

ROCKBEARE PARISH NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2021

We are Back!

Happy New Year to all Parishioners. After a nearly 3 year gap we are back with the aim of providing all members with a quarterly update of what the main institutions within the Parish have been up to as well newsworthy contributions from anyone who wishes to send in items.

These are very difficult times and the aim of this newsletter is to help bring the Parish together and add to the sense of community for all as we shelter for now and hopefully once freedoms are restored and we are back to 'normal' to inform all of the activities within the Parish.

As stated the Newsletter will be produced quarterly with the next Newsletter coming out in mid April. If you wish to contribute or send in items then please send them to me via my email address markjreadman@aol.com.

Within the next Newsletter there will be an article which it is hoped will provide a snapshot of what it has been like within the Parish during the pandemic so send in your Covid Lockdown tales (good and bad) and these will be collated into this future article.

My thanks to those who have agreed to deliver this Newsletter again

Mark Readman

Rockbeare Parish Council

You will be pleased to note we have been meeting via Zoom monthly to discuss Parish matters throughout the pandemic. Our aim is still to protect the Parish and to look after our Parishioners where we can. We remain focused on protecting our essentially rural nature and will continue to fight the ever increasing presence of Cranbrook and the threats from Planners and Developers who seek to build on our Parish land against our wishes and those policies contained within our Neighbourhood Plan. We are currently focused on the proposed Cranbrook Expansion Plan and in particular planning proposal 19/1798/MOUT - Land West Of Gribble Lane Rockbeare. We are totally opposed to this proposed

development and are working with elements from Whimble and Whimble Parish Council to combat it.

From time to time you will no doubt see postings on Rockbeare Residents Facebook Page asking residents for action and to object to planning proposals that conflict with our policies. Our thanks to the organisers of the facebook page for providing this facility.

Minutes of Recent Rockbeare Parish Council can be found within this Newsletter or on our website www.rockbeareparishcouncil.co.uk. Once underway this Newsletter will be placed there too.

Walkers Needed Locally!

The Cinnamon Trust
The National Charity for elderly and terminally ill people and their pets

Can you help?

We are seeking dog walking volunteers who are able to help elderly or terminally ill pet owners in your area who are unable to take their dogs out for a walk. We have a flexible approach to enable your volunteering to fit around your own lifestyle. Even one walk a week can make all the difference.

Tel: 01736 757900
Email: volunteer@cinnamon.org.uk
www.cinnamon.org.uk

10 Market Square, Hayle, Cornwall TR27 4HE Registered charity number 1134680

Message from our East Devon District Councillor

Dear Residents of Rockbeare Parish

I am so glad that once again you are to have a newsletter put together by Cllr Mark Readman. This is a great way of ensuring that all of the residents of Rockbeare can feel engaged with their community as not everyone has a computer or wants to use one.

My name is Kathryn McLauchlan and I am your East Devon District Councillor. I want to let you know that if I can help with any district council matters please let me know, I shall put my email address and telephone number at the end of this note.

I would like to let you know that the development of the town centre in Cranbrook will begin soon as the planning committee have finally got a deal which is worth having from the developer. It has taken 5 months of constant hard work from the strategic planning chairman and officers and 2 refusals from the Strategic planning committee to get it this far. I truly believe that Cranbrook will have a town centre that they will be proud of and one that will have the space (land being purchased by EDDC from the developers) to expand as Cranbrook does.

I know that the growth of Cranbrook causes a great deal of angst for many but to have good facilities near us may be regarded by some as a bonus. There will be a Morrisons, library, extra care facility, cafes, a range of small shops and a town square for farmers markets. The Ingrams sports area will get a purpose built sports pavilion which will be moved forward by the Cranbrook Town Council and as we live so close we will be able to make full use of these facilities. The Morrisons supermarket will begin construction early this year and the rest will follow on.

The timeline for this to be completed is by the end of 2034.

Please take care of yourselves and contact me if you need to,

Kind regards Cllr Kathy McLauchlan: kmclauchlan@eastdevon.gov.uk

Tel: 07811 138177

Rockbeare Village Hall News

Dear Rockbeare Parish

When Mark Readman asked me to write something for the Parish Newsletter I thought; easy, two lines should cover it, hall not operating, not in use; COVID-19 has taken over our lives. Actually, that is not wholly true.

Yes, we have obeyed the rules - to the letter and closed the Hall for the two previous periods of lockdown but there was one brief period, back in September, when we could use the Hall in a limited way. We had Baby Sensory, Yoga, dance classes and the craft group, Needles and Pins. The field was also used for football on a couple of occasions. For a fleeting moment we had some semblance our lives back but alas it was not to continue.

We now enter another period of lockdown until at least half-term. We all hope, fervently, that this will be the last time and the vaccine will help us to return to a new normality.

On behalf of the Hall Committee, I would like to thank John, David & Mike for mending the fence at the back of the Hall which was in a very sorry state and the Williams family, whose garden backs on to the field, who very kindly removed the fallen down part of the pavilion during the first lockdown: so kind and very much appreciated.

As you may know, the fairy lights were stolen from the tree outside the Hall!! A big thank you to Alex Blest who stepped in with replacement lights this Christmas.

Please all take care, keep safe and here's to a happier and healthier summer.

Delia Myers, Chair, Rockbeare Village Hall.

Marsh Green Village Hall News

23 March 2020 is indelibly imprinted on our memories as being the day when the whole country was told to 'lockdown'. Suddenly everyday life stopped, we feared an invisible enemy, we worried more than ever about our family, friends and neighbours and found ourselves forced into self-isolation. The news bulletins reported on the growing number of deaths from the virus, on the desperate shortage of PPE, the pressure on our beloved NHS and the risks to jobs.

But amongst all the gloom and sadness, there was light as communities pulled together to support each other and Marsh Green was no exception.

We are all fortunate to live in a lovely part of the world and were blessed with glorious sunny days allowing many of us to enjoy local walks, meeting (from a safe distance) local people, some of whom we never normally came across, and the opportunity to gain greater awareness of the beauty of our countryside.

Activities in the Marsh Green Village Hall sadly had to stop, but the Village found other informal and unplanned ways to support each other, to enjoy each other's fellowship and to recognise the contribution and sacrifice of others, while adhering to social distancing and related guidelines. These included:

- The Thursday evening 'Clap for Carers' started slowly but quickly grew into a Village wide recognition of the efforts of the workers in the NHS, care homes and other key services, with a weekly musical contribution from seventeen-year-old Charlie Kerr on his saxophone.
- The 75th VE Day anniversary in May saw another demonstration of the Village's recognition of the sacrifices made by others, with Charlie Kerr adding to the nostalgic atmosphere by playing Vera Lynn's 'We'll Meet Again'.
- During July and August, a wonderful display of original and different scarecrows popped up around the Village to provide entertainment and make us smile.
- And finally, the Christmas period was brightened by the decoration of the bus shelter and several houses in the Village and the fixing of flashing symbolic Christmas trees to the Village signs on the three roads into Marsh Green.

Our thanks go to those residents of the Village who contributed to these activities.

While the pandemic and the three lockdowns have meant we have had to follow Government guidelines and be more self-isolated, there has been a positive, as the stopping of everyday life as we know it has brought residents closer together and enhanced, rather than dampened, our community spirit. This is not to say though that we are not looking forward to the day when we can greet and hug our family and friends normally.

Finally, we would like to express our huge gratitude to Vera Tooze who has retired from the Village Hall Committee after over 30 years. During this time, she has been our Treasurer, Booking Officer, Key Holder and, amongst many other valuable contributions, Chief Scone Maker. Thank you, Vera, for your constant support and hard work and we look forward to seeing you at future events when we are able to hold them again.

Wishing everyone a happy and safe 2021

The Marsh Green Village Hall Committee

Rockbeare C of E Primary School

Our value this half term is ENDURANCE

Dear Parishioners,

Wishing you a Happy New Year on behalf of the staff, children and parents of Rockbeare CE Primary School. It has been a very unusual and at times worrying autumn term for us all. We have had to adapt our teaching and learning into a new 'normal'. We do hope you managed to enjoy your Christmas, albeit in your household bubble.

At the end of last term, we worked hard to ensure Christmas went ahead in school as usual as possible. We held our Carols & Mince Pies and the Key Stage 1 Nativity 'virtually' to our families, and Father Christmas visited us on his motorbike!!

We have welcomed a new member of staff – Miss Shaw, who leads our Nursery provision. Our Nursery is open full time as usual from 9am to 3pm to all children, regardless of key worker status.

The spring term is bringing new challenges. Schools are closed to all children except those of key workers and those who are identified as vulnerable. We are operating two bubbles, which are staffed on a rota basis. All home learners receive a daily email outlining the same learning their peers receive in school – school as normal, just in a different location.

We are very aware of families struggling to get their children motivated to work at home. If you are supporting a household bubble where government guidelines legally allow, the following tips may help:

- Children wear school uniform and are ready to learn at 9am. Putting on a uniform signals the right mindset, it is time to learn.

- KS1 playtime is 10.20-10.40am, KS2 10.40-11am. Go outside in the garden to run around.
- KS1 lunch is 12-1pm, KS2 12.30-1.30pm.
- 3.05pm - 3.20pm is Worship.
- 3.30pm FINISH! Do not be tempted to keep going, we do not do end of day detention.
- Change into 'home' clothes. Mindset is now 'I have finished'.

Please keep safe and follow the government guidance.

Yours sincerely

Julie Spencer-Smith

Dine, Stay and Unwind at Rockbeare Manor

As a busy wedding and events venue, the pandemic has presented many challenges not only for Rockbeare Manor but the whole wedding and events industry. The initial lockdown back in March 2020 saw all weddings cancelled and even when re-opening was allowed in the summer, numbers were heavily restricted to just 15 guests and this continued to be the case up until Christmas. This was so disappointing for couples due to get married, many of whom had spent months, even years, planning their perfect day. The constant changes in guidance have meant that some have had to postpone their special day numerous times.

Beautiful properties such as Rockbeare Manor were originally built for entertaining, and whilst the venue was unable to welcome large groups or wedding parties during 2020, the rules for hotels and restaurants were more flexible. This is where the idea for Dine, Stay and Unwind came from and within two weeks of the idea, dates were published to welcome members of the public to the normally exclusive use venue, to experience dinner and overnight stays.

The main purpose of this new offering was to do something positive in what was otherwise a very worrying time, which would ensure the wonderful venue would be kept alive. It also gave the best possible opportunity to retain their fantastic team, which was a driving factor.

On Thursday 6th August 2020 the manor house opened its doors to the public for dining and overnight stays for the first time in its 260-year history, then due to popular demand extended dates running into December. Sadly, the published dates in January had to be cancelled due to lockdown and Rockbeare Manor are yet to confirm if any new dates will be released.

Andy, Aimée and the team at Rockbeare Manor would like to thank all the local residents of Rockbeare and surrounding areas, who have visited and enjoyed dinner, or Sunday lunch whilst they were open. They have also been delighted to welcome back lots of couples who

married at the venue over the last few years.

Lauren Heath, who writes the Dining Devon blog, visited for a meal at the beginning of December. She says: “Beautiful food from great local suppliers was the highlight of our trip to Rockbeare Manor, this stunning venue deserves to be filled with people, laughter and music. It has been a difficult time for so many across the hospitality industry and we would encourage everyone to support initiatives like this, when they can.”

For more information on Rockbeare Manor either as a wedding venue (virtual tours are available), or to stay in touch with new dates that may be announced for Dine, Stay and Unwind head to www.rockbearemanor.co.uk or call 01392 797 444.

Social Media: Facebook @RockbeareManor / Instagram @rockbeare_manor_ / Twitter @RockbeareManor



Rockbeare Parish Church

Rockbeare Parish Church Britain in the 1660s was in the grip of a plague. The population was decimated with people dying very quickly once they contracted the disease. There was no NHS or vaccines and medics relied on herbs and superstition. In the face of an outbreak in Eyam in Derbyshire, (where 260 died from a population of about 800, 78 of whom died in one month) the local minister persuaded the village to go into lockdown, with no-one leaving the village or entering it, in order to contain the disease, for some 14 months. They were supported by the Earl of Devonshire et al who paid for supplies for the villagers, (perhaps in a similar way to foodbanks today).

As a result of their self-sacrifice, the disease was contained. Quarantine worked. No doubt we find lockdown really frustrating – we have closed the churches in our group of 5 parishes, no weddings can take place and funerals are limited to up to only 30 mourners – but when I read about Eyam, I was grateful for their sacrifice and realised a little more of what they went through on behalf of others. It is for the sake of others that we are asked again to limit our lives, so that others will not be infected.

The words of Jesus, ‘Do to others what you would have them do to you’ come to mind. Perhaps this thought and the example of the people of Eyam will help you cope with this trying time.

News from the Church: Though we are not having services for the time being, there are a multitude of online services each week, usually on YouTube. Our one is found on the Clyst Mission Community website on the YouTube channel, available each Sunday. Another thing that might be of interest is that Rockbeare Church Parish, together with Sowton, Clyst Honiton and Broadclystchurch parishes are regrouping with the Whimple group of churches. This is to reflect the increasing influence of Cranbrook. If you would like to see the plans, again please do look at our website, Clystmissioncommunity.org.uk

If you would like to make contact with us, please do. I am at the Vicarage and contactable on 01404 758759. May you find the peace and hope of God at this time.

Bernard Lane Team Vicar

MINUTES OF ROCKBEARE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON

WEDNESDAY 16TH DECEMBER 2020

**This was a 'Virtual' Meeting, conducted through the medium of Video Conferencing.
The Parish Clerk advised the Meeting that the proceedings would be recorded.**

PRESENT: Cllr Jeremy Wollen (Chairman) and Cllrs: Colin Please, Mark Readman, Ron Forrest, Susan Wollen, Phil Franklin, and Simon Brodie

Also: Cllr Randall – Johnson (Devon County Council), one member of the public. Sharon Thorne (TRIP)

Parish Clerk: Carolyn Y. May

APOLOGIES: Cllr R. Bloxham, Cllr. K. McLaughlin

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION: There were no requests to address the meeting.

AGENDA

546.0 MINUTES

546.1 The Minutes of the last meeting of Rockbeare Parish Council, held on Wednesday 18th November 2020 were considered. It was **proposed** by Cllr Brodie, **seconded** by Cllr Franklin, and **RESOLVED** that the minutes for the meeting of the 21st October 2020 would be approved and signed as a correct record of that meeting. Unanimous. **Carried.**

547.0 REPORTS

547.1 Chairman's Report – None

547.2 Cllr Randall-Johnson (DCC) – Cllr Randall-Johnson reported that Cllr Bloxham had been hospitalized on the morning of 11th December 2020. He is now at home recovering. It is unlikely to be back to his Council duties before January 2021. Cllr. Randall Johnson requested that any matter requiring attention, should be directed to her, rather than Cllr Bloxham. Devon County Council is about to enter its budgetary process.

The Cabinet has recently considered the draft budget. At present, DCC is awaiting communication from Central Government, which will advise the body of the settlement sum for the next financial year.

DCC is currently looking at a budget requirement sum of £571 million.

The Government has afforded DCC the opportunity to increase the 'care element' of its budget. It is anticipated that the ordinary Council Tax level will be set at the standard 1.99% and the additional will be specifically related to Adult Social Care.

The county has already received £42 million from Central Government to cover COVID 19 costs.

A substantial number of PCR tests are being undertaken across the county but there has been no information from government in relation to the success of the same. It seems that there are many positive tests being recorded that are non-infectious. However, these are impacting on the operation of the RD&E Hospital, which is currently in Opal 4 – the higher level of alert.

Cllr Randall-Johnson stressed that those who require medical help should ask for the same. The 111 service is particularly efficient at diagnosis and should be the 'first port of call'. If necessary, that service can make the necessary arrangements for transfer to hospital if

required. Where a caller be admitted to hospital (because of a 111 diagnosis) an appointment will be arranged at A&E, thus negating lengthy waiting times.

548.0 PLANNING

548.1 Applications

PA20/2762/FUL – Nightjar Cottage, Road from Quarry Cross to Allercombe Hill Cross, West Hill, EX11 1LA

Proposed single storey pottery studio within grounds of existing dwelling, and associated works. It was **agreed** that no comment would be made in relation to this application.

PA/20/1190/MRES - Cranbrook Phase 6 Land to The North of Southlands London Road Cranbrook Exeter EX5 7GB

Reserved matters comprising layout, scale, appearance, landscaping, and access for the construction of 311 dwellings and associated infrastructure (subsequent application in respect of permission 03/P1900 which was accompanied by an environmental statement). It was **agreed** that no comment would be made in relation to this application.

548.2 Decisions – Noted

549.0 CORRESPONDENCE

549.1 Rockbeare Quarry Fencing Matter – the Clerk advised the members that she had now received a response from Mr. Brian Wilshire, Aggregate Industries UL Ltd, which had been disseminated to Members.

549.2 The email highlighted the fact that the organisation was undertaking work to address the issues raised. The Chairman stated that although the response was not hugely satisfactory, it indicated that the company was making a move in the right direction.

Cllr Brodie added that quarry firms are generally quick at addressing matters raised because of the legal and insurance responsibilities involved.

549.3 Monterey Pine, Bridge View, Rockbeare – The Clerk advised the meeting that she had received a response from the Tree Officer at EDDC, which she had disseminated to all Members. She had also reported the matter to Devon County Council.

550.0 BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Cheque	Payee	Sum
400833	Clerk – Salary & Expenses	697.00
		£697.00

The Chairman alluded to the Reconciliation Report and the matter of uncashed cheques. These relate to the purchase of signage for the Telephone Box.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Please, **seconded** by Cllr Brodie and **RESOLVED** that the accounts presented would be approved for payment. Unanimous. **Carried.**

551.0 TRIP FUNDING REQUEST

- 551.1 The Chairman invited Sharon Thorne from TRIP to address the meeting.
- 551.2 Sharon stated that she had forwarded a thank you, and an update re: the grant given by the Parish Council last year. The new minibus has been ordered and will be delivered in January 2021.
- 551.3 TRIP is currently attempting to address the isolation and loneliness issues which are currently prevalent in all communities. The organization wishes to extend the befriending service within the Parish of Rockbeare. This will comprise regular meetings (at Marsh Green), telephone befriending, trips out for lunch (post COVID 19). There have been three parishioners who have signed up to receive Christmas Lunch on the 25th December, a leaflet drop was undertaken in the parish, advising parishioners of the services available from TRIP (i.e.: ring and ride).
- 551.4 It was established that the organization was seeking a sum of £6,250, to develop the service in the parish of Rockbeare. It was **proposed** by Cllr Franklin, **seconded** by Cllr Brodie and **RESOLVED** that Rockbeare Parish Council would donate the sum of £6,250.00 to TRIP, for the establishment of support services within the Parish. Unanimous. **Carried**.
- 551.5 Cllr Readman requested that Sharon provide an article about the service, for publication in the next Parish newsletter.

552.0 MEMORIAL BENCH – Cllr Susan Wollen advised the meeting that, following the death of Mr. Gerard Noel, a request had been made to the Parish Council that a memorial bench, dedicated to Gerard and Caroline Noel, might be purchased, and placed in a suitable spot in the village.

- 552.1 It was suggested that the most appropriate place to locate the bench would be on the bridle path. However, permission to place the bench on the same, would have to be sought from the Manor Estate.
- 552.2 It was agreed that the bench should be metal, cemented into place, to prevent unauthorized removal, and that a suitable plaque should be affixed to the bench.
- 552.3 It was **agreed** that the Clerk would undertake research into the procurement of a suitable bench.

553.0 PARISH NEWSLETTER - Cllr Readman stated that he had been in contact with persons who previously delivered the Parish Newsletter. Some people were willing to help but there were still a few areas where delivery had not yet been catered for. Volunteers were being sought via Rockbeare Residents website.

- 553.1 Cllr Readman had also contacted previous contributors to the Newsletter, requesting that they, again, submit articles for inclusion.
- 553.2 It is anticipated that publication will be undertaken in January 2021.

554.0 UPDATES

- 554.1 CLAY HILL CLEANING/ DRAIN CLEANING** – the Chairman advised the meeting that the cleaning of the drains on Clay Hill has been carried out by Devon Highways, the road was swept by the Consortium.
- 554.2** Enquiries had been received about the new mud bank (bund) at the top of Clay Hill (right hand side). The Chairman contacted Helen Selby (DCC Highways) who provided a copy of the architectural plan for the area. It was noted that the bund had been provided for in the plan and that the purpose of the same was ‘provided to prevent drivers from seeing through to the old alignment’. The bund is therefore a safety device.
- 554.3 HYDRO LOGIC** – Cllr Brodie reported that he had spoken with a representative of EDDC who had advise him that, should the Parish Council elect to have the gauges removed at this juncture, then replacement of the same in the future would incur substantial costs (thousands of pounds). It was **proposed** by Cllr Brodie, **seconded** by Cllr Susan Wollen and **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council would pay the maintenance fee and work towards ensuring that the system is properly set up, in order to provide the required alerts to parishioners. This work is to be carried out by Hydro Logic under the terms of the agreement and, should the system not function properly by March 2021, further requests for renewal charges will be refused. A caveat is to be inserted into the agreement with Hydro Logic, whereby it is clearly stated that, should the system not function properly by March 2021, the Parish Council will seek to recover the service charge and that no further payments will be made to that company. It was also **agreed** that once the system is operating properly, a ‘grace’ period would be requested. Unanimous. **Carried.**
- 554.4 SOUTH WOOD CROSS** – this matter has been reported to Devon County Council.
- 554.5 MARSH GREEN SIGNAGE** - the Clerk advised the meeting that she had received an email from Helen Selby, in respect of Marsh Green Village signage. Members felt that it was inappropriate for DCC to expect Parish/ Town Councils to meet the cost of items which were the responsibility of DCC Highways department. This amounted to ‘double precepting’.
- 554.6** The Clerk stated that she was not aware of any requirement for Town/ Parish Councils to meet these costs. It was **agreed** that the Clerk would correspond with Helen Selby on this matter.
- 554.7 ROCKBEARE PLAYING FIELD** – the Clerk stated that she had contacted Saville’s, who manage the Manor Estate. She had, discussed the granting of a long-term lease on the field, to enable its development for sport/ leisure activities. It was **agreed** that this matter would be placed on the January 2021 agenda, for discussion.
- 554.8 TRAFFIC ON TURKEY LANE** – Cllr Please advised the meeting that he had received a complaint about the level of traffic on Turkey Lane. Large transit vehicles choosing that route become stuck due to the narrowness of the same. Cllr Please asked if suitable signage could be placed at the Allercombe end of Turkey Lane at the Marsh Green Village Hall site, stating that the lane is unsuitable for transit vehicles/ lorries. Cllr Randall-Johnson stated that she would raise the issue with Helen Selby and ask Helen to liaise with the Clerk. In relation to the cost of signage, Cllr Randall Johnson advised that both she and Cllr Bloxham still had monies in the Locality Budget, and it may be possible to receive some funding from that source

The Meeting Closed at 19.25 hrs.

Next Meeting - 20th January 2021 to commence at 18.30

