

COOMBE BISSETT AND HOMINGTON

EXPRESS

Issue No 251 June/July 2020



VILLAGE DIARY

SADLY ALL PUBLIC EVENTS ARE CANCELLED BUT

Cricket Club QUIZ NIGHT via ZOOM

6th June

Coombe Bissett and Hominton Show
on-line Competition

Photos due in by 30th June

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On the 8th of May we marked the 75th anniversary of victory in Europe and to say thank you to all those who, risking their lives, fought for liberty 75 years ago. Our cover depicts some of the sights around the village on that day. Although the occasion was marked differently than many intended, plenty of people in Coombe Bissett and Homington decorated their homes, vehicles and in some cases themselves. On a beautiful sunny day people were out and about to mark the day but socially distancing. For more information see pages 4 – 6.

The community has come together in the last 2 months as they always have in the time of war and adversity. The community and parish support group have been helping numerous people with various requests to ensure they have their food, prescription, papers, etc. The response to the call for food contributions for the Salisbury Foodbank, part of the Trussell Trust, have been great see the update from Judy Evans on page 27.

Queues have been orderly outside of the shop with no fights breaking out yet! Everyone seems to be taking events in their stride and making the most of things. Thankfully the weather has been kind to us and we have been able to get out and about walking, cycling, running or just enjoying the garden. Many have undertaken DIY tasks with supplies they have found in the garage or the shed which they had forgotten they had whilst others have baked and baked. Can you image 3 months ago not being able to find flour, sugar and eggs when you went to shop! Now people are turning to making facemasks for use as recommended as we start to emerge from 'lockdown'. We don't know when things will return to full steam ahead and until then we must take it one day at a time and stay alert.

We are once again publishing the Express on-line, via the Coombe Bissett website, www.coombebissett.com. We have also printed a small number of copies which can be collected from the village shop for those who prefer hard copy. Deliveries will be made to those you have already requested hardcopies.

Want to try your hand at Photography? - To keep the Flower Show at the forefront of people's minds for next year, the CB&H Flower Show in conjunction with the Express are running a photographic competition. Details can be found on pages 28 and 29.

How about a Quiz to support the Cricket Club? - The Cricket Club is holding an on-line QUIZ via ZOOM on the 6th of June. Details can be found on page 19. I'm sure it will be fun!

Short Story Competition

Update from Sharon Hallis

We were delighted to have some very creative and enjoyable stories sent in for our Short Story Competition: Open the Door. It is clear we have a lot of talent in the area judging by the range of topics and styles...it was a difficult task to select awards. In fact it was so difficult we added two highly recommended awards to our original first prize and runner up. We only wish we could have awarded everyone who entered.....but there's always next time and we already have plans for something in the autumn. Watch this space!

Congratulations to Lucy Welfare (First Prize) who brought us a humorous tale of an alternative life in 'lockdown'. Sorry Lucy, though, I can't agree....English is MUCH MORE FUN than Maths!

Also to Rafi Senior (Runner Up).....his skill in painting a very sensory picture of a different dimension was so good...I could almost taste the pizza!

Submissions in **MS word** and advert requests should be sent to the email address below.

Latest submission date for next issue 5pm 20th July 2020

Sue Dyer email: cbandhexpress@outlook.com

Phone: 01722718514



Chalke Valley Benefice



Parish of Coombe Bissett with Homington

Team Rector

Revd Catherine Blundel – 780134

Team Vicar

The Revd Canon Jenny Taylor –
503081

Churchwarden

Mollie Lampard – 718517

Lay Pastoral Assistant

Ruth Morgan - 718557

Every Sunday since Lockdown began I have celebrated Holy Communion at home – we have aimed to start at 10.00 every week but sometimes we are late and one time we were actually early! Waiting at home for a service is a very different experience to waiting in church! It has been an immense privilege to be able to do this and very week it is done for you, on behalf of you but most importantly, because of you. I am absolutely LONGING for the time when we can celebrate communion together in our churches – it will be different but sheer fact that we can do it will be enough to carry us through the strangeness.

Clergy are now allowed into the churches for private prayer, the first step towards our churches being open again. Both St Mary's and St Michael and All Angels are fine if a little dusty, cobwebby and with rather too many droppings of some sort! Both organs are also fine although tuning will be a priority once we can safely allow others in. As I have spent time in our churches my prayers have as always turned to those who look after them - our Church Wardens, Sidesmen and Cleaners. We Need You! I ask you again to please give me a ring or an email to talk further and to save our churches becoming unused, unloved buildings. Perhaps during these last weeks we have all realised how precious our churches are and now is the time to step forward and offer your services. Please remember that the more people who volunteer the less onerous it will be!

What an absolute joy to see 50 people gather, socially distanced, on the Donkey Field on the 75th Anniversary of VE day to hear Keegan's impressive playing of the Last Post and Reveille and to hear our bells rung. It was quite an emotional moment and an absolute joy to see so many of you.

Also, a huge thank you to Judy Evans who has been organising collections for the Trussell Trust every Wednesday at the Church lych gate. There is so much good community spirit in our villages and for those who have been wondering where God is in all this I would say that God is in every act of kindness, of charity, of care and compassion that is shown to one or to many in small ways or large.

May our prayers be for all who have struggled over these past weeks, for all who have been ill, for all who have died and may they be full of thanksgiving for the blessings that we all receive.

Revd Canon Jenny Taylor

SHORT STORY COMPETITION

Winner: Lucy Welfare (8 years)

I opened the door and I walked to school like I do every day [but now I can't because of coronavirus] Today was very strange because I saw an alicorn and I flew to school. When I got to school my friends were very jealous, I said that they could fly to my house after school.

After a very exiting lesson of maths, I went out to play with my best friends called Alice and Sophia. But after break was some boring English!

As school was only a half day, Alice and Sophia got to stay even longer at my house. Me [Lucy], Alice and Sophia all got on my new pet the alicorn [which is a flying horse crossed with a horse with a horn] and we all flew back to my house.

We played hide and seek [which is a game where there is one child that counts and tries to find the hiders and has a time limit to try to find the best places to hide in], ROBLOX on my iPad [which is a game online that you can play simulators or just play fun games] and we watched YouTube on the tv and we all decided as a group so it was fair.

Sadly, it was not long until Alice and Sophia had to go back to their house.

THE NEXT DAY

On the way to school next morning I saw a unicorn and I rode to school instead of flying so it was very confusing, because it was a change of plan. Again my friends were very jealous so I said, "If I find a Pegasus one of you can have it and the other can have the unicorn so I will leave that for you to decide. Ok?"

"Ok" said Alice and Sophia at the same time. Again with a very exiting lesson of maths, then it was break time, after that we did English and you know how I feel about that!

THE NEXT WEEK

Today was the same, but this time I saw a Pegasus and so I brought the unicorn as well. I said "Now who gets which animal?" Sophia got the unicorn and Alice got the Pegasus. Yippee!

Sophia and Alice were so excited to ride or fly home, but of course I flew home and I don't know if Alice flew home or not but I definitely know that Sophia was riding on a rainbow.

I reckon my best friends think I'm ace because what girl would give a unicorn and a Pegasus away for free?

VE Day 8th May 2020 75th Anniversary

Although events planned to celebrate within our villages had been cancelled due to Covid-19. People were out and about and had planned to celebrate but differently with social distancing at the forefront of their minds.

Many thanks to Lynnie Reed and her son Keegan, who arranged to mark the occasion in the Donkey Field. Just before 11.00 a small gathering of 50 or so formed around the donkey field at Coombe Bissett, where we could hear the 2 of the church bells being rung by Sue and Mike Garlick. This was followed by Keegan Reed, standing alone in the middle of the field, playing The Last Post. The two minutes silence was observed and he followed this with the Reveille. It was a great performance and much appreciated by all of us there.

Later in the day families took to their gardens for tea parties and maybe the odd glass of pimm's, beer or wine.

At 7pm there was a brief, impromptu sing song near the shop. Sarah Mynott had volunteered to sing a couple of Vera Lynn songs and for those present to sing with her. Anna Mynott said; 'After a chance encounter with Hilary Bett on a walk, her husband Alan, kindly offered to accompany Sarah on his violin. Word had got around and between fifty and sixty people stood in family groups, socially distanced along the road. Even a passing cyclist stopped to join in! There was a lovely atmosphere and it was a great way to end the day'.

At 9pm Keith and Sue opened the front door of the Fox&Goose and turned up the TV to broadcast the Queen's speech followed by, 'We'll meet again', and some of the other songs of that time. An apt choice at this time when most business remain closed as the country struggles with the effects of Covid 19.

Coombe Bissett and Homington War Memorial

Those men who died during WW11 are remembered on our War Memorial in Coombe Bissett churchyard and the following is reproduced from research undertaken by Rev. Westley Cole and first published in the Express, Issue 13, October 1980.

Frederick Gould

Frederick Gould was the younger of two brothers who live with their parents Arthur Gould and his wife, at Totterdown at the bottom of Pigeon Hill, Homington. Before the war he was a farmworker employed by a Mr Clare who farmed at West End Farm, Homington. Frederick joined the Royal Navy and served as an Able Seaman. After a spell of leave he was returning to join his ship, a journey which entailed a short stay in London. Whilst there, he was out in the town one night with five colleagues during an Air Raid, his friends crossed the street but he remained on the other side and he was killed by a bomb – his five colleagues all escaped.

Frederick John Ford

Frederick John Ford was the second eldest of five brothers, sons of Harry and Lilian Ford of Homington. His father was sometimes a Council employee and a Steam Wagon Driver for a local brewery. Frederick was born in 1916 and educated at the National School, Coombe Bissett. He left school in 1930 and worked at The Old Gate House, Coombe Bissett. From there he worked for Jack

Tozer at Homington and then latterly as a Council employee. Just prior to the war he volunteered and joined the Royal Engineers as a Sapper. HE was sent to France with the British Expeditionary Force at the outbreak of war and after being involved in the fierce fighting at the beginning of the war he was involved in the retreat to Dunkirk and was one of the lucky ones to escape on a small boat back to this country. He was granted leave and came home to Homington where one of the first people he met was Mrs Hewlett. He threw his arms around her and hugged her – overjoyed that he was still alive and safely home in his own village.

After his leave he re-joined his unit and was sent by troopship to Singapore. Immediately the boat docked they were taken prisoner by the Japanese and sent to the notorious Burma – Siam railway which was being built by British, Australian Dutch and American Prisoners of War. This railway connected Moulmein with Bangkok and had been commenced before the war but abandoned by the two countries concerned. More than 250 miles, from Thanbyuzayat in Burma to Ban Pong in Thailand remained to be constructed. The Japanese aimed to do this in 14 months, or in any case, by the end of 1943. From June 1942 large groups of prisoners were transferred to Thailand Burma, working from opposite end of the line. Camps had to be built first. Accommodation for the Japanese guards first; the cook house and huts for the working parties next, and huts for the sick last of all. Men were sent to work on the line long before their huts were finished. Food supplies were irregular, of poor quality and frequently rotten and maggoty. Malaria, dysentery and pellagra were rife and the number of sick was always high. However the numbers on the railway had to be kept up and men totally unfit for work were often drive, and sometimes carried out. No drugs or surgical implements were supplied by the Japanese and everything had to be improvised by the medical staff. Work started on the railway on 1st October 1942 and was completed by December 1943. By this time 16,000 prisoners of war and between 80/10,000 Burmese and Malay labourers had died. These were buried outside the camps and alongside the line. After the war those who died were transferred into three war cemeteries. Frederick Joh Ford died on the 6th of October 1943 and is buried in Thanbyuzayat War Cemetery – Plot B6, Row O, Grave 1.

Dennis A Kearn

Dennis was the second eldest of four brothers and came to live in Coombe Bissett in the early 1930's with his parents Alec and Ethel Kearn. They built and lived in 'Drivemore', now Newlands, on the Stratford Tony Road. His father served his time in the Navy and was a Barker by trade, as were his sons. Dennis joined the Royal Engineers in the Boys service and attained the rank of Sergeant. He went to France with the B. E. F, and, like Frederick Ford, was one of the lucky ones to escape from Dunkirk. He then went to North Africa with his Regiment and was involve in the advance from el Alamein. Whilst celebrating one night he was accidentally burnt to death by a bonfire. He is buried in Kaduna Civil Cemetery, Nigeria, Row E, grave 15.

Frederick Arthur Parrett

Frederick Arthur Parrett was born in 1906 and was the youngest of a family of 12. He was educated at Coomb National School and then worked on a farm in Stratford Tony. He joined the Wiltshire Regiment on a 12 year engagement and saw service in India. From 1934 to 1939 he was employed by the Wilts CC as a Roadman. He married Florence Yates and they had four children. I 1939 he was called up and was sent to France. He was captured at Dunkirk and was a Prisoner of War. He was repatriated in 1943/44 suffering from Hodgkin's disease and w then successively in Newbridge, Bristol and Newbridge Hospitals. He died on 20th of May 1944 and was finally laid to rest in Stratford

Tony churchyard by the side of his brother Jack, who had died on 28th February 1919 whilst serving with the Royal Dublin Fusiliers.

Major the Hon. Sir Thomas Frankland Bt

Sir Thomas Frankland lived at the Mill House, Coombe Bissett. He served with the 15th/19th King's Royal Hussars, Royal Armoured Corps and as far as can be ascertained was killed in a traffic accident at Wilton. (To supplement the previous information, the following has been taken from the Roll-of-Honour.com website.)

Major (Baronet) 2025, 15th/19th King's Royal Hussars, Royal Armoured Corps. Died 5th August 1944 in United Kingdom. Age 42. Born Surrey, resident Berkshire. 11th Bt., Son of Sir Frederick Frankland, 10th Bt., and of the Baroness Zouche of Haryngworth, of Windsor, Berkshire; husband of Lady Frankland (nee Kay-Shuttleworth). A.D.C. to Lord Lloyd, High Commissioner of Egypt, 1925-26, A.D.C. to G.O.C.-in-C., Southern Command, Salisbury, 1930-33. Buried in St Peter churchyard, Parham, Pulborough, Sussex.



Praying you are all keeping well and safe during this time. Whilst the children may not be 'up on the hill' they are busily working safe at home with the 'alternative' parent teachers. We are still safely conducting business and wish to share with you our latest 100 club draws:

March 2020

1st prize Mrs Peter Chandler (£25)

2nd prize Laura Webb (£10)

3rd prize Ben McGuire (£5)

April 2020

1st prize Steve James (£25)

2nd prize Beth Palmer (£10)

3rd prize Judith Artiss (£5)

Huge congratulations and a big thank you to all that support the 100 club. Cheques in the post! Keep Safe.

Know your Neighbours

Neighbours, everybody needs good neighbours. With a little understanding. You can find the perfect blend. Ooooooh, Neighbours, should be there for one another. That's when good neighbours become good friends.

Ok, so maybe the lives, loves and challenges of the residents in Ramsey Street, a cul-de-sac in the town of Erinsborough in Australia back in the late 1980's seems like life was in a different galaxy to what we've been living of late as how CAN you get to know your neighbours in these strange times? Maybe over the hedge, from the neck up if you are lucky?

Well, here's one you can get to know a little better.....

Who Am I?

Born in Empangni, Northern Natal, South Africa, until the age of 3 when the family moved to The Cape as Dad worked for the national electricity board.

At the age of 5, the Dad's ambition was to buy a yacht so the family moved to Saudi Arabia to earn some money and two years later, he managed to find a 36ft one to do up in Christchurch, Dorset, England. From here, his wish was to sail around the world in a year but with two small young girls and a reluctant but supportive wife the deal was made to set sail back to South Africa in a year instead!

They named the boat Romoi (Ron, Dad, Moira, Mum).



Dad would not let the girls watch Jaws, the film, before they set sail, for obvious reasons!!!!!! France, Spain, Portugal, around the Mediterranean, then lastly 36 days back across the Atlantic from South America, having read lots of books, been schooled by her mum, had a Ken, Barbie and Barbie's horse to play with, not to mention picking up a stray puppy (Sandy) along the way (making sure it didn't fall over board when it was little), they eventually arrived in Cape Town a year later. .

Here, our villager settled for a few years before moving to Botswana, due to her father's progression in his job.

As there were no high schools in Botswana her and her sister had to move to a boarding

school when she was 12 years old, a 12 hour drive away in South Africa.

It was a very difficult move and in the end her parents moved closer to the school. Here, while she finished university gaining a degree in Economics and Marketing her parents and sister moved back to the UK. Since there were no prospects for white graduates in South Africa in 1995 (after apartheid) she, too, moved to the UK, London to get a job in investment banking.

It was while she was enjoying a weekend away (remember them?) in Bath, that she met her husband to be, Richard, in a nightclub, who at the time, was in his first year as a registrar and also happened to be living in London.



Give Up?

Three years later Georgie Millard married Richard Smith and they were off to Sydney, Australia for a year with Richard's work. Returning, briefly to London, Richard got a Consultancy's job at Salisbury District Hospital and Georgie got a finance job in Bournemouth so they moved to Homington.

Georgie loves to travel, going to South Africa every year to see her parents and her sister, who lives in Canada.

Georgie's also a keen runner and you'll regularly see her running the Coombe Bissett & Homington circuit or she'll be at the gym (when it's open) which is beneficial as family life certainly keeps her on her toes!!



Quick Fire Q&A

1. What was/is your nick name? *Porgie*
2. If you could time travel, when would you go? *1960's*
3. What is your pet hate? *Loud chewing and rudeness*
4. What is your favourite TV programme? *Game of Thrones, Gangs Of London*
5. What do you like most about living in CB & H? *Living in the countryside yet close to Salisbury town*



6. What is the silliest way you've been injured? *Being caught in a swarm of African bees.... Twice!!!*
7. Where is your favourite place in the world? *The Kiosk, Pennington, South Africa (as photographed)*
8. What is your favourite food/dish? *Mexican, Fajitas and Mojitos*
9. What is the best piece of advice you've received?
You've always got to give something abit of time, e.g. boarding school, hated to begin with and the Headmaster advised me to give it some time and I ended up loving it.
10. Would you rather.....live with without a TV or without a phone? *Phone, easy!!*

Thanks to Georgie Millard

Interviewed by Rachel Coombs

SHORT STORY COMPETITION

Runner-Up: Rafi Senior (9 Years)



The Dimension

I opened the door and I went to get a nice sniff of some fresh air. From out of nowhere a bolt of white and blue lightning struck and a portal appeared right in front of my feet. I took a deep breath and jumped.

When I woke, what I could see were the not so friendly faces of multi coloured monsters. So what did I do? Trick question obviously, I ran! Running as fast as I could I grew more and more weary by the second. I couldn't run anymore therefore the monsters caught up with me but it turns out..... they were actually really friendly!

The first thing they did was offer me food, nice food. Ice-cream, cakes, pizza. The dimension was actually quite nice, stars that shot past, the sun or Dekka as they called it was always shining. Then we ended up having a picnic party.

We engulfed all the food and there was all but one thing. I went to eat the last slice of pizza but when it touched my lips it must have teleported me back because I was just in the middle of breathing. 'Come here, it's been three hours' my mum screamed in rage!



MINUTES OF COOMBE BISSETT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD VIRTUALLY AT 7.00 PM
ON TUESDAY 12th MAY 2020 (unconfirmed).

Present: Councillors: D Rattue, D Hobson, P Crosthwaite, C Chelu, S Gledhill, A Bird and G Bundy. Mrs D James (Clerk). Wiltshire Cllr. R Clewer. 7 members of the public.

1 Apologies for absence: None.

2 Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman: A Bird proposed and C Chelu seconded D Rattue as Chairman. S Gledhill proposed and P Crosthwaite seconded D Hobson as Vice Chairman. All voted in favour.

3 Election of Officers: D Rattue proposed and D Hobson seconded all officers stay in post and that all officers are voted en bloc. It was agreed unanimously. The Officer responsibilities are: Police – D Rattue. School, village hall, highways and snow warden – C Chelu. Playground and recreation field – A Bird. Coombe Bissett flooding and Coombe Bissett planning – P Crosthwaite (assisted by C Chelu and A Bird). Coombe Bissett rights of way and cemetery – G Bundy. Homington planning – D Hobson, S Gledhill (assisted by C Chelu). Homington flooding – D Hobson. Homington rights of way - D Hobson (assisted by G Bundy). Homington highways - S Gledhill.

4 Public question time: No questions.

5 Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes were proposed by C Chelu, seconded by G Bundy and agreed by all as a correct record.

6 Declarations of interest: G Bundy declared an interest in the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). Therefore he will not take part in any Parish Council considerations. There were no additional declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

7 Matters arising:

Neighbourhood Development Plan: The community feedback evening had to be cancelled due to Covid-19 regulations. In view of on going socially distancing rules, a remote consultation using on line presentations and questionnaires will need to be conducted. It will be supplemented with paper copies. Grant funding will continue to be applied for. The Steering Group have requested that a specific sum is earmarked, should grant money not cover all costs. D Hobson proposed and P Crosthwaite seconded that £2.5k be allocated for NDP use. It was agreed unanimously.

Gates across bridleway 8 in Coombe Bissett: G Bundy will follow up with Wiltshire Council (WC) the suggestion of metal bollards in order to restrict vehicles along bridleway 8.

Donkey Field fence: A low chestnut fence around the Donkey Field is being planned. It is hoped work will commence as soon as the contractor can access materials.

Speeding on the A354: The Speed Indicator Device (SID) is up and running. The SID coordinator Adrian Turnbull is gathering comprehensive data. He explained that a relocatable post and two more sockets are required so the SID can be used along Homington Road and Stratford Tony Road. A Bird proposed these should be purchased, C Chelu seconded and all were in favour.

Ramp onto play area: A ramp installed into the play area will improve ease of access and safety. Mr Matt Mould will kindly carry out this work soon.

8 Coronavirus Community support: Leaflets went out in March to every home in Coombe Bissett and Homington. Appreciation was expressed to the two postmen Phil and Steve who delivered these. There are at least 60 people involved in the Coronavirus community support email network, who are very forthcoming when a request for assistance is received. There are now weekly non-perishable food collections for the Salisbury Food Bank and the Trussell Trust. Judy Evans very generously agreed to coordinate the project with a team of helpers. The Parish Council conveyed thanks to everyone concerned.

9 Tree work on the Donkey Field and in the Churchyard: An invoice for £1200 relating to work carried out in early 2018 for tree pruning in the Churchyard has been received. It was proposed by D Hobson and seconded by S Gledhill that the cost of this be split in half between the Parochial Church Council and the Parish Council. All agreed.

10 Code of Conduct and Standing Orders: Wiltshire Council Code of Conduct and Standing Orders have been distributed to all Councillors.

11 Annual audit and presentation of accounts: The Clerk circulated a summary and analysis of the accounts. The Clerk and Parish Council are very grateful to Mr David Parson for carrying out an internal audit of Parish Council accounts. He has reported all is in order. PKF Littlejohn LLP, the external auditor, will now audit the accounts. The summary and analysis of the Parish Council accounts will be posted on the village web site. Any interested person may inspect the Parish Council accounts remotely for the year ending 31-03-2020, from 15-06-2020 to 24-07-2020 by contacting the Clerk. C Chelu proposed and A Bird seconded that the annual audit and statement of accounts be approved and all agreed.

12 Annual governance statement 2019/20: The Annual Governance Statement was considered and approved by all Councillors. D Rattue and D James as confirmation of approval signed and dated it.

13 Accounting statements 2019/20: The Accounting statements were considered by the members meeting as a whole. The accounting statements were approved by resolution by all Councillors. D Rattue and D James as confirmation of approval signed and dated the statements.

14 Parking on Recreation Field:

No requests.

15 Parking on Donkey Field:

No requests.

16 Notices on Donkey Field/Beech Tree:

No requests.

17 Correspondence received:

A request for Coombe Bissett and Homington to assist in collecting non-perishable food contributions for the Salisbury Foodbank and the Trussell Trust was received. Collections will take place during Wednesday daytime hours at the Church Lychgate in Coombe Bissett.

There has been a report of a potentially unstable Willow tree on Parish Council land adjacent to the footbridge in Coombe Bissett. The Clerk has asked the WC tree officer to visit to assess and advise.

A Bird has received requests for extra dog poo bins. Deposits of faeces have been noted on footpaths and hanging off trees in bags. Wiltshire Councillor Richard Clewer confirmed that WC will not be supplying or emptying new bins for the foreseeable future. It was emphasised by the councillors that sensible dog poo disposal is a dog owner's responsibility.

D Rattue announced he had received a letter of resignation from the Clerk. An advertisement for her replacement will go into the next online Express and local social media.

18 Planning:

Planning received:

20/02659/FUL – Land adjacent to Ebbles Cottage, Blandford Road, Coombe Bissett. Proposed new dwelling.

20/03632/FUL – Glebe Cottage, Lower Road, Homington. Proposed rear conservatory and proposed side porch.

Planning approved by Wiltshire Council:

19/08192/FUL – Outfarm barns and yard, Coombe Farm, near Salisbury Racecourse, Coombe Bissett.

Conversion and change of use of Outfarm Barns 1 and 2 and new 16 sqm connecting structure to form single C3 dwelling with hard and soft landscaping and ecological mitigation to the building and ecological improvement to adjacent woodland and associated works.

20/00084/TCA – Karelea, Stocksbridge Lane, Coombe Bissett. Ash (T1) – remove branch overhanging neighbouring property and reduce overall height to 10-15ft approximately. Ash (T2) - remove branch overhanging neighbouring property and reduce overall height to 15ft approximately. Ash (T3) – fell and replant with Bird Cherry tree in same position.

20/01776/TCA – The Old House, Homington Road, Coombe Bissett. Row of Hornbeam trees – remove unwanted branches and reduce height by 50%.

19 Reports from representatives:

C Chelu (school and village hall representative) indicated that the school would be using the village hall during the summer, whilst work that involves asbestos, is carried out in the school.

A Bird (recreation field representative) reported that the grounds man has been taking his daily exercise in the field and has continued to maintain the grass to an excellent standard.

P Crosthwaite (flood warden) stated that WC had recently jetted the drains adjacent to The Brines in Homington Road. A CCTV camera had verified that the drain had not been damaged, but that roots had caused an obstruction. These have been cleared. R Clewer affirmed he would speak to WC highways and drainage engineers and request remedial linings are installed so that the problem will not reoccur.

Income:

Cemetery fees	£180.00
Cemetery fees	£180.00
WC – precept	£5500.00

Outgoings:

707 Mrs D James – reimburse A Burnett NDP fees	£400.00
708 Mrs D James – reimburse A Burnett NDP fees	£341.50
709 Mrs D James – reimburse Bawden grass cutting March	£133.42
710 Mrs D James – reimburse ICO	£40.00
711 Mrs D James – reimburse BHIB (insurance)	£400.00
712 Mrs D James – reimburse BHIB (insurance)	£307.40
713 Groundwork UK – grant refund	£738.40
714 Mrs D James – reimburse J Hopkins for cemetery maintenance	£100.00
715 Office expenses	£315.19
716 Office expenses	£300.00

Balance on accounts:

The balance on the reserve account is: £32134.47

The balance on the current account is: £16992.83

The total of the two accounts is therefore: £49127.30

A Bird proposed, C Chelu seconded and everyone agreed that cheques 707 to 716 be paid.

20 Date of next meeting: 14th July 2020

21 The meeting closed at 8.08 pm.

VACANCY FOR PARISH CLERK / RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

Coombe Bissett Parish Council is looking to appoint a Parish Clerk/ Responsible Financial Officer to replace their existing clerk who has served the Parish for the past 9 years. The Parish covers both Coombe Bissett and Homington.

The Council wishes to employ an enthusiastic person to supervise its business and to carry out all aspects of its financial administration. The ideal candidate should have competent organisational, numeracy and computer skills. He or she should be a good communicator and have the ability to work independently. Preparing meeting agendas, attending and advising at meetings, taking minutes, overseeing village projects, liaising with the councillors and managing the Parish Council's finances are key tasks.

The role is part-time of 5 hours a week. There is some flexibility in the working hours and additional time may be necessary during busy periods. Salary is based on NALC scales subject to experience and qualifications.

The successful candidate will initially need his or her own computer and connection to the Internet. Office equipment requirements can be negotiated with the Parish Council consisting of 7 Councillors and the Clerk. The Council does not have an office so the Clerk will work from home and need to provide some document storage. There is a working from home supplement paid.

To commence as soon as possible. There will be an overlap with the present clerk for training and orientation.

To apply or to ask for further information please contact Mrs Deborah James at parishclerkcoombebissett@gmail.com or 01722 718850 or 07759 886234. Alternatively letters can be posted to Applegarth, Shutts Lane, Coombe Bissett, Salisbury SP5 4LU.

Letters of application should be accompanied by a CV.
Closing date: 14th June 2020.

CHALKE VALLEY LINK SCHEME



The CVLS provides good neighbour support with transport and practical help for residents.

For Transport Requests Phone: 718780
(Roger Brown, Anna Mynott or Debby Underhill in rotation)

For Care and Support Phone: 421270 Debby Underhill

There is no set charge, but you are invited to make a donation towards our administrative costs.

Our co-ordinators and drivers are all volunteers and there may be times when you will be asked to leave a message which will be answered as soon as possible. Please give our co-ordinators as much notice as you can.

Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

Registered Charity No 1076335

CHAV

Since the last report two tasks have been carried out on behalf of the village hall with individual CHAVS taking on these tasks to ensure they complied with the social distancing requirements.

On behalf of the village hall one CHAV has cut back some overhanging tree branches and bushes. to protect the guttering and the roof on the south west corner of of the village hall. These overhanging items caused the guttering down pipe on the same corner to block and when we had heavy rainstorms the down pipe was overflowing so another CHAV has arranged for the blockage to be cleared.

Due to the Coronavirus situation, in accordance with Government instructions, the Parish Council closed the children's playpark in the recreation field. In these circumstances one CHAV has agreed on behalf of the Parish Council to spray weedkiller on the whole area of the wood chippings to kill off the grass and weeds which are growing through the wood chippings. This is an opportune time to carry out this task as it would be necessary, if the park was available for the children to play there, to close it temporarily. It is possible that this task may even have been carried out by an individual CHAV before you read this report.

Our community is still working together to look after each other at this time so keep well.

Gerald Bundy

CRICKET CLUB



don@coombebissett.com 01722 741354

This pesky virus has certainly thrown a spanner in the works for our plans for 2020. However, it is vital that we take the advice of the powers that be, to take the precautions to keep us all safe.

Hugh Ballantine-Dykes, our new Chairman, had almost completed his plan to arrange a week-end of fund raising for our club, with a Ceilidh at the hall on the 2nd of May, and a Chairman's XI to take on the Home XI the following day. Best laid plans of mice and man and all that.

At last we have some young blood within our committee, in the shape of Lou Hodgkinson, and he is organising an online quiz in the near future. Details on another page. So, come on you silver surfers, get downloading and join in with what will be a fun hour or so.

If you aren't already a member of the splendid Coombe Bissett Community Face Book page, do get in touch with Abigail Bird, and sign up to get all the Parish news and events.

As for cricket for 2020, unless we get some good news later, it looks as if the whites will be back in storage.

Give three cheers for Ian our grounds-man, who has kept the field in magnificent shape, as part of his daily exercise.

In the meantime, keep safe and well, and remember to keep the two-metre distance.

<u>1000 Runs Club</u>		
Name	Year	Runs
N.A.Adlam	1980-2007	9813
M.L.Newman	1997-	6428
G.Edwards	1980-2002	5368
C.R.Johnson	2002-	5399
D.Barratt	1980-1998	5165
M.O.Adlam	1982-2007	3820
R.J.Thorne	1980-2001	3516
B.D.Newman	1997-2014	3512
A.C.Jeffery	2003-	3266
D.J.Thomas	1991-2002	2967
D.F.D.Webber	2013-	2717
P.J.Hodgkinson	1980-	2627
C.Chadwick	1995-2009	2569
J.Taylor	2013-	2257
P.J.Hughes	1980-2010	2204
P.N.Hampson	1983-2008	2142
S.J.P.East	1980-1991	2040
N.J.Mouland	1980-2000	1925
D.R.Shaw	2000-	1800
M.J.Mould	1993-	1722
D.Lampard	1985-1992	1684
G.Button	2005-2010	1598
G.E.Vaughan	2004-	1513
D.J.Parker	1987-2003	1447
B.L.Rouse	2013-	1329
M.C.Ashenden	1984-1992	1258
D.G.Edwards	1980-1993	1117
S.R.Olding	1983-1988	1053



The Fox and Goose Blandford Road Coombe Bissett
Salisbury SP5 4LE Tel: 01722 718437
Email: foxandgoose@coombebissett.com
www: foxandgoose-coombebissett.co.uk

We hope you are well and you or your family has not been affected by the Coronavirus.

We also hope the lockdown has not driven you to drink, although a regular at the pub did say we had better open up soon or he will turn into an alcoholic!

Firstly, we want to yet again, thank all of our loyal customers for the support you have given us through this awful period. The emails with really kind comments and best wishes for Sue, myself and the business have been well and truly heartening.

Your financial support enabled us to get through the initial period before we obtained our Government grant, which arrived just in time for us to continue paying our staff who remain furloughed.

Secondly, we want to thank all our local residents and other customers who have supported us with the Take Away service we offer. Although this business would not be a viable full-time business it has given us the opportunity to generate some cash and pay some of our bills. Your continued support will be most appreciated in the next few months

We have also been selling drinks for take away and I have been to the Sixpenny Brewery three times so far to purchase some of their very good Sixpenny Best ale and bottles of the excellent 6D IPA.

We have received the Government grant and the first claim from the Job Retention Scheme which is used to pay the staff wages and as announced the other day, this has been extended until October.

You may have heard from the Prime Minister that Pubs maybe opening in July. This is only on the condition that the virus is under control and we will probably have to open with restrictions, such as social distancing and limited numbers allowed in the pub.

This in its' self will cause problems for the pub trade and also in some other sectors where space is a problem. Although we can use our garden to create social distancing it becomes more difficult inside the pub. However, we will look into how we can make the pub safe for staff and customers once we know a bit more.

As more and more information comes out from the Government, we will keep you updated on what our plans will be.

In the meantime, we sincerely hope you and your family keep well and that the epidemic soon clears and we can all get back to our normal lives.

Very best regards

Keith and Sue

Email: foxandgoose@coombebissett.com

www.foxandgoose-coombebissett.co.uk



<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Fox-and-Goose/159786457370453>

**Coombe Bisset and Homington
Cricket Club presents a...**



Zoom Quiz



**for its 40th anniversary, via
the power of the internet!**

Date:

6th June 2020

Time:

19:00

- A maximum of four per team, however, for larger families, with more than four, everybody is welcome.
- Contribution of £5.00 per team or more towards the upkeep of the club during this tricky time.
- Email details for the Zoom call invitation to be sent to: louish173@hotmail.co.uk (Louis Hodgkinson). Please also email if you have any general queries about the Quiz.

Details:

- Bank details:
 - **Sort Code** – 30-97-41
 - **Account Number** – 00371818
 - For those unable to pay via BACS then please make cheques payable to **Coombe Bissett and Homington Cricket Club**



Further to this, please keep up-to-date with cricket related news via the website
(<https://sites.google.com/site/coombebissettcc/welcome>)

Ocean Monarch (continued)

After 8 months I felt I could manage a spot of leave. My problem I did not have a passport. In those days British seafarers could travel the world on our ID cards and Discharge Books. These were not very acceptable to UIS Immigration. For an alien person leaving a ship and wandering round their country. Quite early in the voyage a family had invited me to visit them in their village about 30 miles north of New York. Eventually I managed to obtain my passport from the British Consulate in New York. So in July '61 on a Friday afternoon I was met at the dock gate by their eldest daughter who drove me up to her village to a B & B they had organised for me. The youngest daughter was the purpose of my visit. On the Friday morning I had kept the 24.00-0400 morning watch. At 0500 we berthed at Manhattan on the Hudson River. With immigration over we had to prepare for our half-yearly inspection by the USA Coastguard of our life-saving appliances, mainly our lifeboats and the independent diesel emergency fire-pump.

By the time I started my weeks holiday I was very tired and looking forward to seeing the family and my B&B. after arriving and a cup of tea I was taken to the B&B only five minutes' walk away from my friend's house.

The B&B, a large all wood typical 19th C USA dwelling. The place run by a charming elderly couple who were very interested in this young foreign seaman.

In the evening I was picked up by the youngest daughter whose aunt was a film star..Jean Tierney. Off we went to a drive in cinema, a first for me. The show started as darkness fell and I promptly went to sleep. Apparently this was not the thing to do. I slept right through the film only awakening when she started up the engine. I tried to explain but she would not forgive me. For my week the rest of the family were great but not my young friend.

Once a year we did one visit to Halifax (NS) then up the St Lawrence River, then to the Saguenay River. This voyage we carried the RC priests and six nuns. The attraction was a statue of the immaculate conception perched 200ft on the west side of the river. Rumour has it that a trapper fell through the ice beneath the cliff of the frozen river. He vowed that if he survived he would build a statue at the top of the cliff.

This is as far as we went and we turned in the river. As we were turning the band leader appeared in the wheelhouse with his violin and played Ave Maria into the ship's tannoy system. All the nuns on the port bridge wing were praying.

Most of the time on the Grand Banks there is plenty of fog. This was no exception. We doubled up on our bridge watch. As I was gazing into the thick fog on the port side bridge wing a voice from the wheelhouse told me a target on the port side about half a mile distance and closing fast on collision course. Soon the vessel appeared very close out of the fog. It was an American submarine and he was very close. I saw the officer on the conning tower make a dive for the communications to the helmsman below. Quickly the sub turned to starboard and crossed our stern far too close for comfort. The sub's conning tower crew giving us a friendly as they disappeared astern. Also on that watch I saw my one and only leopard shark swimming lazily down the ships side.

On another voyage all the ship's female staff; stewardesses, hairdresser, shop assistant were sent ashore for a week. Whilst we went off to Bermuda with the ship full of the Chamber of Commerce members from Scranton, Pennsylvania. They all dressed with naval ranks. The head being an admiral. Gambling machines came aboard and the golf course. In Bermuda we were fully booked for our two days stopover. Not a very pleasant trip, a lot of noise and drunkenness. Instead of accommodation's pleasant perfume scent we had cigar and beer odours, we were very pleased to see the back of them.

Our chief officer rarely went down to his table for dinner but was relieved for half an hour from his bridge watch and ate in his office.

However this was July 4th and a special celebratory dinner. So, all dressed up in his navy blue dinner jacket and looking really smart. One of his mates, he of 'stand up alone' starched trousers took a CO2 powder fire extinguisher off the bulkhead and pretended to fire it at him. Unfortunately he pulled the trigger and covered the chief officer resplendent in his dinner jacket with a layer of white powder! It was almost unbelievable to watch. The CO could not believe what had happened to him the prankster full of remorse. To his credit and how he managed it the CO burst out laughing much to the others relief. With a good brush down and a little delay the CO went to dinner whilst the others cleaned up the mess and replaced a new cylinder and cartridge to the extinguisher.

At the beginning of August the staff captain took a couple of weeks leave so the chief officer of the Queen of Bermuda came over to us as staff captain. A really pleasant man whose wife and two children were living in Bermuda. Jim was entirely different from our staff captain and much friendlier towards us junior officers. This particular trip he invited myself and the junior 3rd officer to have a pre-launch drink and to meet two young American female passengers who sat at his table. One was travelling alone and the younger one with her parents. The elder was a New Yorker who worked just up 97th Street from our berth. She was personal assistant to Jackie Gleason (comedienne, singer, and bandleader) the younger lived in Pittsburgh and was a TV presenter. A school teacher she ran a show called the Romper Room School for pre-school youngsters.

This was a very pleasant voyage for me. Whenever I was off duty and in port we would go ashore together...strictly against company regulations....still, what are rules for!

For the remainder of my year if I was off duty I would fly to Pittsburgh and stay in the flat she shared with three other girls. It was there I met Kathy and Travis, not at that time married but were to become lifelong friends of Eileen and myself. We have stayed with them in Brooklyn heights and up in the Catshill Hills where they have a lovely home.

Throughout our friendship if I was in Philadelphia they would drive down from New York and take me to dine at a marvellous seafood restaurant. Once whilst in Baltimore I caught a train up to Philadelphia and missed the last train back to Baltimore. So I found a quiet area with benches and stretched out and went to sleep. I was awakened by a tapping on the soles of my shoes. It was a very pleasant cop who wanted to know why I was sleeping there. Sympathetic he told me to go back to the main concourse and stay awake. Warning me that this area is full of bad guys who would cut your throat for the shoes you are wearing.

At the end of my eleven month trip I decided to return to the Ocean Monarch for another year as I was still in touch with the school teacher. However on my return I was kicked into touch. Several years later my friend Travis was in the UK. When we spoke on the telephone he told me my ex-girlfriend was bathing her two young children her husband returned and found her kneeling at the bath having died and the children ok playing in the water. Travis said that her post-mortem did discover the cause. As an only child her parents must have been devastated.

Travis and Kathy sold up Brownstone House and eventually whilst retaining the Catshill House moved to South Carolina from January to June. We have now been friends for sixty years and I have been very happy to have them as good friends.

So I started my second year on the ship after three weeks at home. I received a promotion after a few months on the voyage to Junior Second Officer. This was good for me as if any of the officers ranked above me went on leave I would get the charge of the 8 – 12 watch which meant that I received full sea time for that period.

Mum and Dad were not very happy that I was off to sea for another eleven months. So to sweeten the bitter I said I would arrange somewhere to stay in Bermuda for a month and take care of their air fare as well. I arranged to take two weeks leave in Bermuda whilst they were holidaying. Through a local friend I was able to hire a small one bedroomed bungalow right on the Two Rock Passage which was right on the entrance to Hamilton Harbour. There were steps down to the water which was excellent for swimming. The buildings in Bermuda are all pastel colours and tiled roofs, lime washed, rainwater running into a tank. Dad's cousin and her husband agreed to look after the pub so in April '62 they arrived for their holiday. A couple of days before we arrived on the Ocean Monarch.

One night I took them to a nightclub on the Hamilton waterfront called the Forty Thieves. We had a table on the edge of the dance floor. Soon the top of the bill came on, Margaret Whiting, a singer songwriter whose father was a very prolific composer. Everyone except Dad applauded. She walked over to dad and said "what's the matter dear, not enjoying you?" after that embarrassed dad never missed a clap!

This was the first time that either of them had flown. The aircraft, a Strata Cavier, took twelve hours to get to Bermuda. On the return flight they had a very noisy night due to the Gloucestershire cricket team!

Blair, our Senior Second Mate, had always had an Australian girlfriend who worked at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Bermuda. Having been on the island for fifteen months, Beth wished to go to Canada before returning to Australia. To save money she asked if she could stow away with us to New York. Not too difficult really. Only thirty six hours and we all knew except the Chief Officer. Any problem would be immigration in New York but somehow she managed ok and we never saw her again.

After that Blair saw an advert for a recently formed company called Windjammer Cruises. They were registered to the Bahamas but had American masters. Eventually the Bahamian authorities decided that the vessels should hold a British Masters Certificate. He applied, they accepted and the company agreed to release him. We were really sorry to see a really good shipmate go.

Windjammer Cruises ran very relaxed holidays. They would pitch up their maximum passengers (12) in Miami then call in at Bimini, one of the Bahaman Islands and pick up 12 more that were flown out by seaplane. Cruise around, anchoring off small islands, BBQ on the beaches. Help sail the ship, scrub the decks if they wished or nothing at all. They dropped the 12 off at Bimini before presenting the Miami Immigration with the same 12 they left with.

Blair's relief was another amiable fellow who had just passed his Master's Certificate. Soon after leaving the Ocean Monarch he went back to college for a year or so to take his Extra Master's Certificate. He went on to be an examiner of Masters and Mates.

Christmas 1962 we were very lucky and we were to spend our time in Hamilton, Bermuda. Naturally it was really very pleasant to be in port during the Christmas holidays. On sailing from New York we had only 300 passengers on board as we were due to take 120 due to be embarked in Bermuda and take them down to Bahamas. We sailed on Boxing Day for the two day passage to Nassau. Our Captain had taken leave to be in New York for Christmas so the Staff Captain was in command. Unfortunately we ran into the mother of all storms. For three days we battled on trying to make Nassau. We were taking on a lot of water over the open decks and a section of rail on the sundeck was damaged. We had about ten feet of teak Taff rail ripped off.

Eventually it was obvious that we were not going to make Nassau without much more damage to the ship and passengers. We turned north and headed for New York. This was the only way we could be on schedule for our next voyage. This left our guests sailing from Bermuda intending to sail to Nassau then returning by air to Bermuda. They did not have any winter clothes and New York in January is no place to wear shorts and T-shirts.

The US Immigration and Customs were really very good and quickly passed then through onto buses which took them straight to Idlewild Air Port. Later in the year I was taken on a trip from Philadelphia to Ocean City to see the damage that storm had caused to the USA East coast. Large wooden houses on the shore were smashed to pieces or at crazy angles. All the way up and down the coastline as far as we could see.

One of our favourite ports was the Anchorage where we had to take passengers ashore in our two Class A lifeboats. These had diesel engines and a small radio shack. The duty fell to us three Junior Officers. We would spend the day going back and forth taking the passengers to and from ship to shore. I think there were four of these St Vincent, Grenada and Barbados in the Windward Islands and Port au Prince, Haiti. In Granada we had to go to an old wooden pier at the end of a pretty little creek. Very close by was a liquor stall, a very useful shop to stock up on our favourite spirits. The last boat of the day was the collection time for cases of spirits. We had ordered for ourselves and our shipmates. Rum of high quality was 3s 6d a bottle in old money. All the cases went into the radio shack so the two seaman crew had to stand on the port to keep the boat upright as the radio shack was offset on the starboard side. After getting the last of the passengers on board, the boat was taken to her falls and hoisted to the boat deck. The master at Arms and the Staff captain were waiting on deck when the boat was secured. The boat's keel was about seven feet above the deck. The master at Arms then had to climb into the boat to check there was no illicit booze on board. Of course, he could not find any. We had a case for him as well. As soon as the Staff Captain went down to dinner the distribution proceeded!

When we arrived at New York from Falmouth at the start of our year's voyage (it was called a commission) I was instructed to go ashore to the Furness office to see the Marine Superintendent. He told me I was to receive compensation for the lifebuoy episode in Philadelphia a few months previous. He said that I had been offered \$200 of which I had to pay \$80 Lawyer's fee. I disagreed as I was on Company time recovering their property and that I should receive the full amount. He agreed with an apology and said he had been told to ask. So I left \$200 better off. It was about a month's wages for me.

On voyage to the Caribbean one of the Officers went on leave so I moved up to Senior Second Officer and kept the 0800/1200 watch. One evening I went to relieve the Chief Officer and found that the captain and he were in deep conversation. We were approaching an island (maybe a leeward island) which was about 30° on the port bow. About twenty miles distant. The old man (the Captain) said to the mate to put the island ahead so to give the passengers a closer look. As usual the old man said nothing to me. The Mate gave me the course then left the Bridge.

After about forty five minutes the island was getting nice and close in fact we were almost in the bay with the lighthouse 45° on our starboard bow. No sign of the old man. At 1800 hours we were rapidly approaching shallow water so I told the helmsman to put the wheel hard a starboard. Well, second sitting dinner, wheel hard over shallow draft vessel, high super-structure; over to a starboard list she went. In no time we had the lighthouse 25° on our port bow. The old man came through the door looked at the lighthouse, looked at the compass and said bring her round another couple of points (22.5°) to starboard and left the Bridge. That was the second time he had spoken to me in the eighteen months I had been an officer on his ship!

I really could not understand this Captain. It was not drink; I think he was almost a tee-totaller. He rarely smiled but obviously found communication with younger people difficult. Still I learned a good lesson from him on how not to treat subordinates. His marriage did not work out. His wife spent a great deal of his money and a few years after I left the ship I heard that she had divorced him and went to live with her girlfriend. When the passenger ships were sold off in 1966 he returned to the cargo ships running to the west coast of USA and Canada; similar ports that I had visited on the Highland Prince twelve years previously. He died in the mid-eighties.



COOMBE BISSETT AND HOMINGTON VILLAGE HALL

June and July 2020

At the time of writing there are no events taking place in the Village Hall due to the Corona virus outbreak. Hopefully, soon the restrictions on being able to meet together will be relaxed to allow the resumption of at least some normal activities.

As we do not know when this will be, we are not able to confirm any events or bookings in the immediate future.

One activity we are planning for is the accommodation of the village school for a limited period of time whilst a quantity of asbestos panels are removed from the school building. Whilst this work is carried out the building contract will involve the exclusion of all teachers, support staff, parents and pupils from the school for safety reasons. We recognise the importance of continuing education for the children particularly amid so much disruption, and the significant role the school plays in our community. For these reasons the school will be allowed exclusive daytime of the Village Hall, during Monday to Friday, between 29th June to 24th July. If current social distancing rules apply only a limited number of children can be accommodated in the Hall. Assuming the current restrictions on public meetings have been relaxed by then, the Hall will still be available for other users after 4.00pm each day and at weekends. We appreciate this will cause inconvenience to users of the Hall and would thank them for their understanding and patience while we try to accommodate these very special circumstances.

If restrictions on gatherings have been sufficiently lifted by then, normal activities should be able to fully re-commence after 24th July.

When the virus is eventually vanquished we hope to mark the return to normality with a Party of some sort. A Barn Dance could be one idea but if readers have other suggestions please let me know.

Don Morgan Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee.

VILLAGE CINEMA

WE ARE HOPING TO RETURN IN THE AUTUMN WITH A WONDERFUL SELECTION OF FILMS FOR YOU TO ENJOY, SO DON'T FORGET US , WE WILL BE BACK.

Remember ,

If you would like to book the hall, check our rates on www.coombebissett.com where you can also find a booking request form. Email bookings and enquiries to Rachel Coombs on hall@coombebissett.com

Week Ending		TEMPERATURES			RAINFALL
		Average Daily Maximum Deg C	Average Nightly Minimum Deg C	Average Mean Deg C	Total Inches
March	1	8.9	6.5	7.7	1.79
	8	8.7	3.5	6.1	1.14
	15	11.3	7.0	9.2	1.06
	22	10.7	4.8	7.8	0.13
	29	11.8	0.7	6.3	-
April	5	12.8	4.3	8.6	-
	12	20.2	7.5	13.9	0.07
	19	14.2	5.1	9.7	1.17
	26	19.2	7.5	13.4	-
May	2	13.9	<u>7.5</u>	10.7	2.90

Monthly Figures

January	8.7	5.3	7.0	4.94
February	9.7	5.3	7.5	6.98
March	10.5	3.9	7.2	2.33
April	16.6	6.5	11.6	<u>3.34</u>

Year to date rainfall 17.59 inches

March

The relentless autumn and winter rainfall which began on 23rd September, finally stopped in the middle of March. Total rainfall in those six months was 37.5 inches which, actually, exceeds my average annual rainfall since 1987 of 35.9 inches. On average we would expect for those six months a total of 22 inches.

The first half of March was mixed with wet days interspersed with bright sunny days and all the month's rainfall total of 2.33 inches occurring by 19th. On 18th, and at long last, a large area of high pressure centred over Scandinavia, the effect of which was to clear the skies and to deliver cold nights and gloriously sunny, wind free and quite warm days. This was particularly so for the period 21st to 27th when we had a week of unbroken sunshine to soften the blow of Covid-19 lockdown! There was a record high pressure off the west coast of Scotland of 1050 mbs on 29th though, here, we had 1038 mbs which is below my record of 1045mbs.

Mean temperature for the month was 7.2C which is spot on average for March. Rainfall totalled 2.33 inches which is less than the average for the month of 2.6 inches. My estimate for sunshine hours was 148 and this compares with my estimated average for the month of 120 hours. It was the first month where my sunshine estimates have given us an above average total for any month since February 2019!

April

High pressure dominated the weather in April and led to an exceptionally sunny month. Taking the UK as a whole, it was the sunniest April on record with an average total of 225 hours comfortably beating the previous record of 212 hours set in 2015. The Isle of Wight was the sunniest location in the United Kingdom, clocking up a total of 279 hours. According to my own estimated figures, April

il was the fifth sunniest since 1987 with a total of 219 hours. The highest total I have estimated was in 2007 when I arrived at a figure of 239 hours.

Temperature wise, April's mean temperature was 11.6C which compares with an average for the month of 9.4C. It was the third warmest in my records. The warmest was in 2011 when the mean temperature for the month was 12.9C.

The first half of April was almost completely dry and very sunny. Temperatures increased in the second week with the thermometer exceeding 21C on 5 successive days over the Easter weekend which was warm and sunny. The weather caused a shock on 17th when we had grey skies and light rain throughout the day. The next day, 18th was the first day for 27 consecutive days when the sun made no appearance. The last time this happened was on 19th March. Heavy overnight rain gave us 1.17 valuable inches for the gardens and the farmers. Another two inches occurred at the end of the month to give an above average total for April of 3.34 inches even though we had 24 completely dry days. The average for April is 2.57 inches.

The weather has certainly come to our aid as we have endured lockdown. At the time of writing, 17th May, we have been in lockdown for 56 days, 48 of them have been without measurable rainfall and 51 have produced at least some sunshine. My estimate of sunshine hours during lockdown has been 403 which is a daily average of more than 7 hours.

Pasta, tins, dried milk, rice, cereals what is all this mess under the Coombe Bissett Church lychgate every Wednesday between 10am and 4 pm?

It's our way of helping those in need during the current situation. The Salisbury Foodbank, part of the Trussell Trust has been struggling to get enough donations whilst people are not out and about as much and not dropping things into their collection points. Many of the Wiltshire villages have been doing their own collections and we are part of this. The first two weeks we collected a massive 327kgs of donations just from our two villages, well done everyone this was a brilliant effort. Donations have tailed off a little since then but we are still collecting and now manage to donate not only to the Salisbury Foodbank but also to the Salisbury Trust for the homeless, Alabare (who also help the homeless) or to the Swindon Foodbank depending on who needs it most that week. The expansion of the groups who we can donate to has been made possible by the total amount of donations from all the villages. Well done everybody. If you can't get to the shops yourself, Charles at the village shop has offered to buy on your behalf and will generously give a 10% discount on purchases for the Foodbank.

Many thanks everyone keep those donations coming they are all going to help people in need. Below is a picture of the first weeks collections. If you are isolating and can't get to the church call Judy Evans who is coordinating this project on 07762988506 and she will try to pick it up from your gate, drive or porch.

Thanks Coombe Bissett and Homington you have been very generous and the volunteers who are helping me have been great as well.





Coombe Bissett and Homington Show

together with the CB&H Express

ONLINE ENTRY

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION 2020

CATEGORIES:

“Lockdown”

“Local Architecture in Focus”

“Best Lockdown Bakes”

Entries by 30th June

The winners will be decided by public vote between 2nd – 14th July

Prizes will be awarded in each section.

**Please see the accompanying article for more details,
rules and how to enter.**



Coombe Bissett and Homington Show

together with the CB&H Express

ONLINE ENTRY

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION 2020

With the Coronavirus ruining all our fun this year, the CB&H Show together with the CB&H Express would like to run an online photographic competition. All photographs submitted will be displayed on the Show website, and the winners will be decided by public vote.

THE RULES AND HOW TO ENTER:

- Please see the accompanying poster for the categories.
- Photographs need to be emailed to CBandHVillageShow@gmail.com by **Tuesday 30th June**. Please include your name and address. Numbers will be allocated for the purposes of voting.
- One photo per category can be submitted from an individual email address.
- Please specify which photograph you would like to enter in each category.
- All entries will be displayed on the Show website (Coombebisett.com, Village Show) from 1st July.
- Anyone can vote for their favourite photograph in each section, by emailing their choices to CBandHVillageShow@gmail.com. You do not need to have entered a photo in order to vote.
- Public voting will take place from **2nd July – 14th July**.
- Winners will be notified by email, and announced on the Show website, and published in the August CB&H Express
- All photos must have been taken in Coombe Bissett or Homington (Please specify the exact location with your entry). However, you do not need to be a resident to enter.
- The 'architecture' category can be a picture taken before lockdown.
- The 'lockdown' and 'best lockdown bakes' categories must have been taken after 23rd March 2020
- Prizes will be awarded to the winners in each category.
- All ages welcome to enter

June 2020

Virtual Parish Council Meeting

The most recent meeting of the Parish Council was held virtually using Zoom. All Parish Councillors took part and 7 members of the public also attended.



The meeting was a success and amongst other things the Parish Council:

- Elected the Chair and Officers for the coming year.
- Agreed the FY 2019-20 Accounts which will now be independently audited.
- Reviewed Parish Community Support during the Coronavirus epidemic.
- Agreed the next steps for the Neighbourhood Plan.

Full details are in the Minutes of Meeting which are also in this edition of the Express.

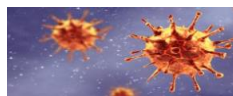
Next Meeting - It looks likely that the next Council meeting on Tue 14 Jul will also be 'virtual'. So watch out for further details.

Fly Tipping

Fly Tipping across the Parish has unfortunately increased during the 'lockdown'. If you see any, please report it on the Wiltshire Council Website at www.wiltshire.org.uk or by using the My Wiltshire App.

If you witness & report it you may be eligible for a £200 reward under Wiltshire Council's We're Targeting Fly-tipping Campaign.

On a positive note Wiltshire Council's recycling centres have now reopened. There are special rules in place including postcode entry restrictions. Again check the Wiltshire Council Website for full details.



Coronavirus Advice

There are signs that we might be through the worst of the Corona Virus epidemic. However as 'Lockdown' rules are slowly relaxed, it is even more important that we follow Government advice to avoid a second peak. Please see the latest regulations and advice at www.gov.uk/coronavirus

The Parish's Corona Virus Support Network continues to be available to help anyone affected by the Virus and the 'Lockdown'. So if you need any help, someone to chat to, help collecting provisions or medicines, contact:

Debbie James: 718850 or 07759886234

Abigail Bird: 718645 or 07751715391

Anna Mynott on 718353

Also please remember that:

Coombe Bissett Stores take orders that can be delivered or collected from the shop. Just contact shop@coombebissettstores.co.uk

The Fox and Goose are offering good value take-away meals. Just phone 718437.

There have been a number of reports that members of our community have been breaking the Government's Coronavirus regulations:-

Please Don't!

Vacancy for Parish Clerk

The Parish Council is looking to appoint a new Parish Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer.

We are looking for an enthusiastic and experienced person to support its business and conduct its financial administration. It is a part-time flexible role of 5 hours a week, with a salary based on the appropriate NALC scales. For further details see the Express advert.

To apply or for further information please contact Mrs Deborah James at parishclerkcoombebissett@gmail.com or phone 01722 718850 or 07759886234.