

BRADNINCH LIFE

Your FREE Community Magazine

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Issue 82: January/February 2021

Let's All Play Our Part to Stop the Spread of Misinformation

I occasionally receive correspondence from readers, sometimes criticising or praising the editorial content. I normally welcome it on the basis that at least someone is reading the magazine!

After the last issue I received a letter taking me to task for saying that coffee mornings and film club activities wouldn't resume until after a vaccine was available. The letter accused me of encouraging people to give up normal, healthy activities and advising them to get a vaccine which is largely untested. It then went on to state that the risks of Covid 19 were being deliberately exaggerated and that the mainstream media and google are actively censoring information. Interestingly the writer with such strong opinions didn't have the courage to sign their name!

Normally I would have binned the letter and not given it a second thought, but it was followed up with the copy of a 'newspaper' (I use the term loosely) presumably sent by the anonymous letter writer, pedalling unsubstantiated conspiracy theories about the lockdown, banking, politicians and guess what - the vaccine!

People are entitled to their opinions and I would never want to impede free speech. But with freedom comes responsibility. Promoting falsehoods is a rising trend on social media and can cause untold dam-

age, we have all seen the result of that in the United States.

Most of us take on trust that government, companies and other people have our best interests at heart. Life is not risk free, from buying food in a supermarket to driving a car, going for a walk or eating out in a restaurant, there is always a small possibility that an accident will happen. Even getting out of bed in the morning can be risky!

One thing I am certain of, the devastation of Covid 19 has not been exaggerated. By the time we get back to something resembling normality there will have been over 70,000 deaths in the UK and many people suffering long term damage from the virus. If you have any doubts regarding the vaccine read Anthony O'Brian's article on page 10. Don't please listen to uninformed, downright dangerous opinions and falsehoods from local crackpots. Whoever you are letter writer, global warming isn't a lie, Trump wasn't cheated out of the election and there isn't a worldwide cabal of paedophiles running the planet.

To the rest of my valued readers a very happy and safe new year, I'll see you at the vaccine centre.

Jenny

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No-one knows how soon our lives will start to return to some form of normality, or indeed if things will ever be the same again after Covid-19. The new vaccines do however offer the prospect of some hope for the future and that is great news although as I write at the end of November whilst in lockdown, it seems unlikely that we will be able to resume many, if indeed any, Club activities before the winter is over.

Assuming a return to normality begins in 2021, the process is likely to be gradual with some activities resuming before others. It would be nice to think coffee mornings could be introduced when the 2M public distancing rule is removed. This may however depend upon the Government's vaccination programme and when confidence has been restored enabling families and friends to meet socially again. Conversely, whilst is likely to be the last activity to resume because of player proximity and the continuous handling and exchange of cards preventing any practical sanitisation measures. Meanwhile since September (outside the lockdown period) coach operators have been permitted by the Government to operate with distancing reduced to 1m and many companies such as Blakes have been accepting bookings - albeit with reduced passenger numbers and a maximum of 24-28 passengers - for customers and their own services. For Club members, this means that the same cost of coach hire needs to be apportioned amongst less people. I have tried to minimise the increase by assuming a relaxation of the distancing rule at some stage later in 2021 but have also built in to the calculation a slight reduction in take-up on account of some concerns about the continuing use of public transport. Taking these matters into account, depending upon the journey distance, it looks like the cost of the average journey will need to rise by about £5 per person. Whilst a measure of subsidy from funds might be justifiable on occasions, generally not to adjust outing prices for 2021 would be to put the future of these Club activities at risk.

Looking at when our coach outings might be resumed, a reduced programme of monthly outings starting in May/June is being planned. The programme will contain many of the destinations which were featured for 2020 excluding only a small number of venues where entry cost in combination with the increased cost of coach travel, has become prohibitive. Details of the 2021 programme will be circulated to members in February from when it will be possible to make a booking and register for membership. Club members who paid their membership fee of £6 in 2020 but who have been unable, because of Covid-19, to take advantage of club activities will of course have their membership carried forward to 2021.

The Committee and your Club Secretary extend season's greetings to everyone and we hope to be able to welcome everyone back (and new members) sometime in 2021.

Martin Clough, Secretary
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Update on stock:

Over the years I have come up with various schemes to generate some funds for local causes starting with chopping up the broken fence behind the Youth club to help pay for its replacement. Have a mass of kindling stacked outside. Moved onto making chutneys and jams from the produce of both my garden and others. Added marmalade to the catalogue but of course I could not claim to grow those. The Halberton farm shop has a nice supply of Seville oranges come January/February when my kitchen takes on the gorgeous aroma of oranges.

2020 has proven to be a very difficult year for so many causes and of course people and we all hope 2021 will bring brighter, safer times.

So, to ease the dourness of the long cold winter days what could be better than a delicious chutney or jam??

I have on offer:

Winter Pear Chutney, both Red and Green Tomato and Piccalilli.

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Also Crab Apple with Cinnamon and CA with Mint. Pear, Plum and Medlar jams.

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Just made batches of Pineapple Jam and some wizard Caribbean Chutney – pineapple, mango and coconut with west Indian spices.

Am about to make new batches of Blackberry and Loganberry jellies - so can put in a pre-order if wish?

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I hope to add to the range very soon under the heading of "Fire chutneys" – more news on that soon.

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DCC Report from John Berry December 2020

Covid 19

At the time of writing, early December, there were 734 tested cases in Mid Devon (53 in the last 7 days) and 25 deaths (with a COVID 21 positive test result). There have been 8,699 confirmed in Devon (excluding Plymouth and Torbay) (614 cases in the previous week) .Total population of 802,375. The UK has 1,750,241 confirmed cases and 62,033 deaths. Devon is in Tier 2 (high risk) which has worsened the economic situation. Rules will be reviewed on 16th December.

More information on <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-restriction-tiers-what-you-need-to-know#high-alert>.

COVID-19 Community Support Response - Vulnerable Residents

MDDC still has a helpline to support clinically extremely vulnerable people . Requests include help with prescriptions, emotional support and financial hardship. The housing team have undertaken 2,445 welfare calls.

Business Assistance

Details on the MDDC website: businessgrants@middevon.gov.uk and middevon.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus-support-for-communities-and-businesses/business-support-across-mid-devon/

Christmas Relaxed Rules

Could lead to a third lockdown if we are not very careful and observe rules to prevent spreading infection.

Those who think they are invincible, not taking Covid 19 seriously, please note there are many younger people experiencing Long Covid with serious, life changing ill health, even hospitalisation, months after having Covid 19. Even those without symptoms can pose a risk to others! Despite vaccines being rolled out we cannot relax our efforts to prevent transmission.

DCC finances

Have been well managed. Despite using some money from reserves, the county is not in financial trouble as some other authorities. DCC has received confirmation of additional grant of £80.3millions, with £62.6 million already received and spent or committed.

A local authority support grant of 43.5 millions is available. Funding for parish councils and community available is detailed in the link below.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/document/covid-19-prompt-action-fund/>

Education

Schools have done a great job. Covid 19 safety measures have caused extra cost, transport alone £100,000 this term to October. SEN needs have risen yet again. DCC have requested the following:

- Additional funding for school staffing due teachers quarantining during the pandemic.
- Priority for schools and teachers during the testing process, similar to health care workers, ensuring teachers can return to the classroom at the earliest opportunity.
- Additional testing kits to be supplied to schools on a rolling programme.
- Government should fund extra transport costs due to Covid 19
- Greater funding, support for the right care and education for children with High Needs

Community Food Programme

Details are on www.devoncf.com/apply/community-food-programme/

Children and Adult Care

Supports 5,695 older people: 1,462 with physical disability, 3,151 with learning disability, 376 with autism and 1,006 with mental health problems. Children from 3-19 taken into care has risen by 50% during the Covid 19 pandemic.

DCC Locality Budget

I had much pleasure in awarding grants amounting to £3,390 to Bradninch organisations including Duchy School and Pre-school, Baby and Toddler Group, Catch 77 Food Delivery, Hen Street weeding, 12th Night, Cricket Club and Young Carers Training.

Highways

Roads and footways have been addressed this year and look a lot better. Please report any potholes to the call centre **phone 03451551004** and get a log number.

Cullompton Relief Road Application

Will be considered by the Planning Committee in January Also an Outline Application for re-location of Cullompton Cricket Club and an Industrial site at Stoneyford Ref: 20/01409/MOUT

Great Exeter Strategic Plan

Proposals are officially 'dead'. District leaders have met to discuss possible actions for the future, nothing has been decided. It is important to have some form of co-operation in order to access maximum government funding for infrastructure.

THANKS to all those who have been helping others during lockdown. Commiserations, especially to those who are isolating alone and very sincere sympathy to anyone who has lost a loved one.

My thoughts are with you for Christmas with hopes for 2021 to be better. I am here to help.

Very best wishes for Christmas

John Berry

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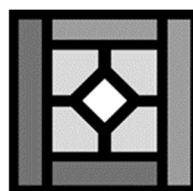
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Bradinch Tennis Club 'A Tennis Tale of 2020'

"Happy New Year" we may all say
As Tennis 2020 drifts away
And oh, what a year it has been
The like of which we have never seen
New rules to obey...we're on, we're off
Hand gel, two Metres and please don't cough

But as we look back, there were fun times too
Only some of which we can share with you
Competition time...

In hot September sun, the heat was on
New members galore with a cup to be won
The Lobstoppers, The Ballbusters, it was all to play for
In awe of the skill, we all cheered for more

The winter league is underway
A great opportunity for competitive play
With a racket and ball, and hope in our hearts
Two teams of players each take their part
For the league is tough, the standard is high
High quality tennis you cannot deny

At the club sessions we always have such a mix
Obviously, sticking to the rule of six
It's physical, it's mindful, it's fun for all
And we've come to expect some dodgy line calls

As we look ahead to 2021
There's hope, there's joy and matches to be won
As a tennis team and community beyond
It's this sport that joins us with a wonderful bond
In body and mind, it's got us through
To carry our strength to pastures new

Wishing everyone a safe and happy

2021

Kimberley

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Session dates:

Friday 15th January – 2.00-4.00pm

Tuesday 9th February – 6.00-8.00pm

LIFE AFTER LOCKDOWN (FOR LADIES!)

The lady members of Bradninch Bowling Club (BBC) are already looking ahead to next spring and summer. When we met up recently we all agreed what a good summer 2020 we have had, despite "you know what." BBC stayed open throughout, enabling lots of informal play, as well as club competitions. Club evenings every Monday in the season are the highlight of the week – the bar is open and what could be nicer than sitting outside in the sun with a glass of wine, chatting with friends and watching other people playing bowls! (That is the opinion of one of the lazier lady members.)

When discussing our plans for 2021 we all agreed it would be really nice to have some more ladies to join us. We consider ourselves a friendly group, who while enjoying our bowls do not take it over seriously. We already have members who live in Cullompton and in the Silverton area, so we would like to invite Bradninch ladies as well as those who live in surrounding villages who do not have a Bowling Club of their own to come and join us.

BBC has bowls in all sizes (different hands need different sizes) which we can lend you to have a go at playing. All you need is a pair of shoes with flat soles which will not damage our green. We will gladly try to show you how to play bowls!

If you think you might be interested do please give our Ladies' Captain **Katrina Jones** a call on 01392 881183 or 07876 597478. We plan to have a get together (with coffee/tea/glass of wine) with possible new members before the new season begins in April. Look forward to seeing you.
n.b. We do NOT wear hats and pleated white skirts!

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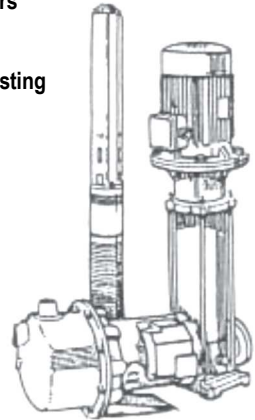
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Christmas Light Committee Ph

The number of entries for the competition wasn't hug

A huge thankyou to ev

All the entries are posted on the Bradninch Life websit



Photographic Competition Results

...e, but the quality was fantastic. Here are the winners.
...everyone who took part
...e: www.bradninchlife.co.uk/photographic-competition/



1st Prize (above)
Misty Hele by Alison Day

2nd Prize (left)
Granddaughter's First Sparkler by Bill Bloomfield

3rd Prize (below)
Winter is Here by Louise Heap

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New Year Vaccine

Throughout the pandemic we have been working closely with College and Bramblehaies Surgeries in Cullompton and Blackdown Practice in Hemyock. During November we made our plans for Covid vaccinations. As soon as vaccines are distributed we will be ready and we will be using College Surgery as the delivery site. The logistics will be complicated but we are extremely confident that we will be able to vaccinate all our patients in a safe and timely manner. There will be a short time frame for using each batch of vaccines and patients will be offered vaccination in a specified order. It is likely that we will be asking for volunteers to help transport patients to Cullompton and marshal the clinics.

Currently there is a lot of discussion about vaccines in the media. There are two important facts that I think everyone needs to remember. The first is that the rules governing the introduction of a vaccine have not altered in any way. All vaccines have to pass each testing stage; current vaccines under consideration are in the final stage but the numbers involved in the trials have been identical to any previous vaccine. There have been no short cuts. Recruitment to trials has been easy and so the large numbers needed have been achieved in a much shorter timespan than normal. This leads to the second important point. No vaccine will be released that is not considered safe.

You will hear arguments that any new vaccine will not have been used for long enough to know whether it might have long term problems. This is true but due to the nature of how vaccines work highly unlikely. Vaccines act by priming our own immune systems to work. They are the equivalent of showing a photo-fit of a criminal to the police. There are a variety of ways of doing this but ultimately the success of a vaccine is solely dependent on its ability to correctly pre-warn and arm our own body's immune system. They do this within the weeks after the vaccination and so side effects or problems are seen within this time period. The benefits of a Covid vaccine for everyone will be enormous, the risk for each individual will be very low.

We all knew Christmas was going to be different and it was, but the importance of connections with friends, family and community has never been greater. Trish Jones our Health and Wellbeing coordinator can be contacted on 0748 437 7289 or at silverwellbeing@gmail.com and Joan Povey (wyndhamsp@gmail.com) is also available for anyone who would like some help setting up or enhancing their internet communication skills. If you, or anyone you know, would benefit from their help please contact them directly or via the surgery reception.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy New Year. I am hoping we will be extremely busy with the vaccination programme and that everyone will participate

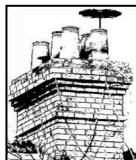
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Bradninch Musical Gardens – thence the Festival

With 2020 being such a bleak year for so many social and community events we should perhaps take heart and look forward to what 2021 could bring.

The 2020 calendar of events was almost totally wiped out by the pandemic for very real and necessary reasons but we must look forward to the new year whether it is all a return to normal or a slightly near one. I am confident we as a community can adapt and enjoy.

The wonderful and socially supportive Saturday coffee mornings with their cakes and bakes and raffles may still be sometime in the future but we all look forward to the gathering together again as soon as we are able.

In the mean time we would like to consider what can happen in 2021, even with some changes and adaptations. So, I am putting out an early call for gardens to open in 2021 for the Musical Gardens weekend 5th & 6th June. It would be amazing if we could field the same number and variety of venues, we had prepared for 2020? I am sure we can still attract a wealth of young artists to support the weekend as so many have suffered badly with lack of gigs, experience and exposure.

We can then plan for the 20th Music Festival the following weekend – 11th – 13th June. Over the next month I propose to contact the programme of performers booked for 2020 and ask if we can move the event forward one year.

I appreciate it is early days but whilst you are sweeping up the leaves, turning the compost and planning for 2021 you could consider opening your gardens to our array of visitors next June??

Although we may not be fully out of the woods, we can ensure any social distancing requirements still prevailing as can spread folk across the whole town safely.

The weekend will again raise funds for the Music Festival, other local causes and for the Sound Mind Sessions which supports the mental wellbeing of Devon based artists.

Mike Leonard

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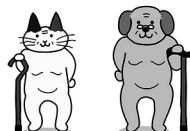
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Thurs	09:00 – 11:30		09:00 – 11:30	09:00 – 11:30
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Consultations are all currently initially by phone. It is frequently more convenient to use e-Consult to let the surgery know your medical issue – this is available on the front page of our website

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WHAT'S ON IN BRADNINCH

JANUARY

4th	Yoga	7.00	Cricket Club
4th	Pilates	9.00	The Guildhall
4th	Ballet	4.00	The Guildhall
5th	Move it or Lose it	10.30	West End Hall
7th	Taekwondo	18.00	The Guildhall
8th	Yoga	9.15	Cricket Club
8th	Ballet	10.00	The Guildhall
8th	Bradninch Millers Morris	19.00	The Guildhall
11th	Yoga	7.00	Cricket Club
11th	Pilates	9.00	The Guildhall
11th	Ballet	4.00	The Guildhall
12th	Move it or Lose it	10.30	West End Hall
12th	Ballet	4.00	The Guildhall
14th	Library Van	11.00	The Guildhall
14th	Taekwondo	18.00	The Guildhall
15th	Ballet	10.00	The Guildhall
15th	Bradninch Millers Morris	19.00	The Guildhall
18th	Yoga	9.15	Cricket Club
18th	Pilates	9.00	The Guildhall
18th	Ballet	4.00	The Guildhall
19th	Move it or Lose it	10.30	West End Hall
19th	Ballet	4.00	The Guildhall
21st	Taekwondo	18.00	The Guildhall
22nd	Ballet	10.00	The Guildhall
22nd	Yoga	9.15	Cricket Club
22nd	Bradninch Millers Morris	19.00	The Guildhall
25th	Pilates	9.00	The Guildhall
25th	Ballet	4.00	The Guildhall
25th	Yoga	7.00	Cricket Club
26th	Ballet	4.00	The Guildhall
26th	Move it or Lose it	10.30	West End Hall
28th	Taekwondo	18.00	The Guildhall
29th	Ballet	10.00	The Guildhall
29th	Bradninch Millers Morris	19.00	The Guildhall
30th	Library Van	9.45	The Guildhall

FEBRUARY

1st	Yoga	9.15	Cricket Club
1st	Ballet	4.00	The Guildhall
1st	Pilates	9.00	The Guildhall
1st	Yoga	7.00	Cricket Club
2nd	Move it or Lose it	10.30	West End Hall
2nd	Ballet	4.00	The Guildhall
4th	Taekwondo	18.00	The Guildhall
5th	Yoga	9.15	Cricket Club
5th	Ballet	10.00	The Guildhall
5th	Bradninch Millers Morris	19.00	The Guildhall
8th	Ballet	4.00	The Guildhall
8th	Pilates	9.00	The Guildhall
8th	Yoga	7.00	Cricket Club
9th	Move it or Lose it	10.30	West End Hall
9th	Ballet	4.00	The Guildhall
11th	Library Van	11.00	The Guildhall
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15th	Pilates	9.00	The Guildhall
16th	Move it or Lose it	10.30	West End Hall
16th	Ballet	4.00	The Guildhall
18th	Taekwondo	18.00	The Guildhall
19th	Ballet	10.00	The Guildhall
19th	Bradninch Millers Morris	19.00	The Guildhall
19th	Yoga	9.15	Cricket Club
22nd	Pilates	9.00	The Guildhall
22nd	Yoga	7.00	Cricket Club
23rd	Move it or Lose it	10.30	West End Hall
25th	Taekwondo	18.00	The Guildhall
26th	Bradninch Millers Morris	19.00	The Guildhall

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Bradninch Life is published bi-monthly.

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Please send copy to Little Morland, Bradninch EX5 4NA,

or e-mail: bradninchlife@gmail.com

Items will be published at the editor's discretion.

The magazine is delivered free to over 1000 households in Bradninch, Hele & Ellerhayes. Copies are also available at the Spar in Silvertown, Spar in Bradninch and the Exe Valley Farm shop, Thorverton.

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