

COOMBE BISSETT AND HOMINGTON

EXPRESS

Issue No 253 October/November 2020



HMS Challenger—see page 23 <http://media.iwm.org.uk/iwm/mediaLib//19/media-19026/large.jpg>

LEST WE FORGET



Aircraft Restoration Company Spitfire PR XI PL983 "L" - Photo thanks to Kieron Yeo

Village Diary

The Village Hall is now open for limited activities see pages 10 – 11 for more information and contact details

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Welcome to this edition of the Express. Autumn has arrived and the march towards cold winter nights and Christmas is on. In spite of Covid19 the weather this spring and for much of the summer has been stunning. Many of us we have been able to enjoy plenty of outside activities and even holiday. Compared to many parts of the country our rates of virus infection remain low and we are not suffering from local lockdowns.

Whilst the Fox & Goose has benefitted from a good summer trade let's hope the latest imposed restriction for this sector doesn't affect Keith and Sue's business too much and people will still feel safe to go out and enjoy a pub lunch or evening meal washed down with a glass of something refreshing. They have started to do takeaways again and a copy is enclosed for your information and use. The autumn and winter times are always quieter and at this time our support may be more important than ever to ensure they keep the doors open.

This year we are not asking for the annual subscription. The Express will now be delivered free of charge, however should anyone wish to make a donation towards our production costs; you can do by bank transfer to the following Lloyds account:

Account Number: 00680209

Sort Code: 30-97-41

Please enter your name as the reference.

With the forthcoming annual Remembrance Service, see page 5 for details, it seemed coincidentally to see a new sign on the wall at the entrance to St Mary's Church. It noted that Within the churchyard there is a Commonwealth War Grave. See page 23 for more details.

We welcome and hope the following new neighbours have settled into their new homes and will enjoy living in Coombe Bissett:

- Helen & Glen Jones & Milly, their dog! Moved from Harnham into 'The Steading', Homington Road.
- Matt Davies & Natalie Corbett with their young sons Joshua & Sebastian. Moved from Wilton into 'Little Ridge', Salisbury Road.

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

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

Sue Dyer email: cbandhexpress@outlook.com

Phone: 01722718514

BREAKING NEWS - The Wiltshire Village of the Year Awards were launched last March. This competition is run by Newsquest, the publisher for various newspapers and websites in our region including the Salisbury Journal, in association with Wessex Water. The search for winners began in March when Journal readers were asked to put forward nominations for the various categories. Karen Smith took the initiative and nominated Coombe Bissett for the Village Shop, Best Small Village and a Village Hero. Voting took place in the summer and a little bird has told me that the results will be published by the Journal on the 1st of October. Why tell you this Well the same little bird has told me that we have been lucky enough to win in one of the categories.....hold your breath..... Due to publication dates I cannot provide the full information and what it means for the village but take a look at this week's journal and we will published full details next time.



Chalke Valley Benefice



Parish of Coombe Bissett with Homington

Team Rector

Revd Catherine Blundell – 780134

Team Vicar

The Revd Canon Jenny Taylor – 503081

Churchwarden

Mollie Lampard 718517

Lay Pastoral Assistant

Ruth Morgan 718557

It seems an absolute age since I last wrote – I have had a wonderful holiday in France, survived (and actually enjoyed!) two weeks of quarantine and now am back in action! There have been so many changes in Covid related guidance and rules that it has been hard to keep up with them all! But what good news that our churches can remain open for both public worship and private prayer; as long of course, that we follow all the procedures which are in place to keep us all safe. Visiting a local church where we stayed in France it was somehow reassuring to see their seating spaced out or taped off and hand sanitiser available and signs that masks should be worn. It emphasised the point that, even with all our differences, we are one world, one people. We are all in this together.

We are advised that we limit the size of congregations to 30 but we can safely go over this number as long as there is room to maintain social distancing. I hope you still feel able to come to our services especially our Harvest Festivals: Homington at 6.00 on October 4th and Coombe Bissett at 11.00 on October 11th. so do feel you can join us at any of our services but especially on Sunday 4th October when we celebrate Harvest! We are as usual collecting tins and packets for the Trussell Trust and Alabare, who need them more than ever so bring lots with you! If you are unable to join us but still want to give, simply leave your offerings in advance. (Don't forget the collection at the church gate in Coombe Bissett on the first Wednesday of each month) And thank you in advance!

The School are also going to celebrate Harvest in St Michael and All Angels on Friday 9th October coming in one class at a time .. it will be so good to have them with us again.

Our services are different at the moment – we still cannot sing and we are all in masks but the peace and serenity and the joy can still be felt as we worship God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit; remembering we are one world, these words from God through Isaiah might resonate well with you as we approach autumn.

So do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you;
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Revd Canon Jenny Taylor



This year, Remembrance Day in our Parish
will be marked in a very different way.

We will be gathering around the War Memorial
in Coombe Bissett

– socially distanced and masked –

for a short service of remembrance
with the laying of the wreath.

**This will take place at 10.00 am on
Sunday 8th November**



Services in Chalke Valley Benefice - October 2020

BCP = Book of Common Prayer (Traditional Language), CW = Common Worship (Contemporary Language)



Pattern of services for the re-opening of our churches for public worship.

Please note that if the Covid 19 situation changes, these service details might also change. Please check your church noticeboard and weekly e-bulletin

4 October 17th Sunday after Trinity	9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am 6.00pm	Harvest Festival Communion Harvest Festival Communion Harvest Festival Communion Harvest Festival Communion Harvest Festival Harvest Festival	Britford Broad Chalke Ebbesbourne Wake Bishopstone Odstock Homington	Jenny Taylor Roger Leake Roger Leake Jenny Taylor Anna-Claar T-Rosingh Jenny Taylor
11 October 18th Sunday after Trinity	9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am 3.00pm 6.00pm	Family Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Morning Prayer (BCP) Harvest Festival Harvest Festival Harvest Festival Harvest Festival	Nunton Bowerchalke Charlton All Saints Coombe Bissett Alvediston Fifield Bavant Berwick St John	Anna-Claar T-Rosingh Roger Leake Lay Led Jenny Taylor Biddy Trahair Roger Leake Roger Leake
18 October LUKE THE EVANGELIST	9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am	Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Morning Prayer (BCP) Harvest Festival Communion Parish Communion (CW)	Odstock Bishopstone Berwick St John Ebbesbourne Wake Bowerchalke Homington	Anna-Claar T-Rosingh Jenny Taylor Jenny Taylor Biddy Trahair Roger Leake Anna-Claar T-Rosingh
25 October Last Sunday after Trinity BST ENDS	9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am	Parish Communion (CW) Family Communion (CW) Family Communion (CW) Family Service Holy Communion (BCP)	Charlton All Saints Broad Chalke Coombe Bissett Nunton Alvediston	Jenny Taylor Roger Leake Jenny Taylor Adrian Taylor Bishop of Salisbury
1 November ALL SAINTS DAY	9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am	Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Family Communion (CW) Morning Service	Broad Chalke Britford Ebbesbourne Wake Coombe Bissett Odstock	Catherine Blundell Jenny Taylor Catherine Blundell Jenny Taylor Anna-Claar T-Rosingh

Ministry Team: Team Rector ~ The Revd Catherine Blundell: 01722 780134
 Team Vicars ~ The Revd Canon Jenny Taylor: 01722 503081, The Revd Dr Anna-Claar Thomasson-Rosingh: 01722 238267
 Curate ~ The Revd Roger Leake: 07947149456 Licensed Lay Minister ~ Mr David Blundell: 01722 780134
 Team Administrator ~ Mrs Emily Broomhead: 07890 262376
 URC Ministers ~ The Revds Ana & Tod Gobledale 01722 330980, The Revd Jackie Lowe: 01722 780008

Assisting Ministers: The Revd Canon Ann Philp: 01722 555178, The Revd Kate Rosslyn Smith: 01722 780011

Lay Worship Leaders: Yvonne & Kevin Follett: 01747 828785, Caroline Lamb: 01722 780789, Sally Leaver: 01722 780447,
 Naomi Martin: 07713031774, Don Morgan: 01722 718557, Richard Morgan: 01722 338868, Adrian Taylor: 01722 325862, Gill Riley:
 01722 780538, Janet Roe: 01725 519242, Biddy Trahair: 01722 780666, Rhoderick Voremberg: 07785 304142, James Wardroper:
 01722 718152



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1 November ALL SAINTS DAY	9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Family Communion (CW) Morning Service	Broad Chalke Britford Ebbesbourne Wake Coombe Bissett Odstock	Catherine Blundell Jenny Taylor Catherine Blundell Jenny Taylor Anna-Claar T-Rosingh
8 November REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 	10.00am 10.45am 10.45am 10.50am 11.00am 10.50am 11.20am 12.00am	Remembrance Service Remembrance Service Remembrance Service Remembrance Service Remembrance Service Remembrance Service Remembrance Service Short Communion Service	Coombe Bissett Bowerchalke Broad Chalke Berwick St John Bishopstone Charlton All Saints Ebbesbourne Wake Broad Chalke	Jenny Taylor Roger Leake Catherine Blundell Lay Worship Leader Jenny Taylor Anna-Claar T-Rosingh David Blundell Catherine Blundell
15 November 2nd Sunday before Advent	9.30am 9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am	Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Morning Prayer (BCP) Parish Communion (CW)	Odstock Bishopstone Bowerchalke Berwick St John Ebbesbourne Wake Homington	Anna-Claar T-Rosingh Jenny Taylor Roger Leake Catherine Blundell Roger Leake Jenny Taylor
22 November CHRIST THE KING	9.00am 9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion (CW) Family Communion (CW) Morning Prayer (BCP) Family Service (CW) Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion (CW)	Berwick St John Charlton All Saints Broad Chalke Coombe Bissett Nunton Alvediston Bishopstone	Roger Leake Anna-Claar T-Rosingh Catherine Blundell Roger Leake Anna-Claar T-Rosingh Catherine Blundell Jenny Taylor
29 November 1st Sunday of Advent	10.00am 10.00am	Benefice Communion (CW) Benefice Communion (CW)	Bowerchalke Nunton	Roger Leake Anna-Claar T-Rosingh

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Coombe Bissett Pack Horse Bridge

Sharon Hallis

There can't be many people who have driven through our quintessential English village and not admired our Church, the river (so gracefully bounded by weeping willows) and maybe even stopped to enjoy a 'pint' in our lovely village pub, the Fox and Goose. I wonder though how many will know about our little secret.....the Packhorse Bridge? So called because it was not wide enough for a cart and, typically, had no sides (parapets) to allow the packs to hang down on either side of the horse. Such bridges are found more often in the north of England, so we can pride ourselves on having a relatively rare medieval Grade II Listed Building. Oh, and did I mention it is also a Scheduled Ancient Monument! Right on our very doorstep! It is also mentioned in many archaeological guides. Interestingly, though, Henry Lamb (artist famed for his Coombe Bissett work) does not appear to have painted it.....anyone have any information proving otherwise?

The description with the listing is as follows: *'Footbridge over river. Medieval; widened C19. Dressed stone, widened in brick. Small narrow 3-span bridge with depressed 2-centred arches with double-chamfered arch-rings and weathered buttresses to piers on downstream (east) side. In the C19 the bridge was widened to about 6' in brick on the upstream (west) side with depressed 2-centred arches. No parapets, but modern wooden railings. The bridge spans the River Ebble, a tributary of the River Avon.'*

Coombe Bissett, even mentioned in the Domesday Book, has always been a crossing point on the route from 'Poole Gate' via 'Cranborn' to 'Sarum' The Packhorse Bridge is believed to be mediaeval (c. 1530) in origin because of its structure, although interesting to note we are unique in that most PHB's have a single arch, whilst we have three! What a village!

Our lovely new railings are not the first facelift it has seen. Severe weathering in 1870 caused deterioration so it was reinforced with a modern brick façade and the railings have been replaced on a number of subsequent occasions.



So as you pass over our 'secret' bridge to the village shop picking up your daily paper and maybe a delicious treat, remember, you are stepping in the footprints of time and being 'written' into our village history!

Grade II Listed Building (Nat Heritage List 1375630)

Scheduled Ancient Monument (Wilts 277).

Thank you to: John Chandler (Historian) for support material, Coombebissett.com and DH2020



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

Since we opened our doors on Monday 6th July, we have had some reasonably good trading weeks. Mainly due to some good weather and that we have a large garden that can accommodate more customers than inside of the pub.

Although trade in August was down 25% on last year, this was not too bad considering the events such as Salisbury Races were held without spectators and the Steam fair was cancelled completely. Trade in September is about 20% down but we have been lucky again with good weather.

We anticipate that trade will slow down in October and the cooler autumn and winter months will throw up some new challenges for us.

We will need to change our one-way system as we won't be able to have the patio doors open as we do at the moment and will have to use the front door for entry and exit. We will however endeavor to keep social distancing as best as we can.

We have had very good feedback on our layout and procedures and even some of our more vulnerable aged customers have commented on how comfortable and safe they have felt during their visit.

Unfortunately, the government has put more restrictions on pubs with the "No more than six" rules. This means we cannot have tables with more than six people sat down, or allow groups to merge and mingle.

This has already resulted in cancellations of the Cricket club dinner and two of our car clubs monthly and Christmas events.

Unless things change, we would not be able to allow local villagers to come into the pub after Church on Christmas Day for drinks as is the usual tradition. Hopefully things may change by then.

We have had requests for us to consider doing Take Away meals again as we did during lockdown. So, we have decided that we will offer a Take Away service again and details and menu can be found on our Website and Facebook pages.

We have again been accredited by Trip Advisor with another Certificate of Excellence for 2020. This is the fifth year in a row we have achieved this accolade.

Unfortunately, Mark Wyeth the local Salisbury knife sharpener will not be at the Fox and Goose in October as he has had knee surgery and will not be able to carry out his usual time slot. Mark hopes to be back in December.

Once again, we would like to thank everyone who supported us during these difficult times and your continued support in the future to keep the pub open will be greatly appreciated.

Very best regards

Keith and Sue

foxandgoose@coombebissett.com

www.foxandgoose-coombebissett.co.uk





COOMBE BISSETT AND HOMINGTON VILLAGE HALL

October and November 2020

Doors of the Village Hall are Cautiously Re-opened

After months of closure because of COVID 19 restrictions, the Management Committee of the Village Hall has agreed that from 1st September some activities can be re-commenced in the building. The latest advice we have received provides various suggested measures to minimise the likelihood of infection being spread among users, volunteers or staff, following the production of a risk assessment. Numbers attending events must be limited to 30 people (10 in the Homington room). A one way system has been instituted through the building. Use of the toilets is limited to “one at a time” and hand sanitisers are provided at various points. The kitchen may only be used to provide light refreshments i.e. teas, coffees and biscuits. Social distancing should be observed at all times when activities take place. A revised cleaning regime has been formulated.

All potential users of the Hall must adhere to a set of additional special conditions which will be provided when bookings are made.

We appreciate that these requirements will impose restrictions on what can take place but at least some more “low key” events can, and indeed have, now restarted. The Village Hall is open for business again !

Don Morgan Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee.

Post Script Since writing the above, the Government has published the new “rule of six” requirements which take effect from 14th September, in respect of social gatherings. However, there are a number of exemptions including certain business and sporting events which are still permitted, subject to conditions, notwithstanding the COVID situation. This will enable events such as the Pilates and Short Mat Bowls groups to continue to meet. If you would like to organise an event at the Hall but are not sure of the current position regarding COVID requirements please contact either Simon Scutt or myself.

VILLAGE CINEMA

WE ARE HOPING TO RETURN WHEN CONDITIONS PERMIT WITH A WONDERFUL SELECTION OF FILMS FOR YOU TO ENJOY, SO DON'T FORGET, 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

Regular events at the Hall :

Painting classes

For all abilities and medium.

These are held alternate Thursdays , 10.30 – 12.30, outside the main school holidays .

For more information please contact heatheroliver@btinternet.com or call 07731506928

Drama Club

The Drama Club tries to do a Spring production and a pantomime each year,

Rehearsals are held Tuesday and Friday evenings .

Everyone is welcome. The Drama club needs support backstage with scenery, costumes etc.etc. Scene shifting, refreshments, lighting, parking and more, as well as actors.

If you are interested please contact :

Lynn Mills (chairman) 01722718438

Tina Chelu (treasurer) 01722718351

Kirstie Finton (secretary) 07519002582

Parkinson's Short Mat Bowls Club

Especially for sufferers of Parkinson's disease, the Club meets every Friday morning at 10.00am.

If you are interested please contact David Germain on 01722 718531

Pilates Classes

Weekly Pilates classes on Tuesday at 9.15am till 10.15am

Low impact exercises which safely strengthen the body and improve flexibility.

£7.50 per class payable in blocks of 10.

Contact : Claudine 07788 587937 for more information.

Badminton Club

The Badminton Club will open again on Wednesday evenings again in early September through to May .

We have one court , the games are run on a peg system so it works well and is fair, spare rackets are available .

Everyone is welcome , for more information please contact Jane White 01722 718485 or 01722 718670

Tennis Club Report

Janet Finniss 718346

Since the relaxing of the Covid 19 restrictions, Tennis Clubs around the country have had an increase in membership and Coombe Bissett club is no exception. We have new members joining and the courts are being used more or less every day, especially during the lovely weather. Following LTA guidelines, we have returned to holding club sessions, with many members coming along. The committee also decided to go ahead with the Red Leader Competition, held between 1 July and 31 October, with 10 pairs taking part. Watch this space for the final result!

Club Sessions:

Wednesday	5.30pm	Mixed
Friday	10am	Ladies
Sunday	10am	Mixed

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

As always I report and update on any tasks not completed since the last report in the Express and hence nothing to report on this front.

Three CHAVS did one urgent task about 4/5 weeks ago. One CHAV was walking up Pennings Drove and could not help but notice a quite large amount of cement which had spilled out of a cement mixer lorry which it is believed was going to deliver the cement mix to the barns area on the Wiltshire Wildlife site.

I received a phone call about this and myself and two other CHAVS went armed with shovels and broom to clear it from the road surface before it set hard.

A list of tasks has very recently been provided by the Parish Council, following the review by the Chairman and the Clerk of the assets in the Parish which the Parish Council are responsible for. I have checked over the assets referred to and will be very shortly sending an email to those in the CHAV group and I am confident that by the time the next Express is due these will have all been completed.

By the way I still have some litter picking gloves available if anyone would like some. We need to keep our villages looking clean and tidy.

Gerald Bundy.

Know your Neighbours

When you meet someone, you never know what life they have led, the experiences they have had, what they have been through to get where they are today. I touched the surface with this editions' Neighbour which could easily be a 12 episode story in itself! One thing is for sure we are richly blessed for where we are today... things could've been a lot different!!!

Who Am I?

Born in Mill Hill, which was then in Middlesex, in 1929 when Britain was entering its biggest depression. His primary school, St Pauls Mill Hill, was closed during the 2nd World War to be used for air raid shelters. His secondary school, St Mary's, near Hendon aerodrome stored hurricane fighters, which took off straight over the school and sometimes the school children would have to spend the whole day in an air raid shelter, to be let out at 4pm and told to keep under the trees on their way home as the raids were still on.

Mill Hill changed a lot during the war, where our Neighbour grew up. There was a huge underground office area built in case the Germans ever did invade. The village pond where our neighbour used to observe newts and the wildlife was destroyed to make way for the ordnance factory which was built to repair guns, tanks and army vehicles. It did create employment, however, one of which provided a well-paid, regular income for our Neighbour's father.

Mill Hill was not deemed in danger, so our neighbour was not evacuated, although it was located only 6 miles in a straight line from Charing Cross. There was a huge Jewish community in Hendon which was targeted by a scattering of bombs as was a large gas works nearby. Our Neighbour remembers seeing the fires of the bombed warehouses at London docks, lighting up the sky and lasting for 4 days before they were put out.

His mother was annoyed when his father left his secure job in the factor to go and re-join the army in 1938, as he was injured twice in WW1. He joined the Territorial Army, helping to dig out after bomb attacks in London. It was here, in 1940, that he tragically died during an air raid. Our brave neighbour was only 11years old, his mother was called, and she did not return home that night. His father's body was brought home as the undertakers had been bombed and there he stayed for a week.

Our Neighbour left school at 13 years old, being a July baby, but he could not get a job until he owned a pair of long trousers and he was still in shorts. He got a job when he was 14 for Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI) as a messenger boy and got fitted for a suit.



At the age of 17, he joined the navy, February 1947. It broke his Mother's heart as she lost her husband in the war, her two other sons had fought through the war, now her youngest had to have her permission to join up, and she gave it.

Give Up?

Ron Shorland did his initial naval training in Gosport and went on up to Yorkshire to obtain his professional grade. He then got posted to Chatham and was drafted to Portland in 1948 to commence his carrier in the navy.

An excited 18-year-old arrived in Weymouth all by himself, at 2am, waiting for a boat to take him out to his designated ship – The Jutland. A foul night, a gale was blowing and on approach to the ship the sea was very rough. On attempting to climb aboard up the ladder he got drenched and was not expected so a bed had not



HMS Anson (battleship) foreground, HMS Corunna (destroyer) in the background - Ron's ship

been allocated. He had to spend the rest of the night in a locker room. Not the picture Ron had in his mind of navy life!



Ron (right) HMS Jutland leaning on torpedo tubes

Ron set sail and travelled the seas for 12 years; he even went to a place where John Bletsoe has never been!

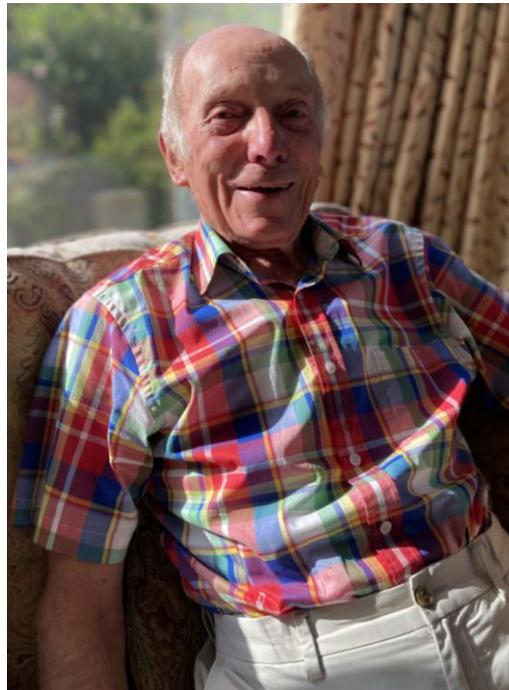
He left the navy and briefly became a landscape gardener but as there was no winter work, he took the Civil Service exam and became a postman, returning to Mill Hill.

He met his wife, Ruth, who had 4 sisters, one of which was married to a man who had a farm in Coombe Bissett, (Westly Cole). Ron and Ruth used come down on holidays to help with the straw harvest then they eventually moved to Coombe Bissett in 1974.

Ron is a very keen, talented gardener and has won numerous, impressive medals and awards. His enthusiasm came from when his father died, and he had to look after the garden as no one else was around. His keenness grew even more when he realised he could grow and mature a half hundred weight of potatoes (56lbs), for which he could get 1 and sixpence for every 7lbs! A great return on investment in those days.

Quick Fire Q&A

1. What was/is your nick name? *Shaver*
2. If you could time travel, when would you go? *Late 1949-50's when I met Ruth*
3. What is your pet hate? *Bombast, when people have a weird idea of their importance*
4. What is your favourite TV programme? *Salvage Hunters*
5. What do you like most about living in CB & H? *Tranquillity and the friendly people (I won't say the pub!)*
6. What is the silliest way you have been injured? *Sitting on a form on the mess deck which wasn't put back properly after the deck had been cleaned so when 8 men sat down on it, it collapsed on me. I still have a bunion on my right foot 'cos of it!*
7. Where is your favourite place in the world? *England*
8. What is your favourite food/dish? *Medium heat Curry*
9. What is the best piece of advice you have received? *Get a job with a pension when you leave the navy*
10. Would you rather.....have x-ray vision or magnified hearing? *X-ray vision - it is more vital to see where you are going than to hear all the rubbish whether you would like it or not*



Many thanks to Ron Shorland

Interviewed by Rachel Coombs

**MINUTES OF COOMBE BISSETT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD VIRTUALLY ON
TUESDAY 8th SEPTEMBER 2020 (unconfirmed)**

Present: Councillors: D Rattue, D Hobson, P Crosthwaite, C Chelu, S Gledhill, A Bird and G Bundy.

Mrs N Heron (Clerk). (Wiltshire Cllr. R Clewer). Member of the public – Robin Maycock

42 Apologies for absence - none

43 Public question time – no questions

44 Minutes of the last meeting – the minutes were proposed by S Gledhill, seconded by P Crosthwaite and accepted by all as a true record.

45 Declaration of interest: G Bundy declared an interest in the NDP (Neighbourhood Development Plan. D Rattue declared an interest in the Stocksbridge Lane repairs. Therefore they will not take part in any Parish Council considerations. There were no additional declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

46 Matters arising:

Neighbourhood Development Plan: The Community Feedback Consultation survey has been completed and local perspectives have clarified development preferences to be broadly in favour of The Old Vicarage, Avalon and Kenara paddock. The PC have confirmed our agreement to The Old Vicarage to the steering committee who will consult further with WC and the AONB on the other 2 sites with the intention of selecting one of them if suitable.

Gates across bridleway 8 in Coombe Bissett: G Bundy is waiting for the final go ahead and confirmation of the date of the site visit from Wiltshire Council who have agreed they will install the gates and the Parish Council will be responsible for the cost.

Donkey Field fence: The contractor has been contacted by the Parish Clerk who is waiting for a response regarding a start date for the work.

Speeding on the A354: We are waiting for WC to install two new sockets at Stratford Tony Road Road and Homington Road. The SID report for the period 6-20 July has been posted on the website.

Stocksbridge Lane repairs: The developer of the house adjacent to the uneven surface of the road has commented that deterioration of the lane is due to the flow of water and not the builder's lorries. The Parish Clerk will contact the Rights of Way Officer at WC and enquire whether a Path Improvement Grant is available. The Parish Council will get prices from two contractors for repairing the lane, taking into account our responsibility to maintain it as a footpath only and the residents of the lane will be contacted by letter.

Development land on A354: Allen Planning Ltd have been informed by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group that his client's lane was not suitable for inclusion in the Neighbourhood Plan due to the small scale of the development and the location of the site.

Change of signatory for Coombe Bissett Parish Bank Account: It was resolved that the Authorised Signatories in the current Business Banking Universal Mandate, for the Coombe Bissett Parish Council Bank Account, be changed in accordance with section Authorised Signatories. And the current mandate will continue as amended. C Chelu and A Bird have signed the Business Banking Universal Mandate and a copy of these minutes will be sent to NatWest Bank by the Parish Clerk.

Financial Policies: D Rattue thanked S Gledhill for his work on the policies. C Chelu proposed we implement the policies and A Bird seconded, and all agreed. The Parish Council will move towards electronic banking for future credit and debit payments.

Asset review: D Rattue and N Heron have completed the asset review. Some minor repairs are required and G Bundy will look at these and liaise with N Heron regarding the expenses. Depreciation of the assets will be looked into by S Gledhill.

47 Parking on Recreation Field:

Cricket

48. Parking on Donkey Field:

none

48 Notices on Donkey Field/Beech Tree:

none

49 Correspondence received:

- Fingerpost Toyd Down – G Axtell from Wiltshire Council reported that replacing the fingerpost with a metal one does not require any funding from the Parish and the Sustainable Transport team are designing a new one.
- Cemetery – J Challis thanked Coombe Bissett for allowing the family to lay Roland Challis's ashes and has purchased a memorial bench as a token of their appreciation which is now in place.
- ROSPA – the play area will be inspected in September – date to be advised.
- Homington Pay Phone – Wiltshire Council asking for response to consultation regarding removal of BT's pay phone – the Parish Clerk was asked to respond requesting the pay phone is not removed.

50 Planning:

Planning received:

Application Ref: 20/06379/TCA

Site Location: The Old House, Homington Road, Coombe Bissett, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP5 4LR

Proposal: Fell trees in a Cons Area - T1 - Cypressus Macrucarpa

Application Ref: 20/06184/TCA

Site Location: The Croft, Homington Road, Coombe Bissett, SP5 4LR

Proposal:- Work to Trees in a Cons Area T1 - Yew tree - overall reduction of 2m & shape

Application Ref: 20/06576/FUL

Site Location: Homington Farm, Barbers Lane, Homington, SP5 4NG

Proposal:- Proposed demolition and alteration of a number of existing relatively modern barns

Planning approved by Wiltshire Council:

Application Number: 20/04659/FUL

Site Location: College Farm Rockbourne Road Coombe Bissett SALISBURY SP5 4LP

Proposal: Alteration and loft extension to provide increased living accommodation – approved with conditions

Application Ref: 20/06289/TCA

Site Location: Wyckfield, Homington Road, Coombe Bissett, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP5 4LR

Proposal: 1 – Cupressus tree – fell, 2 – Beech tree – fell, 3&4 – Silver Birch trees fell, 5 – Ash tree – fell – no objections

Application Number: 20/04599/TCA

Site Location: The Glebe, Homington Road, Coombe Bissett

Proposal: Fell T1 Yew; T2 Lime; T3 Lime; T4 Persian Ironwood; T5 Willow; T6 Ash; T7 Ash x 2; T8 Willow x 2; T9 Ash; T10 Ash; T11 Willow; T12 Ash; T13 Elm – no objections

Application Number: 20/04958/FUL

Site Location: Springfield, Shepherds Close, Coombe Bissett

Proposal: Remove and replace existing garage and store with single storey side and rear extension (amendment to planning permission 19/00544/FUL) – approved with conditions

Application Number: 20/02370/VAR

Site Location: Manor House Stratford Tony Road Coombe Bissett SP5 4LD

Proposal: Variation of condition 2 of planning application 19/04042/FUL (Demolition of an existing single storey flat roofed shed and construction of a new single storey pitched roof workshop/shed) – approved with conditions

Application Number: 20/04208/LBC

Site Location: Manor House Stratford Tony Road Coombe Bissett SP5 4LD

Proposal: Construction of a new single storey pitched roof workshop/shed – approved with conditions

51 Reports from representatives:

Flood Warden – P Crosthwaite commented that the drains on Homington Road had been unable to cope with the recent deluge of rain water and she has advised WC and sent photographic evidence.

Playground & Recreation Ground Warden – A Bird reported that Ian Newman has maintained the field throughout the pandemic and the cricket club are using it. The playpark has been re-opened.

Finance:

727	Bawden Managed Landscapes	Grass July	£133.42
728	PKF Littlejohn	Annual Audit	£240.00
729	Radnor Estate	Allotments	£10.00
730	N Heron reimbursement	Printer	£69.50
731	N Heron reimbursement	Printer Ink	£31.98
732	N Heron reimbursement	Laptop/Office	£558.99
733	N Heron reimbursement	Zoom	£14.39
734	Office Expenses		£717.42

S Gledhill proposed, C Chelu seconded and everyone agreed that cheques 727 to 734 be paid.

Balance on accounts:

The balance on the reserve account is: £32,140.38

The balance on the current account is: £16,661.23

Less outgoings £1,775.70

The total of the two accounts is therefore: £47,025.91

52 Date of next meeting: 10th November 2020

53 The meeting closed at: 8.10pm

FROM APPRENTICE TO CAPTAIN: A MARINERS STORY John Bletsoe

Western Prince (cont.) 9.8.69 to 28.11.69

In the last edition of the magazine I missed out my final voyage on the Western Prince. Sorry about that folks. This voyage was a very tough one for the ship and crew. We were chartered to the, 'Nigerian National Line', to take a general cargo down to the West African coast. This was during the civil war in Nigeria between government troops and the Biafran peoples.

Our cargo was mainly CKC, (cased knockdown cars), machinery, bales of cloth and clothes, food stuffs and the two aftermost holds for the Nigerian Army. The army had loaded lorries on the afterdeck, loaded in Antwerp by 15 ton-safe working cranes. There were four of these and the manifest described their weight as being 10 tons. Their canvas tops were locked and sealed, so we had no way of knowing if they were empty or full. Also on deck, brand new scout cars, British built with Rolls Royce engines.

The scout cars had been sent down from Germany. We understood that the UN had agreed not to support either side in their conflict. Also we had several hundred beds, (metal), no mattresses. The discharge ports were Freetown (Sierra Leone), Takdaal and Accra (Ghana), Lagos (Apapa the Port) and Nigeria.

The Master, another Eddie, was a first-trip Master. I was a relatively new Chief Officer; neither of us had been to West Africa before. Eddie was a Scotsman and a very strange and difficult man.....he was an 'ostrich'. If anything went wrong he was nowhere to be found! He was very good at typing and could be heard in the early morning knocking out pages of foolscap to the London Office. I had no idea what he found to write about. Every morning in port, when work started, I had to go to his cabin to hear all the things that had dissatisfied him during the previous day. Sometimes his lists were so long I had to tell him that I needed to go on deck as work of discharging, loading and crew ship maintenance was underway.and that was all problem-free. He had no interest in cargo loading or discharging but cherished the typewriter!

Our first port of discharge was Freetown. On our last evening there, whilst we were having our meal, there was uproar in the alleyway leading to the afterdeck. The Second Steward and the Saloon Steward,(who was serving our dinner), were having a fight. The Saloon Steward (a big lad) had been floored by the Second Steward. The lad had fallen back with his ankle trapped beneath him. He had a compound fracture of the tibia; the bone was sticking through his sock. The Captain kept morphine vials in the ships safe in his dayroom. I asked Eddie to get the morphine whilst the Chief Steward, (Ship's Medical, one of his duties) covered the wound as best he could and waited for Eddie to bring the morphine down before we strapped him onto the cane and canvas Salveson stretcher.

The Foreman Stevedore was trying to get an ambulance down to the ship without success. Eddie had not come down with the morphine and apparently had shut and locked the door and would not answer the crew members' call. We had to move him to get the stretcher under his body and the poor lad was crying with pain when we were strapping him in. Still no ambulance after 30 minutes so we lifted him up on the stretcher ropes. It took four of us to get him to the Afterdeck, where we laid him on an 8' x12' section of hatchcover and lowered him onto the quay to await transport.

Fortunately the port had recently received a new people carrier. They removed the seats in preparation to receive the patient. This was nearly an hour after the poor fellow's mishap. Eddie appeared on the scene and told me to move him off the slab so discharge could be continued at No. 5 Hold. I tried to tell him that any movement caused him great pain and if he had given the morphine he would by not be in such distress.

Finally we got him into the vehicle and I climbed in as well for the ten minute trip to hospital. On arrival we were told that there was no doctor in the building but suggested there may be one just down the road in a bar! By now half an hour had passed and the poor chap was exceedingly distressed. An old doctor turned up and asked a nurse for a teaspoon. With his lighter, some surgical spirit and a morphine tablet he heated them, once dissolved he gave the lad a much needed shot!

There I had to leave him. The Agent turned up to say the cargo discharge was complete and we were due to sail in 30 minutes. Eddie was hopping mad that I had accompanied the lad to hospital. I thought it very reasonable of me to go with him to make sure he received medical care. Eddie was showing his true colour of being a complete uncaring person! Whilst at sea the following day we received radio message from the Agent saying the hospital had a very good orthopaedic surgeon who had successfully operated on the lad's leg and he would be repatriated to the UK in the next few days.

We continued around the coast to Takoradi and Accra in Ghana, then on to our main discharge port of Apapa which is the port district of Lagos. On berthing we were assisted by a large new twin screw tug. It was soon obvious that the tug was only operating with one propeller. When questioned, the pilot, a Brit, told us the tug was built in Poland and on delivery the Polish engineer showed the local lad all the controls and lubricating points on the port engine only, so the port engine was fine but the starboard engine had seized up for lack of lubrication.

The civil war was still in progress so the military were anxious to get hold of our army equipment on the after two holds and old deck. They would not tell us the content of the 5 ton trucks. Our cargo derricks had a safe working load of 10 tons so we had to increase the lifting power by fitting an extra cargo block onto the lifting wire, (runner). The lorries were safely lifted onto the quay with much creaking from the lifting gear.

Discharge was very slow so eventually we completed the discharge of beds with no mattresses and about 100 coffins. The 3 forward hold were all civilian general cargo but the army seemed to be policing these as well. The officers carried metal golf clubs with the heads sawn off and beat the troops for the slightest misdemeanour. One morning they caught a stevedore stealing a length of cloth he had pilfered from a lower hold. He had wrapped the cloth round his body several times and then dressed over it. Having caught him and whilst he was unravelling himself he was beaten on his back and shoulders with the metal club. Having got rid of the cloth he ran for his life down to the quay being hit regularly and eventually stumbling out of sight.

Having finished discharge we expected to load for the UK...no such luck. We were sub-chartered to the army and a local company taking general cargo to Port Harcourt and Calabar the eastern ports of Nigeria. Both ports were in the Niger delta.

Port Harcourt was the home of a large Shell refinery. At that time the Biafrans were only 15 miles away inland. Earlier they had captured the port and ran the refinery. Now there were Shell employees running a Shelton operation. A tug boat had been chartered to Shell, manned by two Geordies. It was to be used as an escape way down coast for the European Shell workers should the Biafrans come down the river.

The two young tugmen were supplied with a Shell/BP van which would take them, me and my shipmates up to the Shell village to watch a film. Shell had a big sporting and social club in the village but this was being used by government troops as a hospital. The trip from ship to a bungalow they were now using as a club was about 5 miles. On both sides of the road there were 100's of tons of hands of friendship (USA) and Oxfam food stuffs lying rotting for lack of transport to distribute them. One evening on the way to the village the rotting food had been set on fire to get rid of infestation. On another night as we were passing the hospital (Shell club) a military policeman stepped importantly onto the road holding us up. 6 coffins were carried across the road into the bush. He still held us up and about 5 minutes later the coffins and porters returned, their loads obviously empty.

The next Port was Calabar, on the quay lay 200 tons of rat-infested rotting flour. We eventually started to load for Europe at various small ports in Nigeria and of course in Lagos and Apapa. In the lower holds we loaded logs. These were floated to us and I had no idea how much each one weighed. As usual Eddie was completely disinterested in the cargo. What weight a log? Some were very big, some smaller. All seemed waterlogged. We once again had to double up on all our cargo gear just in case one or two were especially heavy. They were most unpleasant to have on board although once I that was that. There was nothing we had to ship which could be stowed on top of them. Just the tween decks to load and logs on deck. Now the problem, they wanted me to take 350 T of logs on deck...stability-wise I could not. Why not? I was questioned by the Nigerian port official "our ships of similar size all take 350 T?" These men all had British Masters FB Certificates or so they said.

I explained to them we had very little fuel in our double- bottom tanks (tanks below the lower hold decks (tank tops) and the ship's bottom. The more fuel and ballast water in these tanks the more we can take on deck. My calculations were very rough as I only had an estimate of the weight of logs in the hold. At most I could take 150 T in each port; we bunkered the charters only giving us enough fuel to get to the next port.

Food on board was getting desperately poor. No fresh meat. The Chief Steward not wishing to purchase any owing to the price. I think the Steward had sold a lot of the stores to shore personnel! Eventually he agreed to buy beef. A cow was brought onto the Quay and poleaxed, skinned and butchered. Eventually we managed to sail to Las Palmas where we went to bunker. Luckily the weather was pretty good as the ship had very little stability.

Another incident happened on our way to Las Palmas. An Able Seaman (AB) had taken his lunch up to show the Captain: half a sausage roll, a few peas and a scoop of mashed potatoes. He asked Eddie, who certainly did not like to be confronted, if he thought the meal was sufficient for a man to produce a day's work. I cannot remember Eddie's reply but it obviously did not satisfy the AB as he was waiting outside the Captain's Cabin at 3 in the afternoon. When the 2nd Steward arrived at Eddie's door with his pot of tea and tabnabs (biscuits), and the Steward opened the door, AB sent him, tray, tea and tabnabs all into Eddie's dayroom. My cabin was a

deck below and the crash awoke me from my siesta. AB was going nuts shouting and hammering on Eddie's locked door. Eddie, of course, was playing the ostrich!

I wrestled and got him away from the door and for 20 minutes tried to calm him down. In fact we struggled and landed down the stairs outside my office. Someone fetched the old Irish Bosun who, after not succeeding, hit him on the jaw knocking him out. No repercussions from Eddie, no punishment for AB, normally a very nice chap.

One cargo problem occurred in a tween deck. In the wings under the main deck, No.2 hold we loaded Shea nuts. Because of the civil war they were from the previous season. I did not know this at the time but the hessian bags did seem rather battered. On top of these we loaded cartons of cocoa butter. I did not know that Shea nuts tend to overheat, unfortunately melting some of the cocoa butter, which finally found its way via the tween deck scuppers (drains) into the coffer dam to the fore part of the engine room. Cofferdams are water tight bulkheads each end of the engine room, the main purpose is to protect the engine room from flooding. They are about 36 inches wide and each has a sounding pipe and should be bone dry. All ships' tanks and bilges are checked each day with a sounding rod by the carpenter. We discovered the liquid was cocoa butter and slowly increasing each day. So Eddie said 'pump the liquid over the side'. I knew no better, but when the time came to discharge the cartons; the consignee said that the liquid was so valuable that they would have arranged to pump the liquid into a tanker lorry.

We arrived at Antwerp to discharge. Eddie went home on leave and our paths, thankfully, never crossed again. Later in his career and for some reason he was Master of a vessel called 'The Jamaican Producer'. How this came about I do not know. She was not a Furness Withy ship. She was quite famous as I remember seeing a drama filmed aboard her.

Half across the Atlantic the ship's radio officer received an SOS from a German-registered tanker in grave danger of sinking. His ship was nearest to the distressed vessel position. On being informed of the German vessel's plight Eddie told the radio officer they could not possibly help as they were on a scheduled voyage. This is frightful behaviour as it is unwritten law that a ship master's priority is his ship but if he can assist another without risk to his own command then he is duty bound to respond to the SOS call.

The radio officer took the SOS to the Chief Officer who immediately confronted Eddie. Eddie refused the Chief Officer's request to help. The Chief Officer told Eddie he was taking command and headed to the stricken vessel. Unfortunately the weather was very poor. The crew abandoned the stricken vessel and were in a life raft. Apparently the Chief Officer did a great job getting his ship in a really good position to pick up the life raft. Unfortunately the raft overturned dumping the unfortunates into the rough sea. The Jamaican Producer had cargo nets rigged over the side, two men made it to the nets and one climbed the net to safety, the other could not make it, he fell and drowned, as did all his shipmates. Eddie never left his cabin until it was all over.

Well, there you are! Guess who received a much coveted Lloyds Silver Medal for Saving Lives at Sea? Yes, you have it in one folks: Eddie!

Coombe Bissett & Homington Badminton Club. September 2020.

Before lockdown due to the pandemic, the club was enjoying really good evenings.

The beginning of the year we opened with a full house, as since September 2019 we had many new members, Emaline joined us from Wilton, John Parker and also Eric Liphardt. Judy and Joff Evans also joined the club from Coombe Bissett and they all brought with them their style to the game and very good players.

Judy Evans set up a system on her tablet for competing each other in cross sections each week, it was excellent. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed it with chocolate treats for the Winners.

Eric from Canada was on a sabbatical for a time so sadly for us he returned home in June.

Last season came to an abrupt end due to Covid 19 and we couldn't finish in May our usual term end.

The Badminton Club will not open at present as like many social gatherings, though we review the situation regularly we may open 2021 and only then when it is 100% safe as members safety is paramount.

Jane White Tel.: 718485 / 718670

Frederick Charles Gould

With the forthcoming annual Remembrance Service, see page 5 for details, it seemed coincidentally to see a new sign on the wall at the entrance to St Mary's Church; 'At this location there is a Commonwealth War Grave, www.cwgc.org'. This is the grave of AS, Frederick Charles Gould who served on H.M.S. Challenger, this was originally a survey ship but from 1939 to 1942 she served in home waters and as a convoy escort. The words alongside the picture of his headstone are taken from his dedication on the War Graves Commission website.



In Memory of Able Seaman

FREDERICK CHARLES GOULD

Service Number: P/JX 178955

H.M.S. Challenger, Royal Navy who died
on 11 January 1941 Age 22

Son of Arthur Henry and Ethel Gould, of
Homington.

KILLED IN AN AIR RAID ON LONDON "HE THAT
BELIEVETH IN ME SHALL NEVER DIE"

Remembered with Honour

Local Weather Diary 2020

Richard Allen 718522

Week Ending		TEMPERATURES			RAINFALL
		Average Daily Maximum Deg C	Average Nightly Minimum Deg C	Average Mean Deg C	Total Inches
July	5	20.1	13.3	16.7	0.26
	12	20.8	12.1	16.5	0.03
	19	22.6	14.4	18.5	0.27
	26	22.2	12.2	17.2	0.47
August	2	23.3	13.0	18.2	0.28
	9	25.6	15.1	20.4	-
	16	25.5	18.6	22.1	0.54
	23	21.3	15.5	18.4	1.47
Sept	30	18.8	12.7	15.8	2.76
	6	18.4	<u>10.3</u>	14.4	0.26

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	3.34
May	19.2	8.0	13.6	Trace
June	20.5	11.9	16.2	2.61
July	21.9	13.0	17.5	1.21
August	22.6	15.2	18.9	<u>4.77</u>
Year to date rainfall				<u>26.18</u> inches

July

July was marginally colder than average when measured by both maximum and mean temperatures. It was the first colder than average month since November 2019. Mean temperature for July was 17.4C which compares with an average mean for July of 17.7C. Daytime maxima averaged 21.9C and this compares with an average for July of 22.4C. Night time minima were spot on the average for July of 13C.

My estimate for sunshine hours was 153 and this is significantly below my average for July of 2020 and it is the lowest July total since 2010 (150 hours). July was a dry month with a total rainfall of just 1.21 inches which compares with an average for July of 2.3 inches.

The first half of July was quite breezy and temperatures struggled to reach 21C. The first four days were particularly dull and cool. The 5th/6th were much sunnier but still cool and breezy. Then it was a return to cloudy skies and disappointing temperatures before we had a short spell (11th to 13th) of clearer skies and slightly warmer temperatures reaching 24C. Then it was a return to leaden skies for another three days before, at last, we had a whole week of gloriously sunny weather which, luckily for us, coincided with a week on the river Thames! It was not a heatwave by any means as the temperatures ranged only between 20C and 24C. It was then back to three days without sun and plenty of rain including a particular dull and wet day on 25th.

The month ended with four very sunny and warm days. 31st was hot with the summer's highest temperature thus far of 30C (86F).

August

August began as July had ended with dry, fairly sunny and warm conditions. A heatwave is defined as a period of at least three days with uninterrupted temperatures at or above 25C. The first heatwave of the summer was back in June and lasted four days from 23rd to 26th June. The 6th August saw the beginning of an eight day heatwave during which time temperatures were in the range of 27C to 32C and sunshine was plentiful. There was a continental feel to the weather with temperatures staying very warm long in to the evenings. There were some sticky nights to endure during that week. For four successive nights (9/10th to 12/13th) the temperature did not fall below 19C (66F) and on 12/13th it did not fall below 20.5C (69F). The hottest temperature of the heatwave and of 2020 occurred on 12th with a maximum of 32.4C (93F).

As is typical for our part of the world, conditions changed markedly on 14th and the rest of August was cool and unsettled. There were only three to four hours of sunshine per day on average. Between 14th and 26th daily maximum temperatures ranged between a disappointing 19C and 22C and then it got really cold! Maximum temperatures on the last five days of the month were stuck between 16C and 17C. It was most definitely an early start to autumn. Fortunately, as I write this article on September 21st (sorry Sue!), September has decided to be a summer month so far!

Despite the cool second half of August, the heatwave contributed to it being a warmer than average August. Mean temperatures averaged 18.9C compared with a long term average for the month of 17.4C. It was in fact the warmest August since 1997 (19.7C) and the fourth warmest in my records (1987 to 2020). As is frequently the case, the high ranking of the month's mean temperature has more to do with warm nights than it does to do with high daytime maximum temperatures. The average minimum temperature was 15.2C which compares with an average for August of just 12.9C and by that measure it was the second warmest August (1997-15.4C). Whereas the average daily maximum temperature for August of 22.6C is only slightly higher than the long term average maximum for the month of 21.9C and measured in this way there have been eight warmer Augusts.

August was a very wet month, despite the fact that the first twelve days produced no rain at all. Indeed, there was absolute drought for sixteen days between 28th July and 12th August. By contrast there were fourteen days with measurable rainfall between 13th and 29th August. The month's total was 4.77 inches and this is almost double the August average of 2.53 inches. It was the wettest August since 2015 (5.68 inches) and the third wettest in my records.

Summer 2020

I have run out of time for this addition to comment on the stats for summer 2020, so I'm afraid you will have to wait with bated breath for the next addition. I know it will be hard!



coombebissettcc@hotmail.co.uk

In what has provided to be a difficult year for all, we did at least get a half season of cricket at Shutts Lane. Ian our groundsman, has spent many hours, including in lock down, tending his field of dreams, and it is a credit to his dedication, that it is such a wonderful place to play. Much to the envy of all our visitors.

The club is in great shape looking to the future, as we have so many young people joining us. For our last game on the 20th September, there were only four players over the age of twenty, with ages ranging from thirteen, in the shape of Sid Coombs, making his welcome debut, through to the ever-green Alan Fisher, still keeping wicket, in his eighth decade.

As for results this season, we played twelve matches, with five won and seven lost, but some very close finishes, and good all-round cricket.

Ganny Sankaran top scored with 102 to register his maiden ton, Will Hewlett was mortified to lose his wicket on 99, but managed to notch three fifties, to now join the thousand runs club, Harry Mould was also disappointed to get out on 94, and Ned Thomas was left high and dry on 92 n.o. with the match won. James Taylor added two fifties to his repertoire, with half-century's coming from Dave Webber, George Mould and Gwil Vaughan.

Unfortunately, due to the retched Covid, we had to cancel our money raising events planned to keep the coffers in good order, and many thanks go yet again to our generous Patrons and sponsors.

As to the future, with fingers crossed, the Fixture List is already half full for next season, when we hope to see you, over a cup of CB & H. CC tea.



Don's new trainee scorer?



or maybe umpire?



BISHOPSTONE VILLAGE HALL

OCTOBER 2020 EVENTS

NOW OPEN FOR BOOKINGS

Building works have progressed over the summer break and the memorial hall now benefits from new windows making it a much brighter space. Both halls are available for hire for permitted activities, subject to the acceptance of the "Special Conditions of Hire during Covid-19" which are available from the bookings secretary (Margaret Barter 01722 780471) and the village website.

BISHOPSTONE COMMUNITY CAFE

These informal events have successfully resumed, being held on alternate Thursdays. Weather permitting there will be an option to sit outside. The next café mornings will be on Thursday 1st, 15th and 29th October. Open from 10.30am until 12.00noon.

Everyone welcome to look in for a coffee and chat. There is no charge but voluntary donations are appreciated.

RURAL ARTS

It is hoped to restart Rural Arts Events next year. Unfortunately, the children's event "The Bird Show", originally planned for April, has now been cancelled.

BISHOPSTONE COMMUNITY LUNCHESES

Unfortunately the ever popular Community Lunches continue to be on hold, largely because the need for social distancing severely impedes the social aspect which is equally as important as the food! The situation will be reviewed next month to see if a Christmas Lunch can be managed.

MOVIOLA at Bishopstone The new season opens this month:
Friday 30th October "The Personal History of David Copperfield"

A great film to start the new season, this is a whimsical account of the life of David Copperfield from childhood to maturity, with his own adventures and the web of friends and enemies he meets along his way. It stars Dev Patel, Hugh Laurie, Tilda Swinton, Ben Wishaw and Peter Capaldi.

Friday 27th November "Harriet"

Tickets for all films cost £6. Pre-booking is essential and we would like payment in advance to avoid queuing at the door. Please phone Caroline Ash on 01722 781044 to book and for details of how to pay. (On-line payment is preferred but cheques are acceptable and we will have a card payment device at the door. No loose cash please.) Only the main feature will be shown and the evenings will take place under the current government "safe practice" guidelines. This means you will need to wear a face covering (though this may be removed once seated whilst eating or drinking). There will be no bar or snack sales but guests are welcome to bring their own refreshments.

Doors open at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm showing.

BABY AND TODDLER PLAYGROUP

For general information about the Baby and Toddler Group find their Facebook page *Bishopstone Playgroup*, or contact Kate Pendleton on 01722 780655 or email : kmpendleton@hotmail.com .

"EXTEND" EXERCISE CLASSES

For information about these exercise classes contact Jenny on 01722 780863, email: jennyberwynjones@yahoo.co.uk

PILATES AT BISHOPSTONE

Contact Claudine on 07788 587937

YOGA WITH HANNAH

Classes have resumed and run every Thursday 6-7pm and 7:30-8:30pm

To confirm a place contact Hannah Stocker on 0773 856 1888 or email: yoga_with_hannah@outlook.com.