



# RACKENFORD NEWS

Summer 2022  
Edition 5

## New Rackenford Event Space

Following the public consultation on the proposed common shelter, the parish council met to consider the public feedback and agree on a proposal for an event space. 250 consultation forms were distributed and 36 returned, covering 86 individuals and 32 households. (There are 126 households in the parish, of which 60 are in the village).

Overall, there was strong support for the erection of a building as such - as was the case for the original survey made in 2019. However, 16% of responding households considered this proposal too elaborate and too expensive for its purposes, while a further 38% said they believed the main need was for a village hall, mentioning covered space, large enough for wedding parties, including toilets etc.

Five of the current councillors remember two previous occasions on which a parish hall project was launched, considered in detail and not continued with on the grounds that there was insufficient demand to maintain one. The newer councillors believed that the situation would not have changed. All were familiar with financial problems reported by other halls in the area, eg Cruwys Morchard and Bishops Nympton.

However, it was pointed out that currently, there is nowhere to meet in Rackenford except at the School, which is not available during school hours. With three new houses in the village and the probability of a few more, there is a new element of community need for some space, at least on a small scale. Pre-pandemic, the Shop committee had planned an extension westwards to provide a larger sales space and a sitting out area, turning the original Church room into a coffee/committee room.

In summary it was agreed that the plan to build a common shelter would progress, but with a smaller, simplified design. In addition, it was agreed that the community would progress plans to build a new shop building and provide the existing shop room as a village room for small events and meetings, which can potentially be open during daytime with informal tea and coffee making facilities.

*Parish Council*



**More renovations  
at The Stag**

If you live in Rackenford you can't fail to have noticed the re-thatching of the Stag Inn. The thatcher, Ian Bostridge, is from Witheridge and he and his team are re-thatching the whole roof as part of the continuing works to renovate this historic building and ensure its long-term future.

"It's a huge job" comments Steve Watt of The Stag, "but after 25 years or so, it needed to be done - not only to keep the building watertight, but to protect the heritage of the village, as sadly, it's the only thatched building left in Rackenford".

## Promote your goods or services in the Rackenford Directory

Have you checked out the local directory on our village website (see below)? With so much talent, skills and wonderful local produce in our community we are aiming to compile a list of useful contacts and local services. If you would like to include your goods or a service, please email details to Peter Jones.

[peter.jones@rackenfordpc.com](mailto:peter.jones@rackenfordpc.com) [www.rackenford-devon.co.uk](http://www.rackenford-devon.co.uk)



For more details,  
contact Ellie on  
07799 060050

Charity no. 1072336

Rackenford PTFA are collecting and recycling your unwanted clothes. If you can contribute any clothing, shoes, hats, household linen, towels, curtains, soft toys, handbags and accessories, please bag them up and drop them off at Ellie's at Springhill House, Rackenford.

Please note that the PTFA can't take any clothing with logos, duvets, pillows, carpets, rugs, mats, work/school uniform, offcuts or material.



*Inside... Rackenford residents celebrate the Jubilee*

# Celebrating Jubilee Day in Rackenford

This June, Her Majesty the Queen became the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee after 70 years as Queen. Of course, the Jubilee did not pass uncelebrated in Rackenford. With glorious sunshine a crowd of over 400 took to the common to mark the event with a Jubilee village fun day. As the sun set on the Thursday of the Jubilee, the party continued with a lively ceilidh.

The large crowd of families during the day enjoyed archery, a bouncy slide, lots of fun stalls, a plant sale, very popular tombola, cake stall and a BBQ provided by our community shop. The cake competition saw many impressive and delicious entries, and the dog show was well attended with over 20 of our furry friends in some of the classes. A team of expert judges selected the winners.

The Rackenford Rascals brass band entertained us throughout the day. The family celebrations concluded with fun competitions including egg and spoon races and sack races. The fun day ended with a hard-fought tug of war!

The event was enjoyed by all, and was a reminder of the regular Village Days of the past. So much so, there is interest in having an annual Village Day again. If you would be interested in joining a Village Day committee, please contact Peter Jones ([peter.jones@rackenfordpc.com](mailto:peter.jones@rackenfordpc.com)).



## The Cake stall winners were:

Adult taste: Beth Hookins  
Adult looks: Jackie Blackman

10-14yrs taste: Alice Heywood  
10-14yrs looks: Louis Denno

Under 10 taste: Eliza Denno  
Under 10 looks: Eliza Denno





**DOG SHOW**



Festive music from Rackenford Rascals, and from Lucy Lastic for the ceilidh.



From 7pm the party continued with pizzas and a hog roast, live music and 'impressive' dancing! The ceilidh was led by The Lucy Lastic Band whose performane was a gift to the village by band member and old Rackenford resident Jane Lewis. Music paused at 9.40 for the lighting of Tom Warne's epic creation, our Jubilee Beacon.

Huge thanks go out to the many volunteers who made the event happen, from the team who put up and took down the marquee, those manning the stalls, organising the sound system, bar, tea and cake stall and the BBQ ... and everything else which happened in between.

It will be a day that will be remembered.



# Growing up in Rackenford

Two of our younger residents, Bob Hookins and Will Blackburn, give us an insight into their experiences, past and present, of living here

## ■ Bob

I thoroughly enjoy living in Rackenford! I like to be away from anywhere too busy and with lots of good runs and open space about, it makes it the ideal place!



I've lived here all my life and don't intend on leaving too soon! It makes a pretty perfect home where we as a family have made many good friends.

I very much enjoyed primary school in the village with good access to the common and availability to play lots of games as well as get a good bond with my small number of classmates who I still keep in contact with.

I attended Tiverton High with some fellow Rackenfordians and shared a tutor group with some of them. Tiverton was good and I received a good education, although the access to good sports was limited which was a pain for me as a keen rugby player! The outdoor education unit was brilliant and allowed me to take part in and complete Ten Tors and Duke of Edinburgh challenges! With it being the local school, settling in was good. I played rugby next door at the club and played with a number of my classmates.

I am now just at the end of my two year stint at Exeter College, doing geography, geology and physical education A levels. College is/was great and I enjoyed the whole experience of learning well and making loads of mates. However, cities

aren't really my thing, but that was a small price to pay for the experiences I got making memories and friends that'll last forever. I am in the process of joining the British Army as an Officer in mechanical engineering as a Royal Engineer, furthering my passion for working on mechanics and a chance to play rugby for fun, with no seriousness, allowing me to enjoy it for the beauty of the game it is!

As a whole, there are not many other places I'd rather grow up! I'm proud to be from where I am.

## ■ Will

I look back on my time at Rackenford primary school with mainly good memories.



It's a small school and therefore I feel as though a lot of

the attitudes towards the other people in your class tended to be positive. Having a small amount of people to choose from to make friends led to us making friends with the whole year. The only downside I can

think of is that the classes have different year groups learning different things, so sometimes it was harder for teachers to push the higher achieving children to achieve their potential.

The transition into secondary education is always a big change for every student, but I do feel as though this was amplified by going to a smaller primary school. - not only by the now seemingly massive amount of different people around, and the change in curriculum, but also the fact that Rackenford School seemed to have been a lot more 'innocent' than other schools, it was a shock to see so much misbehaviour.

I am now studying maths, further maths and computer science at Exeter Mathematics School and intend to do a mathematics degree which I will hopefully be able to do if I get good grades in my A levels.

# THRIVE

HELPING YOU NAVIGATE THE LATEST CHANGES

Free support for local farmers as part of Devon County Council's Thrive service. With so much change going on in the agricultural industry, thanks to this funding from European Regional Development Fund, we can offer one to one business advice and workshops to support farmers across Devon and Somerset. We hope this service will help many farmers and others understand and adapt to the changes in the industry.



Register with us today:

[www.businessinfopoint.co.uk/thrive](http://www.businessinfopoint.co.uk/thrive)

[team@businessinfopoint.co.uk](mailto:team@businessinfopoint.co.uk) | 0800 592 872



Thanks to all the volunteers who strimmed, trimmed, swept, raked and weeded to transform the churchyard to look like this.



## News from the PCC

### Join us at our Summer Fair

On Saturday 16th July from 2pm to 4pm there will be a Summer Fair in Rackenford Church with refreshments and stalls selling cakes, other produce, books and bargains. The Rackenford PCC hope that you will join us to celebrate summer and help raise money for church funds.

### Explore Services, held on the second Sunday of each month

June's Explore service was a great success held on Rackenford Common, with a 'follow the wool trail' activity, a maypole with ribbons in Jubilee colours of red, white and blue, readings, colouring a prayer card and refreshments!