Toddlers.

Polly Symons 01288 381286

BRIDGERULE COFFEE CLUB CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Father Christmas paid a visit to everyone after they had enjoyed a lovely lunch at Trethorne Leisure Park recently.



Prior to travelling to Trethorne everyone enjoyed coffee and biscuits in our village hall. Christine Gee presented Audrey and Sheila with a gift in appreciation from members.

ANOTHER YEAR by Marie Field

A New Year and a visit from an old friend,
Big Ben's chimes ring out once again.
Here for a short while to celebrate,
And mark the time at New Year's Gate.
For the great Bell's ringing has been sorely missed,
Silenced for a while for a new face lift.
And as we brush away the mince pie crumbs,
His echoing tones welcome the year to come.
To bring a warming sense of stability,
For 2017 brought much political controversy.

But in little Bridgerule life carried quietly on,
An oasis of green meadows and sweet bird song.
And the year brought the passing away of farmer John Bowden,
An honourable man, one of nature's true gentlemen.
And every Sunday, (an expert ringer), John rang the bells,
Over Bridgerule's quiet Pastures, to tell the world,
Of God's everlasting love.

And the old year brought forth the most magnificent glut,
A luscious array of wild fruit and ripe nuts.
Great clusters of blackberries like wet glistening coats.
Shoals of acorns, crab apples, dusky blue sloes.
And all the experts agreed with one accord,
2017, the finest wild harvest ever to record.

Summer brought our Revel, enjoyed by everyone,
And with folks enthusiasm raised a goodly sum.
With imaginative floats and fancy dress,
To make a good show, folks did their best.
And worked hard with stalls, a hit to make,
With bottles of wine and cakes fresh baked.
And our dainty darling, our Carnival Queen,
With bright young attendants to complete the scene.
For the show turned out to be a real Humdinger,
Despite a mischievous rain shower to make us shiver.
For life was made for loving and giving,
And Revels give the chance for creativity and giving.

And now Big Ben's loud tones ring once again,
With the familiar much loved old refrain.
Of expectation and promise for all to hear,
The sincere hope of blessed peace and goodwill in our New Year.

HOLSWORTHY TALKING TAPES

The Holsworthy Talking Tapes is a free newspaper for the Registered Blind and Partially Sighted which started in 1979. This Cassette service is provided by volunteer readers who meet every fortnight on a Tuesday evening in the Yellow room at the Methodist church in Holsworthy. I collect local news from the North Devon Journal, Holsworthy Post, Western Morning News as well as **THE BUZZ** magazine. This takes about 2 hours every Sunday for me to select and cut out local news and events for our volunteers to read. However it is becoming more difficult to obtain sufficient news for these one hour cassettes and would welcome news from any source.

We currently have 15 people taking advantage of these cassettes and I know they are enjoyed by all participants who look forward to receiving them in the post every fortnight.

Holsworthy Talking Tapes is a registered charity and therefore can take advantage of free posting which helps with our finances. We are not a talking book system but a local charity providing local news centred on Holsworthy but also extended to the hamlets and outer villages including **BRIDGERULE**

I have been providing this service for 38 Years and over this time have received and recorded 100's of news stories. We use Cassettes and whilst I realise these may be considered old fashioned they are considered handy and useful for our listeners.

Do you know anyone that would like to receive these tapes Free of charge or volunteer to join our small team of readers? We meet on a Tuesday evening and can assure you this is not a big commitment as you would read only 4 times per year.

I can be contacted on 01409 253990 and look forward to hearing from you.

Crispin King

**NOT A FLYING SAUCER SEEN IN BRIDGERULE
BUT A FLYING TRAMPOLINE!**



The Editor was recently awakened at 7.00am . The message said that this 10' trampoline had blown over a fence and lodged itself in someone's tree. Where did it land? Well, who else would have a camera at the ready this time in the morning and why did he phone Grandma!!

BRIDGERULE METHODIST CHAPEL PREACHING APPOINTMENTS

7th January 2018	No Service	11.00am
14th January	Rev. Neal Street	11.00am
21st January	Rev. D. Adams	11.00am
28th January	Mr. C. Smale	11.00am
4th February	Mrs Jan Orchard	11.00am
11th February	Mr. C. Parish	11.00am
18th February	Mr V. Bickle	11.00am
25th February	Mr. P. Wreyford	11.00am

BRIDGERULE COFFEE CLUB returns after their Christmas break on **TUESDAY 16TH JANUARY at 10.30am.**



We welcome any new residents to our friendly and informal coffee mornings. We also go on monthly coach trips from the Spring until Autumn and have occasional speakers.

Any enquiries to Sheila on 01288 381350 or Audrey on 01288 381402

Neighbourhood Watch Notes

I hope you had a safe and worry free Christmas and New Year. I also hope that no one has been into your bank account, credit card number, oil tank or your property. Check your bank statements, think about using a different credit card for stuff you order online, phone or through the post.

If you are on the "Alert" messaging system you will know of the multiple scams faced by every section of society. The latest website that has come to my notice is "friendsagainstscams.org.uk" set up by the National Trading Standards Agency.

It's a pity that more of these websites don't have a phone number for those without a computer/smart phone.

Scams, burglary and mindless damage seem to be the most common of crimes locally, though, thankfully, little in Bridgerule. Let's keep it this way.

Some phone numbers that may be of interest:-

Action Fraud 0300 123 2040.

Anti Terrorists Hotline 0800 789321.

Crimestoppers 0800 555111.

CAB Holsworthy 03444 111 4444. Also a drop-in office in the Manor Offices on Wednesday after 10-00. CAB helpline 03454 040506.

However, as usual, if you see something suspicious happening now call 999, or to report after the event, call 101.

So don't have nightmares and "keep em peeled"

John McDougall

Bridgerule Co-coordinator

01288 381237



KNIT AND NATTER GROUP

14 members of the village Knit and Natter Group recently enjoyed their Christmas lunch.

Lyndsey Beadle, the group leader was presented with an orchid in appreciation.

The group meets every 2 weeks and re-groups on January 10th.



AND THE ORDERS STILL KEPT COMING!!

Something that started off as a photograph taken on holiday by a good friend Angela five years ago, sees Christmas 2017 proving more popular than ever!

Little did the creator of the reindeer factory, Colin, realise this was to be the start of something very special and something that would now keep him and the whole family very busy in the months leading up to each Christmas since.



Although the reindeers were born five years ago it was in 2001 that tragically and very suddenly, whilst away on their first holiday abroad that Colin and Sheila, lost a son and Paul a very special brother, Mark. A son who had been dependant on someone for all his needs for the whole of his life but always had a smile for everyone. From their loss of Mark the special connection with Little Harbour was born and the family truly believe that Mark is responsible for this wonderful legacy.

Following her retirement as Financial Administrator of Bude Infants School Sheila felt she wanted to spend some time volunteering for a charity. It was about this time that Little Harbour, the only Children's Hospice in Cornwall was being built and immediately she felt this was where she would like to travel on a regular basis. In the following months Sheila passed all the necessary requirements to be accepted as a volunteer and so she began regularly attending Little Harbour. Although she is not qualified to help care for those that visit the hospice she is based on Careside at Little Harbour where she can meet and chat to the children and their families and feels very privileged that she can work alongside the staff who do the wonderful caring.

Little Harbour soon became a very special place for Sheila and very soon this too became a very special charity for the whole Cholwill family. Colin's wooden reindeers who first were made and sold at a local Table Top gradually it seems each Christmas since became the people's favourite. 2017 has seen the birth of Cholwill's Christmas Snowmen and these too are proving popular.

A few weeks ago the Cholwill's were invited to take the reindeers and snowmen to a craft fayre at The Falcon Hotel Bude. 70 reindeers and 30 snowmen were taken. It seemed everyone who came made a bee-line for the stage and within 46 minutes every item taken had been sold!

Following the fayre Paul and Stacey set up an order book on social media and again less than 24 hours later it had to close because they thought that the family would not be able to cope with the demand of over 320 reindeers wanted both big and small and 75 snowmen! But they are pleased to report that all orders were met before Christmas.

The Cholwill family are so grateful for the support they have been shown through the sales of the reindeers and the snowmen. "Little did we know that the loss of our precious son, Mark or Sparky as Paul called him, would result in this". Over the last 2 years friends and acquaintances of the family have also given their time and effort into making scarves and bow ties for their fund raiser. Stacey's twin sister Bonnie and Ollie have also willingly given hours of their time to help at the family Christmas factory! Col makes every head of the reindeer, Harvey now grinds some of the bodies, Paul helps put them together and manages the social media page with Stacey, Bonnie and Ella painting the noses. Grandma provides all the cakes, biscuits and drinks plus fitting antlers to every reindeer and knitting. Even little Harry, aged 3 likes to paint the noses using his oversized rubber gloves! A true family affair! Once again Christmas 2017 saw the reindeers travelling the length of Great Britain in the form of family gifts. The family say that Grandad went into the workshop the first week in October and he has only just been let out!!

Colin, Sheila, Paul, Stacey and grandchildren Harvey, Ella and Harry say a huge thank you to everyone for their support once again. We are so pleased to report that since "The Brightest Red Nose Reindeers" were born, five years ago, Cholwill's Reindeer Factory has raised just over £22000 for Little Harbour Children's Hospice in St. Austell. 2017 has been a record year, seeing £9000 being raised this Christmas. The family always request that all of the money raised is spent on equipment or items for the hospice and used for the benefit of the children and the families who regularly spend time at this very special place in Cornwall.

The Cholwill's send Good wishes for The New Year to all their supporters and say that if you have a chance to visit Little Harbour, please do. They are sure you too will find out why it holds such a special place in their hearts and is such a wonderful charity.

A LOCAL NEWSPAPER CUTTING FROM 17TH JUNE 1999

VILLAGERS' OUTRAGE AT NUMBER OF HOUSES PLANNED FOR BRIDGERULE

A RESIDENTS' Association is being formed in Bridgerule to oppose an application for upwards of 20 new homes because of the lack of need and limited village services.

There are already 61 units that have received planning permission or are being built in Bridgerule and residents have been left wondering where the people are going to come from to fill the houses and also where they are going to work.

Effects on the narrow single track roads and the small village school have also raised concerns.

But the plan for outline permission by Mr A Macintosh for land at Littlebridge Hill has been submitted at a time when Torridge District Council is between local plans, an existing one and a proposed one which are so dramatically different that the decisions taken based on their guidelines would almost certainly be conflicting.

The local plan provides the detailed local basis for making decisions on planning applications and covers a 10 year period.

Principal planning officer at Torridge District Council told the 'Post' that the development being proposed was completely in accordance with planning guidelines in the existing local plan. The question of whether the village needed it or not did not come into it and the

land was within the development boundary.

The new draft local plan which will not come into being for some time following its travel through the various council committees and consultation process takes a completely different approach in that it really limits development in villages to that which meets the needs of the community itself.

"We are in a period when both the existing and the new plan carry some weight in making decisions," said Mr Green. "But the new plan will have slightly more importance each time as it goes through the committee, council and later the consultation process in the Autumn.

"We will be required to put the bulk of new development in the larger towns of Bideford, Northam, Holsworthy and Torrington. They are the places with a wider range of services and better communications. We are not encouraged to put large amounts of housing in places with no shops, limited public transport and so on.

"When the new plan comes into action some of the villages will not have anything like the scale of development they have had in the past and Bridgerule is one of these."

As reported in the 'Post' last week a total of 5,450 new homes are planned for

Torridge in the next ten years.

Resident of Bridgerule John McLaughlin-Mills said it seemed that developers were "pushing" through planning applications before the guidelines changed and Bridgerule had suddenly been inundated with new housing.

"It is not even as if it is being phased in," he said. "Together with all the permissions already granted and those being built, this development would almost double the size of Bridgerule.

"There is no employment for these people and everyone would have to have a car because the bus services would not be able to cope with it. All the roads into the village are single track and the school is full.

"This would be a disaster for Bridgerule," he said.

Another resident who wishes to remain anonymous said he did not believe the demand was there for all these new houses. In the past ten years 23 new properties had been built and despite the availability of a number of other development sites, there had been no interest.

Villagers have decided to set up a residents' association to fight the planning application.

About 170 people had already signed the petition which was practically "everyone in the village" said Mr McLaughlin-

Mills.

The people of Bridgerule are being supported by Torridge District Councillor Richard Broad who says that the scale of the development is out of keeping with a small village like Bridgerule.

The area ward member said that although the school was getting two temporary classrooms, these would only cater for the children who were already at the school, so that room in the existing building like the hall could be freed up for other school activities.

An over stretched sewerage system and potential traffic problems were also reasons why he would be making strong representations at the Plans meeting at the end of July when the application was likely to be discussed.

When contacted by the 'Post' agent for the applicant Peter Wonnacott issued the following statement: "The land the subject of the application is within the Holsworthy area local plan development boundary for Bridgerule. The local plan was adopted, after public consultation in 1991. As such, it is my view that the application is perfectly acceptable and in line with local plan policy.

"It should be noted that the application is in outline form, which does not necessarily mean that the land will be developed immediately."



Little Munchkins Childminding



Care & education for 0-5 years

Funded sessions available for 2, 3 & 4 year olds

Opening hours: 8.30am - 5.30pm (Tuesday to Friday)

Childcare vouchers & tax free childcare payments accepted

Contact Lou on 01288 381813

or e-mail loucooper2010@hotmail.co.uk

BRIDGERULE CARNIVAL 2017 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

Income

Football Tombola	92.82
Competitions (Tues)	50.50
Skittle Night Bar	54.46
Dog Show	151.00
Carnival Day Stalls etc	9.62
Street Collection	101.82
Nippy Chippy	25.00
Donations -	265.00
Help Advertising etc	

£1514.10

Expenditure

Queens Expenses	184.99
Launceston First Aid	50.00
Cornish & Devon Post	141.12
Tarka Pipe Band	200.00
A. Bewes	20.00
Carnival Prize Money	180.00
Gift to Retiring Queen	25.00
Rosettes	104.64
Football Tombola	108.00
Bunting	34.00
Children's Trophy	5.79

1,032.54

Income Over Expenditure £482 66

St Bridget's Church. Bridgerule Methodist Chapel, The Primary School and Village Hall Limited each received a donation of £100

Football Tombola will be used free of expense in 2018.

Also no expense for Rosettes in 2018.

Chairman's report - Bridgerule Village Hall Ltd Year ended December 2017

OVERVIEW

The year has been very successful with major work being carried out on the hall which has proved to be beneficial to hall users and has attracted larger groups, namely wedding receptions . We have finished the year with a reasonably healthy bank balance due to various generous grants and the hard work of the committee when organising various fund raising events. There are still many improvements that need to be done to complete the refurbishment, the largest being the replacement of the hall roof and re-building part of the front entrance.

COMMITTEE

Cliff Seymour-Smith resigned as Chairman in January as he was unable to give the Chairmanship the time that it deserved due to pressure of work with his business. He is a very hard worker for the community and his experience and business expertise will be sorely missed. Cindy Neep has reluctantly left us as she is busy with other commitments. Michael Moore resigned as he is leaving the area to go to pastures new. (Okehampton)

Michelle Jardine has offered to help out with grant applications (she has a particular expertise in that field) and has agreed to help with the application to the Lottery for the replacement of the roof.

Barry William has left us as he is now receiving treatment and we all hope he will be better in the near future. Brian Beadle has left us as he wants to concentrate on other village activities. Raymond Bewes and Barry Marshall have agreed to become committee members and we look forward to welcoming them at our next committee meeting.

IMPROVEMENTS/FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS TO HALL

The hall floor has been completely replaced (and also the 2 side alleyways to the rear kitchen) with Luxury Vinyl Tiles that have a 15 year guarantee. The rear Kitchen has been completely replaced. . We are indebted to those volunteers from the village who came to the hall to scrape the bitumen off prior to the laying of the vinyl in the main hall. Thank you so much, it was a difficult job to do! We now need to replace the hall roof with box section insulated roof sheets, dispose of the old asbestos roof sheets by a specialist contractor, rebuild and re-roof the entrance porch. Refurbish the old theatre storage area, construct a new driveway/access to the rear of the hall, repair the play area where the new concrete path is higher than the grassed area. We are delighted to announce that planning permission has now been granted for the replacements of the two roofs.

GRANTS

We have been lucky to have received grants this current year from Torridge District Council £10,000 (courtesy Councillor Ken James), £500 from Devon County Council (courtesy Councillor Barry Parsons), £5000 from Garfield

Weston Charitable Foundation, £383 from Waitrose, £500 Lord Amory Trust, TAP Fund £637, £1200.00 Parish Council £500 from the Buzz, and many smaller amounts from local organisations as well as fund raising activities (Johnny Cowling £1700), and Bridgerule Coffee Club £1000, Table Top Sale £1500, Sale of Old Chairs £800.00. Carol Concert £464.

NEW ACTIVITY

We have now held two successful monthly cooked lunches at the hall for members of the community. Two lovely ladies, Fran and Jill one of whom is in catering, and both have the relevant hygiene certificate, have volunteered to do the cooking. The Environmental Health Officer has now completed an inspection and we have been awarded the maximum score of 5 for basic hygiene and compliance.

GENERAL

We have had a few problems with the outreach Post Office over the year. The Post Office Management and Geoffrey Cox M.P. were contacted to try to resolve it. It seemed that the problem was old equipment which has now been replaced and hopefully any problems have now been eradicated. We seem to have been “trouble free” since, so hopefully it has now been sorted. We have been approached by villagers about getting a charging point at the Post Office for electric keys. The Post Office have stated that we would need another phone line at the hall in which to plug in the Pay –station as the one that is already there is dedicated to the Post Office equipment and at the moment cannot be used for anything else. As we haven’t got a private telephone line then they are unable at the present time to assist. They have said though that there is the possibility that the Post Office Equipment will be upgraded to a new system and then the Pay Station will become available. Dave Brownwell, The Postmaster, will be happy to do this extra work when it becomes available.

A defibrillator, donated by the British Heart Foundation has been situated by the hall entrance. It is being checked monthly by Matthew Gliddon. The defibrillator has already been taken to be used on three occasions but was not actually actioned but on the fourth occasion it was.

I am indebted to the members of the committee who have been so helpful over the year and have worked tirelessly for the benefit of the users of the hall. Taking over as Chairman was something that I hadn’t envisaged and I have been on a very steep learning curve. I would particularly like to thank Sheila Cholwill who is really the person that keeps everything going and who has given me so much helpful advice and encouragement – without her help things would not have got done. I would also thank all those lovely people that support the hall, either by attending functions, or cleaning on a regular basis. Also the Parish Council for being so supportive. Lastly I would also like to extend the committee’s grateful thanks Cliff Seymour-Smith who has worked so hard for other people’s benefit over many years to get the hall to the position it is in now. **CHRIS HITCHINGS—CHAIRMAN**

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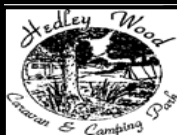
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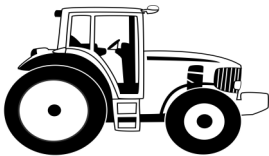
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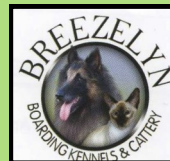
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