

COOMBE BISSETT AND
HOMINGTON

EXPRESS

Issue No 263 June/July 2022



Lovely Jubly!

VILLAGE DIARY

Big Jubilee Picnic	5 th June
CB&H Cricket Club Jubilee Fun game	3 th June
F&G Jubilee Quiz	3 rd June
Broad Chalke Open Gardens	12 th June
Village Cinema	23 rd June / 28 th July
Stratford Toney Open Garden	6 th July

INDEX

Chalke Valley Link Scheme	5
Church Services	6, 7
Competition	3
Cricket Club	35
Drama Club	11
Editorial	3
F&G	13
From Apprentice to Captain	25 - 27
Jenny Taylor writes	4 - 5
Know Your Neighbour	16 - 17
Open Gardens	12, 36
Parish Council meeting minutes	19 - 23
Parish Council annual meeting minutes	29 - 33
Parish Council notice	18
Tennis Club	11
Tribute – Noel Coombs	9 - 10
Village Cinema	28
Village Hall Coombe Bissett	17
Bishopstone	34
Village Show news	24
Weather Report	16

People in the UK are out and about, taking holidays abroad and planning future outings whatever they might be. The weather has been good, even if we do seem to be having April showers in May! It's good for the garden and the weeds....

We have the long weekend coming up at the start of June to celebrate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee. It's the perfect opportunity, so long as the weather allows, to spend time with family and friends and enjoy events which are going on in our Villages in celebration of the Jubilee. Don't forget the:

- The Big Picnic, on Sunday the 5th of June at Coombe Bissett Recreation Field, from 12pm to 4pm. Tickets are available in advance from Coombe Bissett stores.
- Cricket Match on Friday 3rd June. Jubilee Fun Game with Coombe Bissett versus Homington starting at 2.30pm.
- Quiz Night at the Fox & Goose on Friday 3rd June. This will feature plenty of questions on the Royal Family, Royal History and other Royal trivia and other fun rounds to keep you amused.

It is with sadness we report the death of Noel Coombs who died suddenly on the 5th of April. Known too many, familiar face around the village and a great support to the CB&H Cricket Club. Our thoughts are with Rita and the whole family at this time. Noel's tribute can be found on pages 10/11.

There is a new advert this month for Phil Daniels, Plumbing and Heating, services, see the advert pages for more details.

Where is it?



Your chance to win
A Selection of Goodies from
Coombe Bissett Stores
If you know what this is and
where it is located please email
your answer to the
cbandhexpress@outlook.com
By the 1st of July

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

Latest submission date for the next issue.....5pm July 20th

Sue Dyer email cbandhexpress@outlook.com

Phone: 01722718514



Chalke Valley Benefice



Parish of Coombe Bissett with Homington

Team Rector

Revd Catherine Blundell – 780134

Team Vicar

The Revd Canon Jenny Taylor – 503081

Churchwarden

Susan Majury 818715

Deputy Churchwarden

Roger Brown 718534

Robin Maycock 718342

Lay Pastoral Assistant

Ruth Morgan – 718557



What a month June will be! Picnics, street parties, celebrations and holidays!
In Coombe Bissett there is of course, on Sunday 5th June, the BIG PICNIC on the Cricket Field but just before that at 11.00 we will be holding a special church service of celebration for her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.
It will have finished with time to spare to get up to the field!

Her words in 1947 have really set the scene for the rest of her life and have, of course, set the theme for the Jubilee celebrations:

I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service... But I shall not have strength to carry out this resolution alone unless you join in it with me, as I now invite you to do: I know that your support will be unfailingly given. God help me to make good my vow, and God bless all of you who are willing to share in it.

Community and Service are these two themes of which we are all a part – we can all serve our communities in so many different ways – we proved that during those two years of the pandemic. What better tribute to our Queen than again, taking those ideas to heart and making our communities the vibrant places in which service to others is foremost in their characters.

We pray with our whole nation:

Gracious God, we give you thanks for the reign of your servant Elizabeth our Queen, and for the example of loving and faithful service which she has shown among us.
Help us to follow her example of dedication and to commit our lives to you and to one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Revd Canon Jenny Taylor

**Our love and prayers go to the family of the late Noel
Coombs whose funeral was held in April.**

**He lived and worked in Coombe Bissett for so many years
and he will be sorely missed.**

May he Rest in peace and Rise in Glory.

We, of course, continue to pray for the people of Ukraine

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today.

We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.

We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.

We pray for those with power over war and peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.

Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you
would hold and protect them.

We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

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



Services in Chalke Valley Benefice – June 2022

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



Please be 'Covid Aware' and follow all the safety rules in church. If the situation changes locally, services may be cancelled at short notice. Please check your church noticeboard and weekly e-bulletin.

5 June PENTECOST 	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Broad Chalke	Catherine Blundell
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Britford	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	Family Communion (CW)	Ebbsbourne Wake	Catherine Blundell
	11.00am	Family Communion (CW)	Coombe Bissett	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	Riverside Service	Odstock	Adrian Taylor
	11.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Berwick St John	Lay Led
12 June TRINITY SUNDAY	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Bowerchalke	Catherine Blundell
	9.30am	Family Communion (CW)	Nunton	Roger Leake
	11.00am	Family Communion (CW)	Coombe Bissett	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Charlton All Saints	Rhoderick
	11.00am	All Age Service	Alvediston	Voremberg
	3.00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)	Fifield Bavant	Biddy Trahair Biddy Trahair
19 June 1st Sunday after Trinity	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Bowerchalke	Roger Leake
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Bishopstone	Jenny Taylor
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Odstock	Roger Leake
	9.45am	REFRESH!	Broad Chalke V Hall	Lay Led
	11.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Ebbsbourne Wake	Biddy Trahair
	11.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	Homington	Jenny Taylor
26 June 2nd Sunday after Trinity	6.00pm	Songs of Praise	Berwick St John	Catherine Blundell
	9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Berwick St John	Kate Rosslyn Smith
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Charlton All Saints	Roger Leake
	9.30am	Family Communion (CW)	Broad Chalke	Catherine Blundell
	10.00am	Family Service	Coombe Bissett	Lay Led
	11.00am	Family Service	Nunton	Adrian Taylor
	11.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	Bishopstone	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Alvediston	Catherine Blundell
6.00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)	Homington	Roger Leake	
6.00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)	Bowerchalke	Lay Led	
3 July 3rd Sunday after Trinity	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Broad Chalke	Catherine Blundell
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Britford	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	Family Communion (CW)	Ebbsbourne Wake	Catherine Blundell
	11.00am	Family Communion (CW)	Coombe Bissett	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	Family Service	Odstock	Adrian Taylor
	11.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Berwick St John	Lay Led
	11.00am	Morning Service	Bishopstone	Sally Leaver

Ministry Team:

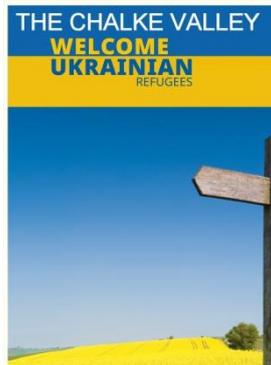
Team Rector ~ The Revd Catherine Blundell: 01722 780134
 Team Vicar ~ The Revd Canon Jenny Taylor: 01722 503081, Curate ~ The Revd Roger Leake: 07947149456
 Licensed Lay Minister ~ Mr David Blundell: 01722 780134
 Team Administrator ~ Mrs Emily Broomhead: 07890 262376
 URC Ministers ~ The Revds Ana &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

Assisting Ministers:

The Revd Canon Anthony Hawley: 01794 390607, The Revd Canon Tony Monds: 01722 420942
 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, Adrian Taylor: 01722 325862, Gill Riley: 01722 780538, Janet Roe: 01725 519242,
 Biddy Trahair: 01722 780666, Rhoderick Voremberg: 07785 304142, James Wardroper: 01722 718152



I'm sure you have heard how well Wiltshire is welcoming refugees from Ukraine.

In this post I'm representing a small group who are sponsoring Ukrainians to come and stay with us for a while until the war in their home country is resolved and peace returns. At the moment, visas permitting, we expect to host around 15 people in the Chalke Valley and SW Wiltshire.

All of them have fled their own country; some have had their homes bombed. Many are vulnerable mothers with their children, most of whom have left their menfolk to fight.

You may also be thinking about hosting, if so please email me so that we can join forces and share knowledge about the problems, pitfalls and how we can help at a local level

Hosting might not be for you but you would like to help in some way?

We are in need of people who can give time to help organise events such as coffee mornings to bring Ukrainians together so they themselves can talk in their own language and work out "what next". Or perhaps you have children going to school in Salisbury and have spare room in a car?

English language teaching skills are in demand.

Or maybe items going spare? – school uniforms being one thing that is needed. Perhaps a child's bike that has been outgrown? Kid's books?

Again, if you think you can help in any small way please email me to get the ball rolling and welcome Ukrainians into our community.

I can be reached by email on Ukraine@mpal.co.uk

Martin (& Michele) Altham
Broad Chalke

Family Tribute Noel Coombs

Hedley Noel Coombs always known by us all as Noel. I will tell you about some of his life and what sort of man he was, with some stories and anecdotes, but I am sure you will have your own thoughts about him and your own anecdotes.

Noel was born to Hedley George Coombs and Winifred Coombs at a Salisbury Nursing Home on 25th January 1941. At that time the family owned Hedley Coombs, a florist and fruit and vegetable shop in the High Street in Salisbury and they grew vegetables for sale in their own market garden. Noel's sister Nicola was born two years later and his brother Peter five years later. In his teenage years he made good use of the market garden where he kept sheep and chickens, building up a small egg round selling them locally. He attended local schools in Salisbury and on passing the 11 plus he went to Shaftesbury Grammar School, travelling daily by bus. However one of his main interests was rushing back from school and home to stay with his Uncle Reg and Auntie Ruby who farmed at Manor Farm, Bishopstone. He stayed with them and worked for several harvests and was in his element driving mainly Fordson tractors and even a combine harvester. These were very happy times for him but after several years he left to make room for his cousins, Steve, Joe and Jenny who were then old enough to fill the gap. He then did an NCA course at Lackham Agricultural College, which he really enjoyed, but he would pop back to Salisbury some weekends on his Lambretta scooter.

Noel always showed a keen interest in vehicles, most forms of transport (anything with wheels !), so any spare time he had, and to earn some extra pocket money he drove coaches for Buddens/Skylark coaches. He always seemed to find time to stretch the working hours. He then, you could say made his best choice of jobs, when he joined F & G Sykes at Sutton Veny dealing with sheep and poultry which needed looking after. This is where he met Rita who also worked there and they married in 1966 at Milton-on-Stour. They lived at Compton Abbass where they reared batches of calves, later moving to Rita's parents farm at Silton, when Rita's father was taken ill. Their first son Rob was born in 1968 and at this time Noel was driving the farms pick-up truck, when he was stopped by the police for not having a working back light on the truck. He was so miffed by this experience, Rita said " well if you cannot beat them then join them". So he then joined up to be a special constable and stayed with the Dorset and Wiltshire force for several years. Hence, the photo in the Order of Service.

After leaving the farm at Silton, he and Rita bought a cottage at Butterfurlong, West Grimstead where he started the haulage business, the first vehicle being a Commer 2 stroke flat bed lorry, which had a very distinctive note to the engine. He carried all sorts of loads, ranging from bricks to bananas, working long hours and having to load/offload all of the loads by hand ! Somewhat different to today's loading/ unloading.

In 1970 second son Jeff was born and with Noel driving long hours, and no mobiles phones, Rita stayed at home looking out to the family and taking phone calls on the landline phone for more work. The haulage business grew and both Noel and Rita felt lucky to have such long serving and loyal employees. One was Bob Thompson who drove for 25 years before leaving to set up his own mini-bus and coach business. In 1975 third son Ted was born and the haulage business expanded to 3 lorries with another loyal driver Melvin Ireland who worked for many years until retirement. Brian Wild, a friend and self-employed fitter was a friend who Noel would use to help and service

the lorries. Brian suffered from various health problems, which unfortunately meant he spent time not being able to work, so where you might offer to take him out for a drive, normally in a car, Noel would take Brian for a drive, yes you have guessed it, in one of his lorries when he was on one of his deliveries.

Noel was then offered a contract to do the haulage for ECC (English China Clay) at their whitening factory at Quidhampton, which meant changing the trailers to tankers to be able to carry liquid chalk and also to Bulk trailers to haul powder chalk. One anecdote which Noel told the family, he said that with the constant changing of the trailers/tankers, he had to be careful when approaching and negotiating under low bridges, due to height of whatever trailer he was towing. On one of his trips, he approached a low bridge and heard, what seemed like a loud scraping sound, so he immediately stopped, climbed out of the cab, only to discover that the noise was a train going over the bridge !.

Running out of space to park the lorries at West Grimstead, he and Rita, in 1976 bought Sillens at Coombe Bissett with 3 acres of ground which was ideal to house the 3 lorries and 3 sons !. Eventually the ECC contract came to an end as ECC sold the business but second son Jeff continued driving one of the tanker lorries. At this point Noel finished driving full time and concentrated on the farm work and he and Rita bought more land either side of the A354, which warranted the need for his Fordson tractors and a combine harvester.

At one time, when two of his sons aged around 11/12 years were playing cricket for Coombe Bissett boys, he had a phone call from Don Hewlett which resulted in Noel driving one of his lorries to Winterslow to pick up a tractor which Don had bought for cricket club use. For many years Noel has painted, serviced and repaired the tractor at no cost to the cricket club and every time the tractor was returned to the playing field the fuel tank was always filled to the brim with diesel. Again no charge. Interesting that his grandson Sid, who read the poem earlier in the service, is now making regular appearances in the mens cricket team.

Noel always found time to fit in his hobby of attending Steam Rallies, notably the local Dorset Steam Fair where he exhibited tractors and more recently his Wolsley car. For many years he was a member of the South West Agricultural Preservation Society and of the Commercial Transport Preservation Club, joining the latter on several trips away.

Noel was very proud of his 3 capable sons, Rob with his electrical and plumbing business but who would rather be out on his own tractor!, Jeff driving and always on hand to move their own grain around and Ted who fits in nearly all the farm work, ground work and driving the combine, along with his own business. On the subject of the 3 sons,, when they were younger and particularly with motor bikes they would upjet the carburettor to make them go faster, but Noel would always fit a smaller jet to save on fuel!. As Noel said, always looking to save a penny or two, because if you look after the pennies the pounds look after themselves.

The family feel very pleased that Noel was able to roll-in all the spring corn this year and he was always on hand to do the corn cart. Noel was very proud of his 3 sons and their wives and partners who have provided him with 5 wonderful grandchildren and 4 wonderful great grandchildren. What more could one want?

He passed away sadly and suddenly on 5th April 2022. Noel, God bless and rest in peace from Rita and all the family and your friends. Thanks be to God.

Coombe Bissett & Homington Drama Club

Oh yes it is!

Hooray! The village pantomime is back again this year, directed by Lynn Mills.

Come along to Coombe Bissett Village Hall on **Tuesday, 6th September** at 7.30 pm to find out more. It doesn't matter if you've never done anything like this before – there is something for everyone, from all those important jobs behind the scenes through to giving it all you've got on stage, and it's so much fun! In fact, why not bring your friends, neighbours, relatives along too?

We'll tell you all about this year's production, and there will be an informal read-through audition for those interested in treading the boards.

Rehearsals will be on Tuesdays and Fridays, 7.30 – 9.30 pm at the Village Hall (unless otherwise notified), and we'll let you know which rehearsals you need to attend. Our performances run from Tuesday 6th through to Saturday 10th December, with dress rehearsals on the two Sundays beforehand.

Looking forward to seeing you on 6th September – and please do get in touch (lynn.mills@btinternet.com) if you have any questions.

Tennis Club Report

Janet Finniss 718346 geo.jan@btinternet.com

Thank you to all members who have renewed their subscription for another year. Look forward to seeing you on court. We are running the Red Leader competition again this year, 7 pairs taking part and games played from April to September. Good luck everyone, I think it will be an interesting competition.

We will also be holding the following tournaments:-

George Finniss Cup - tbc
Men's competition - Saturday 3 September 2022
Ladies competition - Friday 12 August 2022

Club Sessions:

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

OPEN GARDEN

**MANOR HOUSE
STRATFORD TONY
01722 718 496**

**WEDNESDAY 6TH JULY 2022
2-5pm**

**The gardens will be open in aid of the
National Gardens Scheme charities
Admission £6 (children free)**

**Teas will be available next door at Pod and Pip
Also flowers, plants and gifts.**

BROAD CHALKE OPEN GARDENS

Six of Broad Chalke's most beautiful gardens will be opening 1 – 5.30 pm on Sunday 12 June in a unique event to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

This will be a rare opportunity to visit gardens within the village conservation area which are rarely open to the public. They include: the extensive grounds of famous *Reddish House* - Cecil Beaton's former home (pictured); the waterside gardens of medieval *King's Old Rectory* and nearby *Conniston*; the newly laid-out garden at *Michelham Cottage*; the gracious lawns of *Chalke Pyt House*; and the pretty country garden of *Anthony's Ground* – a thatched house overlooking the water meadows of that name.

All six gardens are within easy walking distance of each another and a sketch map will be provided



when visitors check in at the Village Hall from 12.30 onwards to buy their entry tickets for £5 a head. This price includes entry to *all* the gardens plus the village Jubilee exhibition and flower display in All Saints church opposite. Tea & home-baked cakes, plus toilet facilities will be available at the Hall,

and there will be car parking around the village.

Proceeds of the day go towards the Wiltshire Community Foundation Welcome Fund for Ukrainian (and other) refugees, and towards Broad Chalke's church restoration project.

*Watch out for a feature article in this month's **Wiltshire Life** magazine.*

For more details contact Ashley Truluck, Anthony's Ground, Broad Chalke, SP5 5HA

atruluck@broadchalke.net / 01722-780852



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

As you may have seen we have had one of our A-Boards outside the pub advertising for staff. This is a common feature for a lot of pubs at the moment and it has now come to affect ourselves.

We have already had to close early on some days and we have also closed for a complete day so that the staff can get a day off.

This has been due to staff shortages and the fact that some staff have been or are going on holiday. We are hoping to recruit the right staff as soon as possible and limit the reduced or closed hours.

If we have to again reduce opening hours or need to close for another day, I will email all our Loyalty members and put notices in the pub beforehand.

If anyone knows of people who are looking for work in the pub either Front of House or in the Kitchen, please contact myself.

One staff member that has left us is Ashley Marsh who was our Assistant Manager and Chef for 9 years.

Ash has moved to the Forresters in Donhead near Shaftesbury as Head Chef and although it was disappointing to lose him, we wish him good luck in his new career.

However, the show must go on and we will still be putting on some events in the next few months.

The biggest event of course is the Queens Jubilee and apart from the Village events we are going to hold a Quiz Night on Friday 3rd June. This will feature plenty of questions on the Royal Family, Royal History and other Royal trivia. There will also be other fun rounds to keep you amused.

There is a rumour that the Queen will also be attending in the evening.

Please book your table as we hope this will be a popular event.

Most of you know that on the evening of the second Tuesday of the month we have a regular Aston Martin car club visit us. June, July and August because of the late daylight and better weather are the most popular evenings for the owners to bring their new and vintage models so please come along and enjoy the cars.

We have now had it confirmed that on the third Tuesday of every month a Messerschmidt car club will also visit the pub on a monthly basis. We usually have a MG club on this night as well so that will also be a good night to see some great cars.

Don't forget our popular Open Music nights on the third Thursday every month.

We look forward to seeing you soon either in the pub or in the garden for a beer or some food and let's hope we all have a great summer.

Best regards

Keith and Sue

Email: foxandgoose@coombebissett.com
www.foxandgoose-coombebissett.co.uk



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

Know your Neighbours

If anyone would like to nominate a neighbour or is interested in being interviewed, please email me:

rachelcoombs007@yahoo.co.uk

Who Am I?

Our neighbour grew up in the Chalke valley, born in 1958, number 5, with 6 sisters and 1 brother. Living in Broad Chalke she ended up at Wilton School and went on to work in the menswear department at Debenhams store, ran by Mormons. No laughing was allowed, apparently, which was a rule hard to follow for our neighbour.

In her spare time our neighbour attended the valley discos and at Ebbesbourne Wake village hall disco, in 1974 she met her future husband. They had a dance and she was very impressed he had a Hillman Hunter GT which could do 0-60mph in about 10 seconds!!

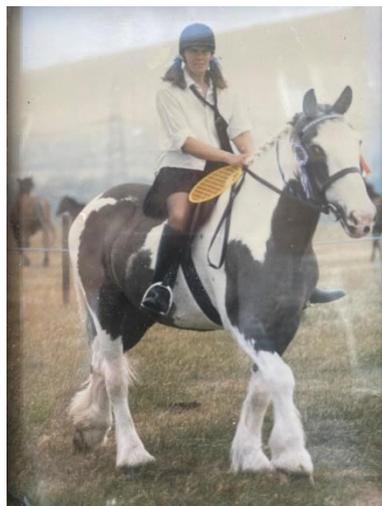
She was also very interested in gardening. This came from both her parents. Her mum was interested in flowers and her dad, vegetables. When she was about 17 years old, she started 'showing' her produce at local shows and even beat her dad in the Broad Chalke Show which was slightly awkward just 2 years later.

Our neighbour left Debenhams and got engaged to Rodney who was living and working in Homington as a farmer for Will Tozer.

They got married in January 1977, Broad Chalke. As Rodney was a farmworker the winter wasn't quite as busy for him. They moved to Eastend Cottage, Homington and ended up living there for 20 years



as a bridesmaid



Mannington Horse Show – fancy dress, St Trinian's. Sat on William Golding's horse (author of Lord of The Flies) who lived in Bower Chalke

Give Up?

Mary Ford went to work at the stables for Mrs Saxon, near Swaynes Firs, Blandford Road, when she left Debenhams. She used to muck out, run classes, look after, and exercise the horses. She stayed here for 18 years and had Bruce, her son, in 1978 in the meantime.

In approximately 2000 she left and joined the Coombe Bissett shop, then ran by Tony and Jayne Hayne.

Here you will still see Mary behind the counter, or exhibiting her prize winning veg at the local shows.



Quick Fire Q&A

1. What was/is your nick name? *Mille (by my sisters) or Mildred (by my brother and nephew)*
2. If you could time travel, when would you go? *In my 20's*
3. What is your pet hate? *When people barge past you with their shopping trolleys*
4. What is your favourite TV programme? *Used to be Gardeners World but now Bake off or any cooking programme*
5. What do you like most about living in CB & H? *the countryside and not having to live in a town*



6. What is the silliest way you have been injured? *I haven't been injured!!*

7. Where is your favourite place in the world? *My garden having a cup of tea*

8. What is your favourite food/dish? *A curry, but not a hot one!*

9. What is the best piece of advice you have received? *When I had my knee operated on, my surgeon said" keep your foot up for 6 weeks and don't walk on it" and it worked. Another piece of advice my mum said when I had a boyfriend she used to say" put a sixpence between your knees and don't drop it"*

10. Would you rather.... grow a crop of potatoes and sell on the surplus or grow a variety of vegetables and keep for yourself? *A variety of vegetables. it's a darn sight easier and you need them all (but I would share them anyway)*

Thanks to Mary Ford

Interviewed by Rachel Coombs

The information that has been gained from this interview has been validated and published with this person's permission

Week Ending	TEMPERATURES			RAINFALL	
	Average Daily Maximum Deg C	Average Nightly Minimum Deg C	Average Mean Deg C	Total Inches	
March	6	8.8	5.4	7.1	1.20
	13	10.5	6.4	8.5	1.18
	20	12.5	3.0	7.8	0.94
	27	15.5	2.2	8.9	0.00
April	3	10.3	2.5	6.4	0.18
	10	12.3	4.9	8.6	0.67
	17	16.6	6.7	11.7	0.21
	24	16.6	6.9	11.8	0.05
May	1	14.2	<u>4.3</u>	9.3	0.11

Monthly Figures

January	7.5	2.7	5.1	1.28
February	10.1	4.9	7.5	3.30
March	11.9	4.3	8.1	3.12
April	14.3	4.9	9.6	<u>0.93</u>

Year to date rainfall 8.63 inches

March

The mean temperature in March was 8.1 C which is 1C above the average for the period since 1987. It was the 10th warmest March. The warmest temperature was an unnoteworthy 16.3C on 26th. There were 16 nights when the temperature fell below 4C which would have led to ground frosts. Only once, did the thermometer dip below freezing point, however, to just -0.3C on 20th/21st. In terms of rainfall, March's total of 3.12 inches was 0.5 inches above the average. It was the 13th driest March.

The month began with a grey, wet day and there was no sunshine until 4th. The first week was cold with daytime maxima frequently around the 7C mark. Further spells of rain occurred during the second week with just under an inch on a very grey, wet 16th. From 17th to 28th we enjoyed some spectacular spring conditions with days of continuous sunshine from clear blue skies and temperatures around the 16C mark. There was a run of five consecutive days from 23rd to 27th without a cloud and each of those fabulous days started with ground frosts as temperatures dropped overnight under the clear skies to just above freezing point. The area of high pressure which gave rise to the settled conditions faded temporarily to give two cloudy days and a little rain on 29th /30th. I should just mention that the only snowflakes I observed during the entire winter fell from the sky just for a few minutes on 31st!

April

April's mean temperature was 9.6C just a little above the average of 9.3C. There was very little rain in April. The total of 0.9 inches compares with an average for April of 2.5 inches. It was the 8th driest April. Measurable rainfall of any significance occurred on just four days in the month. The warmest day was 21st when the temperature reached 19C. There were twelve nights when the temperature fell below 4C and on three of these nights the temperature fell below freezing point. The coldest night was 2nd/3rd when the thermometer dipped to -3C. There was a late run of frosts during the last five days of April, the last of which was on 29th/30th when the temperature dropped to 0.5C And this may have been the culprit which robbed us of the usually magnificent sight of the wisteria on the front wall of Stradbroke Cottage this year!



Coombe Bissett & Homington Village Hall

Regular Activities

PILATES – Each Tuesday at 9.30am, 3pm and 6pm

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

Contact Claudine on 07788 587937

UPHOLSTERY – Tuesdays

Contact Melanie Robson on 07757 330251

BADMINTON CLUB – Each Wednesday at 8.00pm

Contact Jane White on 01722 718485 or Mary Ford on 01722 718670

ART CLASSES

For all abilities and media.

Alternate Thursday mornings termtime and contact heatheroliver@btinternet.com.

Contact Graham Oliver on 01722 718646

FILM NIGHT – Third Thursday of each month

See separate flyer and notice board for details

PARKINSON'S SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB – Each Friday at 10.am

Especially for sufferers of Parkinson's disease

Contact Irene Clayton on 01722 239088

DRAMA CLUB

The Drama Club aims to do a Spring production and a pantomime each year. The Club needs support backstage with scenery, costumes etc. scene shifting, refreshments, lighting, parking and as well as actors.

Contact Lynn Mills 01722718438; Tina Chelu 01722718351 or Kirstie Finton 07519002582

Many other private meetings, parties and activities are also held in the Village Hall. Further information is available via our web site at coombebissettandhomingtonvillagehall.weebly.com.

Our Booking Secretary can be contacted by e mail on cbvhbookings@gmail.com if you are interested in booking your own event in the Hall.

Don Morgan – Chair of the Village Hall Management Committee

Ditch that Gym Membership

Have free workout on the Recreation Field.



▲ The Leg Press strengthens your thighs and helps balance.



▲ The Chest Press and Lat Pull strengthens the upper body.

The Leg Press is the latest addition to our fitness machines. It was paid for by a grant from the Wiltshire Southern Area Board and CIL money from local developers. The Chest Press and Lat Pull was bought with a grant from Tesco and installed by local volunteers.

Suggested daily workout: Walk up Shutts Lane: Start with 5 repetitions on each machine and slowly build up the number you do over a few weeks or so. Slow repetitions on each machine are better than many fast ones. Read the instructions on each machine. Walk briskly around the field. If you have done no exercise for some time it would be advisable to consult your doctor before you start any programme of exercise.

Minutes of Coombe Bissett Annual Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall on Tuesday 10th May 2022. The meeting started at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs Des Hobson (Chair), Abigail Bird (Vice-Chair), Chris Chelu, Stephen Gledhill
Also, present: Jay McGowan (Clerk), Cllr Richard Clewer and 3 members of the public.

Public Session

Members of the public were invited to speak at The Annual Parish Meeting

Agenda

01.22 To Elect Chairman for 2022/2023.

Resolved: Cllr Hobson to continue as Chairman for a further 12 months. Proposed by Cllr Gledhill, seconded by Cllr Bird. All attending Councillors approved this. Cllr Hobson agreed to the proposal and duly signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

02.22 To Elect Vice Chairman for 2022/2023.

Resolved: Cllr Bird to continue as Vice-Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Gledhill, seconded by Cllr Chelu. All attending Councillors approved this. Cllr Bird agreed to continue as Vice-Chair and duly signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

03.22 To consider and approve nominations for Parish Council Representatives:

Resolved: Councillors decided to defer the following until a full council were present.

Playground and Recreation Field
Village School
Highways and Street Scene
Snow Warden
Flood Warden
Pennings Drove Cemetery
Rights of Way
Planning (CB)
Planning (H)
Homington Rep

As the Financial Policies needed to be reviewed and updated it was resolved Cllr Gledhill would be the Finance Representative for 2022/23.

Finance: Cllr Gledhill. All attending Councillors approved this.

04.22 To consider and approve Councillor Responsibilities:

Resolved: The following Councillors will continue with the following responsibilities.

Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Gledhill
Parish Council Website – Cllr Chelu
Defibrillator Checks – Cllr Chelu
Social Media (Facebook) – Cllr Bird
Finance – Cllr Gledhill

05.22 To receive and consider acceptance of apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr Byatt, Cllr Reed and Cllr Boxall

Resolved: Apologies were approved and accepted by attending Councillors.

06.22 Vacancies in Parish Council Office. None

07.22 Declaration of Interest: Councillors to disclose their interests in matters to be discussed and to decide requests for dispensation. None

08.22 To consider any urgent matters raised in the public session, and any other urgent matters or items from Councillors. (For discussion only, no decisions can be taken). None.

09.22 To agree any items on the agenda that are to be dealt with following the exclusions of the press & public. None

10.22 Minutes of Parish Council Meetings.

To review and approve the Minutes from meeting held 8th March 2022.

Resolved: Councillors confirmed the Minutes were an accurate record.

To review and approve the Minutes from Annual Parish Council Meeting held 20th May 2021

Resolved: Councillors confirmed the minutes were an accurate record.

Cllr Hobson signed the minutes for both meetings.

11.22 Coombe Bissett & Homington War Memorial.

Mr David Parson was invited to speak to update the Parish Council on the proposed process for cleaning the war memorial. After cleaning the contractors will coat the memorial to stop mould growth. This coating will have to be reapplied every couple of years. The approximate cost of the coating is £200 per application. The total approximate cost of cleaning the memorial is now £4,958.00 (including VAT).

Mr van der Horst has also secured a donation of £1,000.00 towards the cleaning cost from The Express. The cost of cleaning the memorial will be split 4 ways:

£1,000.00 – grant from the War Memorials Trust

£1,000.00 – Parochial Church Council

£1,000.00 – The Express magazine

£1,958.00 – The Parish Council

Resolved: The Parish Council will contract the approved company: Sally Strachey Historic Conservation Ltd. The Council also approved to one further treatment to stop mould growth. Proposed by Cllr Hobson, seconded by Cllr Bird. All attending Councillors approved to the works. **Action:** Clerk will instruct the contactor and also ask what guarantee they will provide that the work will be more successful than the previous cleaning in 2014.

12.22 To receive the Internal Audit for year ending 31st March 2022. The Parish Council would like to thank Mr David Parson completing the internal audit for 2021/22. He reported the accounts were all in order.

Resolved: It was approved to appoint Mr Parson as the internal auditor for 2022/23. Mr Parson agreed to carry out the audit.

13.22 Bank Reconciliation: To receive bank statement year ending 31st March 2022. Cllrs were circulated the Bank reconciliation for 2021/22 prior to the meeting.

Resolved: Councillors considered and approved the accounts. The Certificate of Exemption was approved and signed.

14.22 Annual Governance Statement: To approve section 1 of the Annual Governance Statement and Accountability Return 2021/2022.

Resolved: Section 1 was considered and approved by attending Councillors, signed by Cllr Hobson and J McGowan. *The Annual Governance Statement and Accounts statement of the Parish Council Accounts will be posted on the noticeboard and Parish Council/Village Website. Anyone interested in inspecting the accounts for year ending 2021/22 should contact the clerk from 14.06.22 – 22.07.22.*

15.22 The Accounts Statement: To approve section 2 – Accounts Statement of the Annual Return for 2021/2022.

Resolved: The Accounts Statement was considered and approved by attending Councillors, signed by Cllr Hobson and J McGowan.

16.22 To review and adopt the following policies:

Standing Orders – **Resolved:** Approved and adopted the Standing Orders issued by National Association of Local Councils 2018.

Code of Conduct – **Resolved:** Approved and adopted the Wiltshire Council Code of Conduct as applicable within the context of Coombe Bissett Parish Council.

Policies will be published on the Parish Council website

To complete authorisation form to receive the agendas electronically.

Resolved: All attending members completed an authorisation form to receive agendas in electronic form.

17.22 To review and adopt Financial Policies.

Resolved: The current policies were considered and decided to be updated. Cllr Gledhill now the appointed councillor for finance will review the financial policies with the clerk. As per item 12.22 Mr Parson has been appointed the internal auditor for 2022/23.

18.22 Clerk's Report/Items carried forward from previous meeting:

a) **Pinch Point, Homington:** The request for 'road narrow' signs are on the agenda for the CATG meeting on 4th May 2022. Cllr Chelu attended the meeting and a grant application to CATG was made for road narrows signs and subject to confirmation by Southern Area Board was approved.

b) **Bollards, Shutts Lane, Coombe Bissett:** Still waiting for a date for installation from Mr Howson at Wiltshire Council. Mr Howson has now been in contact with an alternative contactor to see if the installation can be completed soon. Clerk is waiting for a new date for installation.

c) **Parish Council Noticeboards:** To receive a report from Cllr Chelu on the repairs being carried out. Cllr Chelu confirmed the noticeboard has been repaired and the Parish Council would like to thank Mr Mould for all his time and effort to repair the noticeboard.

d) **Fox & Goose flooding:** this was first raised in May 2021 when the road was resurfaced. In March 2022 Mr Bollen at Wiltshire Council was trying to come to a resolution with the Major Maintenance team, however The Council as yet have not had a response. *Cllr Chelu will request an update.*

It has been noticed that the drainage grip outside Foundry Cottage is still blocked. Cllr Chelu has previously contacted G Axtell at Highways regarding this issue. As Grip cutting was late starting this winter, due to the change in grass cutting and along with a few breakdown issues the programme is behind schedule. Mr Axtell will treat it as a priority. *Cllr Chelu will contact Mr Axtell again for an update.*

e) regarding the flooding. Having spoken to Highways Cllr Chelu was told the machine to clean the grip had been damaged. As soon as the machine was operational again the grip would be cleaned – this is still on the list of works for Wiltshire Council.

Action: Cllr Chelu will request an update.

- f) **Foothpath by watercress beds.** Cllr Reed spoke to Lady Radnor who agreed for a handrail to be put along the path.
Resolved: As Cllr Reed was absent from the meeting, this item will be carried forward to the next meeting for a report from Cllr Reed.
- g) **Wild about Wiltshire Scheme:** following on from the last meeting, Cllrs can propose any areas they think would be suitable to put forward to Wiltshire Council.
Resolved: The following were suggested: the verges of C12 east of Homington towards Odstock, towards Down Barn in Homington, and Pennings Drove. **Action:** [The Clerk will propose these sites to Wiltshire Council, and request further details.](#)
- h) **Parish Steward Visit.** Waiting for the summer schedule to be published.
Resolved: Cllrs will submit a list to Wiltshire Council for repairs to potholes in Coombe Bissett and for some weeding to be carried out opposite the Fox & Goose. Cllr Chelu will submit these requests.
- i) **Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations:** Cllr Bird advised the Jubilee preparations are going to plan and is on track. Volunteers will be required to help on day with setting up and supervision of bouncy castle.
 Spending of Parish Council Grant to date: £150.00 - Ice Cream Van Jubilee Tree planting. A request to plant a tree to mark the Platinum Jubilee was made to The Council:
Resolved: The Parish Council would contribute towards a tree to be planted in the villages if a landowner with a suitable area would agree to maintain the tree.

19.22 Planning.

- a) **To consider any new planning applications received.** None.
- b) **To consider any new planning applications received between publication of agenda and meeting.** None.
- c) **To confirm any planning application responses determined by email for applications received since last meeting:**
PL/2022/02111: Coombe Down Farm, Annexe, Blandford Road, CB, SP5 4LT – Comment
PL/2022/02546: St Mary's Church, Homington, SP5 4LE – No objection
PL/2022/02328: Mill House, Stratford Tony Road, CB, SP5 4LE – No objection SP5 4NG – No comment was submitted. *To note this property is not on Stratford Tony Road
- d) **To note any planning application decisions made by Wiltshire Council.**
PL/2022/00691: Stepping Stones, Barbers Lane, Homington, SP5 4NL – Approve.
PL/2022/00883: Marazan, Barbers Lane, Homington, SP5 4NL - Approve
PL/2021/11458: Mead's Cottage, Shepherd's Close, CB, SP5 4LX – Approve
PL/2022/01193: Brook House, Homington Road, CB, SP5 4LR - No objection
PL/2022/02328: Mill House, Stratford Tony Road, CB, SP5 4LE – No objection

20.22 Donkey Field:

Cllrs **resolved** to defer this item until Cllr Reed can attend.

21.22 Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr Gledhill stressed the importance that at the next stage, Regulation 14 consultation, The Parish Council must take full responsibility for the plan.

22.22 Finance

a) To note bank accounts as of 01.05.22:

Current Account: £9,962.10

Savings Account: £32,147.71

b) Update on bank signatories. Cllr Hobson is still waiting for an update from NatWest

c) National Salary Award for Clerk's.

Resolved: Cllrs noted the salary increased and agreed the new pay scale

d) CIL Payment report for year ending 31st March 2022.

Resolved: Cllrs noted the payments for 2021/22

e) To approve any Direct Debit Payments for year 2022/2023:

ICO Fee - £35.00.

Resolved: Cllrs considered and agree to pay by direct debit.

f) To approve Schedule of Payments

Resolved: Cllrs approved the payments listed.

Date	Payee	Amount
17/05/2022	Information Commissioner's Office	£35.00
31/05/2022	Wiltshire Association of Local Councils - Subscription	£303.90
31/05/2022	J Hopkins – Bins	£100.00
01/06/2022	BHIB Insurance	£790.16

23.22 Correspondence. To note any correspondence received since last meeting.

Claire Bourne from CRESS UK would like to thank the Parish Council and Village Hall for a very successful evening.

NatWest - Changes to Business Account: New terms received.

24.22 Forthcoming Meetings

25.22 Parking Request.

15th May: CC - Away 1-30pm

22nd May: CC - Away 2.00pm

29th May: CC – Home 1.30pm

12th June: CC – Home 1-30pm

19th June: CC - Home 1-30pm

26th June: CC - Home 1-30pm

2nd – 3rd July: - Beavers 12pm – 12pm

3rd July: CC - Home 1-30pm

10th July: CC - Home 1-30pm

26.22 Items to be carried forward to the next meeting.

Resolved: The following items will be carried forward to the next meeting:

03.22 To consider and approve nominations for Parish Council Representatives 18.22a Pinch Point, Homington

18.22b Bollards, Shutts Lane, Coombe Bissett

18.22d Flooding outside Fox & Goose

18.22e Footpath by watercress beds

20.22 Donkey Field

27.22 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 12th July 2022 at 7.30pm

28.22 To close the meeting.

The meeting was brought to a close by Cllr Hobson at 8.25pm

Get your seeds in the ground; your recipes tried and tested;
your jars sterilised and cameras at the ready...

The Coombe Bissett and Homington Village Show is getting closer!

Saturday 17th September 2:30 - 4pm



Schedules available online and will be in the village shop in
August <http://cbandhshow.wordpress.com>

We are looking forward to seeing what everyone has to
offer this year! Please help spread the word as entries are
encouraged from far and wide.

FROM APPTENTICE TO CAPTAIN: A MARINERS STORY John Bletsoe

Century Progress 27.2.86 – 16.10.86

After about four and a half months at home, half the time looking for another job, I was finally contacted whilst celebrating my 20th wedding anniversary in the Channel Islands. It was from a Chinese/Hong Kong agency offering me a Masters position on a six month old, 65,000 ton, Panama bulk carrier, which would be arriving at Hunyeston on the Clyde a couple of weeks hence. The payment was monthly in US Dollars which turned out to be very good, as the dollar was not particularly high. One or two drawbacks; there would be no leave pay. They said it was built into the pay structure. And, for the first three months I would be on probation, so would receive 300\$, (100\$ less each month). I soon realised this was the exact amount they had to pay the agency for my services.

At the time of my joining the ship on the Clyde my father at the age of 88 was near to death in Salisbury Hospital. On the day of joining my wife, Eileen, took me to the station by way of the hospital so I could say my goodbyes to Dad. He was unconscious and quite peaceful.

In times past, I would have telephoned my Company and the Personnel Manager would have sent another Master, and I would have joined ship at the next port, which would have been, The Panama Canal. For me those days had passed. Dad died at around 11am that morning whilst I was aboard the shuttle service from Heathrow to Glasgow. Eileen had been in touch with the ships agents in Glasgow to leave a message for me, at the security at the harbour gates, to inform me that Dad had died. This they failed to do, and I did not understand why the Master I was relieving kept saying he was willing to stay until the next port. I kept saying, "No I am fine". He finally realised I did not know Dad had died. It was really a very kind offer as he had been away from home in the Isle of White for nine months. I could not afford to miss out on this job, even though, from the leaving Masters instructions, it was no so great.

The crew were Chinese and nearly all from mainland China. They were very different to the Hong Kong crew I had on the St Alban! A bare minimum in everything was this company's motto, with only 22 crew. By comparison; this ship had 22 crew, where on the Orotava, a 50,000 bulk carrier I had 33.

The system was completely alien to me. No Chief Steward to look after catering; bare minimum staff in the engine room and on deck, and very poor quality ratings in all three departments. There were areas of the ships welfare that I had not had to deal directly with before. Firstly with crews pay. Everyone was paid in full at the end of each month in cash, including myself. Sending a monthly sum home was normal, this was the remainder after food, subs and ships amenities, cigarettes and alcohol, etc. Our food allowance was, 4.50\$ for Officers and 3.50\$ per day for ratings.

Amongst the Officers were three Europeans, The Chief, Second Engineer and the Radio Officer. Once a month the Radio Officer and I would go down to the food handling room from where the refrigerators were situated. We had our meat in a separate refrigerator. By the way, the Chinese Officers received the full amount and ate in the dining room with us. The cook was supposed to be able to cook European food, not one them did so properly.

The Chinese nearly all had fridges in their cabins and seemed to feed themselves. They would buy their food from a Chinese ship chandler, so no worries there. Going through the recent mail there was a letter addressed to me from my employer; 'Seashine Navigation Co. Hong Kong'. This briefly informed me that the ship had overspent on stores by 1300\$ and I was expected to restore the situation to the best of my ability. In other words I suppose, 'Pay it back'! Personally I could not see how with prices rising. The United State was the best bet with good quality good at reasonable prices. But, why should the present crew be pilloried for past misdemeanours, when I left the ship we were 1500\$ in deficit. I am sorry if I have bored you with my whinging but this was an entirely different way of running a ship and I cannot say that I approve.

O.K. here I go again. Every stores repairs bonded stores had to be paid for in cash. I had to order the money by radio a week before arrival in port. At times I had up to 20,000\$ in my safe. I inquired once, what

was the limit of insurance for cash in the safe, which by the way was in my bedroom. 600\$ was the answer. Where was the sense to all this.

Over the months I had accrued 1500\$. The last place I would put it would be the safe. It was a constant and unnecessary worry for me. The safe had a combination and a lock. I just used the key as I knew if I were forced to open the safe I would never manage the combination lock. One of my acquaintances an Australian man was Master of a cargo ship visiting Manila in the Philippines. He was shot and killed for refusing to open the safe, SENSELESS!

The business of running a ship for which she was built was very much in my line especially general cargo ships and bulk carriers. After the previous master left I searched out the Mate to see what state of discharge we were at. We had six large cargo holds and rightly no.3 hold was soon and the first to be discharged. Good, that was as it should be, for no.3 had to be ballasted with 11,000 tons of good old Clyde river water. All large floodable holds are necessary to equal our stresses throughout the ship.

In latter days we would use the time to wash out the remnants of coal and wash down the bulkheads and frames with hoses and pump the coal and water overboard into the Clyde. This rightly was forbidden a couple of years before. So, I had told the mate that he needed to get our sledge hammer to batter the bulkheads and double bottom wing tank sides to get as much loose coal down to the tank, to then sweep it up and get the Stevedores crane to lift it out.

I strolled up the deck to see how they were getting on, as I had not heard any sledge hammers at work. He told me no.3 hold was nearly fully ballasted, not a good start to which should have been a partnership. I was furious and explained that when we deballasted the hold, it would take a couple of days, as we would have to keep reversing the pumping of water out and in to clear the ballast suction of small coals and dust. We could not start this until we were in still water, which would be between Grand Bahamas and Nassau in the New Providence Channel. This was only 2/3 days out from our next lading port, which was almost up to Baton Rouge over fifty miles above New Orleans.

On reaching The New Providence Channel we started to pump out no.3 hold. Not too bad at first with only having to blowback to clear the suction a couple of times. When there was about 4 feet left in the tank every couple of minutes we had to blow back. I asked the Mate what he was going to do now. He said just go on as we are. "No Way!" "Get a couple of brooms, take the Bosun with you, and keep sweeping the coal away from the 'Elephants Foot'", (the shape of the metal plate surrounding the suction line). Remembering the Clyde water was February, it was certainly still very cold and it took another four or five hours to get rid of the water. There was loads of coal on the tank top and all we had was a small electric crane that could lift at the most, 30/40 kgs, a time. It took most of the following day to give the hold a wash down and just time to dry out before loading for Japan.

The other 5 cargo holds were washed down and pumped out at sea. By the time we took to anchorage we had a couple of days before the inspectors came to examine the holds. All was well and we started to load various types of grain for Kashima on the east coast of the main Japanese Island of Honshu.

The mate had written to Hong Kong from New Orleans asking for a relief in Japan. Under normal UK circumstances the person in question would give me the letter unsealed so that I knew he wanted to leave. However it was addressed in Symbols! I was pleased in a way, but sorry that he could not stay and learn. I was asked if I would take the Second Mate if promoted. He was a very good 2nd Mate and I was happy enough to take him as Mate. He turned out to be very creditable and only about 24 years of age.

Our stay in Baton Rouge was about 18 hours, loading about 50,000 tons of various types of grain. The cargo was again limited to how much water in the Panama Canal. Usually we had to load to about 36 ½ feet to safely pass through, while our maximum draft was 32 feet.

With almost a full Chinese crew I was lucky to have an Irish Radio Operator and an English Chief Engineer. He was a retired Chief from British Petroleum Tankers and not a very happy man. He was such a moaner

and was always grumbling. I usually enjoyed having a drink before lunch with the Chief but this fellow did not wish to know.

At Kashima we received news of our next voyage; we were to load a cargo of pep coke at Portland Oregon and San Francisco. To be discharged in Rotterdam. The Stevedores in Kashima did an excellent job of discharging our grain leaving just a few buckets full of grain to be lifted in each hold with our small electric crane.

Portland is in the state of Oregon about sixty miles up the Columbia River. What a beautiful journey that was. Beautiful scenery of mountains and forests with golden and fish eagles in abundance. We were not alongside loading long as with only about 30,000 tons to load, 36 hours saw us on our way to San Francisco. Both of these ports I had visited whilst I was a second year apprentice on the Highland Prince, and to return 32 years later as Master.

In San Francisco bay our berth was in Oakland, the northern part of the bay. A fifteen minute train ride took us to the centre of San Francisco. We had about 2 ½ days topping off our cargo. Once again there was limited draft to 36 ½ to get through The Panama Canal. On the second day I went ashore with the sparks to go to the prison island of Alcatraz. We also boarded a WW2 American submarine P class. Although quite cramped it was much more spacious than The British sub I had looked around in Hamilton Bermuda in 1962. When we found the booking office to the prison island, we found we had to book for the next day. Tough, we were sailing.

On returning to the ship we were told that two young American girls boarded on the pretence of students, selling annual subscriptions, for a very large choice of magazines. This was a very common event in the US ports. However these two were young thieves. They cleaned out the Chief Engineer of his dollars and one or two Chinese suffered as well. They were long gone when we returned.

We had a good day ashore with a fine lunch. As the food on board was pretty abmismal. We sailed the next day leaving the prison to starboard and passing beneath the golden gate bridge. It was roughly 4 weeks to Rotterdam which is by a long way the busiest Port in Europe. It was an opportunity to see Eileen. She drove to Harwich on the arrival day, crossing to Rotterdam and arriving at our berth 4hours before we did. By the time I had finished with the pilot customs, agent and ship chandler it was 04.00 hours, quite a long day.

The next day, a Sunday, they did not start discharge, so we decided to go to Amsterdam for the day. The Port complex is so huge, how Eileen managed to find the way to the berth and out to the road to Amsterdam was a mystery to me. Eileen went home the following day and once again made our way, all ballasted up, for the Atlantic crossing. We were to load grain for Osaka and Nagasaki.

By this time the Chief was getting very grumpy. His main grump was that on entering the United States port each member of the crew had to attend my cabin with their passports, which the Immigration Officer then handed to me, to put them all in the safe, secure and ready for the reverse operation on sailing day. The Chief always objected to me that it was his passport and he was perfectly capable of looking after it himself. On this occasion a very cheery Immigration Officer entered my cabin with a smile, "Is all OK?" I told him about the Chiefs problem, he told me not to worry he would sort things out. Eventually the Chief came up with his passport which was duly stamped. He then asked the Immigration Officer if he could have his passport back. "Certainly Chief," was the answer and he handed it to him saying, "Chief I hear by warn you, that you stay on the ship and if you are found on the Quay, you will be fined 2,000\$, taken to prison and not released until the ship sailed and you will never be allowed entry to the USA again." It was quite a shock for the Chief. He left the ship on arrival at Osaka where a younger Chief joined. A Newcastle man, he had just left the sister ship, after a nine months stretch. A younger man, to begin with he was quite a good companion however as time went by his story unfolded.....



The Duke – Thursday, 23rd June

In 1961 a working class Englishman stole a Goya of the Duke of Wellington from the National Gallery. He sent ransom notes saying he would return the painting on the condition the government invest more in care for the elderly. An uplifting true story about a good man who set out to change the world and managed to save his marriage. **Starring Jim Broadbent and Helen Mirren.** Rated 12A.

The Colour Room – Thursday, 28th July

Inspired by the life of pioneering ceramicist Clarice Cliff, *The Colour Room* dives into 1920s Stoke-on-Trent, the manufacturing heart of England's pottery industry. Bursting at the seams with ideas for colours and shapes, Clarice takes increasingly dangerous risks but manages to stay one step ahead of the workhouse and impress the factory owner with her talent and innovation. Apprenticed to Art Designer Fred Ridgeway, she fights her way through to design the unprecedented Art Deco 'Bizarre' range. Rated PG.

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting (unconfirmed)

Coombe Bissett Parish Councillors met for the **Annual Parish Meeting** on Tuesday 10th May 2022 at Coombe Bissett Village Hall starting at 6.30pm.

Present: Cllrs Des Hobson (Chair), Abigail Bird (Vice-Chair), Chris Chelu, Stephen Gledhill.

Also, present: Jay McGowan (Clerk), Cllr Richard Clewer and 3 members of the public.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Kim Byatt, Lynn Reed and Simon Boxall.

Resolved: Attending members accepted the apologies.

2. Minutes of the last meeting. Minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting held Thursday 20th May 2021 were approved by Councillors as a true record. Cllr Hobson signed the minutes.

3. Matters arising from those minutes. None.

4. Chairman's annual report – D Hobson.

A new Parish Council was formed in May 2021 following an uncontested election. We welcomed new Councillors Kim Byatt and Lynn Reed, and later in the year we were joined by Simon Boxall after a selection process. The new Councillors replaced Derrick Rattue, who served as Parish Council Chairman for many years, Gerald Bundy and Pippa Crosthwaite, all of whom stepped down at the end of their terms, to whom we express our grateful thanks.

All Parish Councillors are volunteers: no one is paid for the work they do on behalf of the community. I am grateful to everyone for all the time they freely give.

In November we appointed our new Parish Clerk Jay McGowan. Jay is brilliant – thank you Jay. She replaced Nicola Heron, who was Clerk for a few months – thank you Nicola.

I would like to thank our Wiltshire Councillor Richard Clewer for his support for our villages. Richard continues to attend nearly every Parish Council meeting, as well as now also being Leader of Wiltshire Council. Richard gets things done for us when we can't, such as the new railings along the river in Coombe Bissett.

The various activities of the Parish Council are reported in the individual reports, showing the breadth of work we undertake. There is one aspect I particularly want to highlight, which is the Neighbourhood Development Plan, which is led on behalf of the Parish Council by Christine Cooper. We are

about four years in so far. Christine has undertaken a colossal amount of work to get the Neighbourhood Plan this far, negotiating all the hurdles put in our way. Next year it goes to referendum, and if it passes, villagers will have much greater control over new development in our parish. Thank you Christine.

Next month we celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen, which is a remarkable milestone.

Thank you all for everything you do.

5. Annual reports from representatives. Councillor Chelu:

Village Hall

New LED lighting has been installed in the foyer, Homington Room and the concealed side lighting in the main hall. Replacement of the fire doors on the north side of the hall is imminent as these doors do not reliably close and compromise the security of the building. The exterior woodwork has been painted with preservative, and replacement of the soffits which are deteriorating is planned. The running of the hall depends upon the hard work of a number of volunteers on the management committee, and two paid cleaners, for which we thank them.

Highways & Street Scene

The new railings opposite the Fox and Goose were installed last October and hopefully the remainder will be installed this year. Last November it was reported to the parish council that two cars had smashed wing mirrors at the pinch point on the C12 Homington Road, within Homington. A grant application to CATG was made for road narrows signs and subject to confirmation by Southern Area Board was approved. The Parish Council is informed of occasional road closures and these are published on the village website. Adrian Turnbull has still been moving the speed indicator device around the parish on a regular basis and the data is available on the parish website. We thank him for his continued enthusiasm for the SID and running Community Speed watch. The Donkey Field has been very wet again this winter and it is hoped that the planned low rustic fence can be installed soon.

Snow Warden

The snow experienced this year was again very short lived, a few flakes, i.e. none. The Parish still has ample supplies of salt ready for next winter and more can be requested although we may have to collect it ourselves. Advice to parishioners is on the website to help them prepare for any period of snowfall.

Planning

During the last year there have been 12 planning applications and a number of tree applications in Coombe Bissett. Since the tree applications are approved by an expert Tree Officer, unless the work is very controversial, no comments will be submitted in future. The development in the chalk pit which resulted in over 50 objections from local residents has yet to be determined. It is now a year since the developers last provided any information regarding

this application. Information on how they intend to deal with foul water has not been forthcoming. The application for the Old Vicarage has also yet to be determined and is awaiting various reports, one, again, being how foul water is to be disposed.

Councillor Bird: Playground and Recreation Field

Thankfully no further restrictions were put on the use of the playpark due to the covid pandemic, so the playpark has remained open for use. The bark surface was increased as advised by the RoSPA inspection. Thanks to Chris and Tina Chelu, Don Morgan and Steve Garrett for achieving this.

Weeds in the bark surfacing are an issue. Hopefully a chav or other volunteer may be able to help with weeding/strimming.

A second piece of adult exercise equipment has been installed. Thanks to Chris Chelu for his tenacity.

The field will be used for the 2022 Platinum Jubilee celebrations on 5th June 2022. There will be a Coombe Bissett v Homington cricket match on Friday 3rd June 2022.

Ian Newman again, keeps the field looking lovely. The 2022 cricket season has begun, and the cricket club is well supported.

Councillor Reed: 21 –22 Flood Warden Report

Not really a lot to report on the flooding situation.

The only cause for concern was a letter I received from Mr Smith at the Fox and Goose with reference to the flooding on the road outside of the pub, Mr Smith did send me photographic evidence which was passed on to Councillor Chelu as he is now in responsible for the proceedings forward.

However new gel sacs have been placed in storage for distribution to residents if required.

Councillor Gledhill: 2021-22 Homington Report

Parish Councillors

Homington Residents Des Hobson, Stephen Gledhill and Simon Boxall have been Parish Councillors throughout the year. Des Hobson has also been Chairman of the Parish Council.

Planning Applications

Four Planning Applications have been considered over the past year. These have involved three residential property extensions, and one tree application. None of the applications were particularly controversial and as a result it was not necessary for the Parish Council to ask our Wiltshire Councillor to 'call in' an application for consideration by the Southern Area Planning Committee.

This was a relatively small number of applications, over the past 10 years five to nine has been a more usual figure.

Flooding

The risk from flooding in the village, particularly from run-off following heavy rain has continued to be monitored. The Parish Council has continued to work with Wiltshire Council to ensure minor works to improve drainage are completed. The Wiltshire Council Parish Steward has been effective in the clearance of a number of drainage grips around the village.

Traffic

The Parish Speed Indicator Device (SID) is on rotation deployed on the C12 through the village. In addition, the Parish Community Speed Watch volunteer team has conducted speed checks on the C12. Full details of the data collected by the SID are available on the village website. Analysis of the data suggest that the majority of drivers travel either below or very close to the legal road speed limit. However unsurprisingly a small minority of drivers continue to break the speed limit. The Parish Council is continuing to work with Wiltshire Council (who are the highways authority), to consider other possibly measures to control excess traffic speed.

2021-22 Neighbourhood Plan Progress Report

Work has continued throughout the year on the Neighbourhood Plan. This has been led on behalf of the Parish Council by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group under its Chair Christine Cooper.

A Neighbourhood Plan is a powerful tool to enable the community to influence development in its area. When complete it will become a formal part of planning policy within Wiltshire.

To date all required detailed preparatory studies and analyses have been completed. These include:

- A Housing Needs Assessment to identify the numbers and types of new dwellings required over the next 15 years.
- A Wiltshire Council Housing Survey to establish the need for affordable housing.
- Detailed assessments of possible sites for development.
- A Green Spaces Topic Paper.
- A Transport Topic Paper.
- A Flooding Topic Paper.
- A Design Guide.
- A Community Survey.

With these in place a first draft of the Neighbourhood Plan has been completed. This draft is now the subject of a Strategic Environmental Assessment, which is expected to be completed in the next few weeks. The draft Plan will then be the subject of a Regulation 14 Consultation. This is a consultation which takes place prior to the draft plan being formally submitted to Wiltshire Council (as the Planning Authority). It provides an opportunity for

members of the community and other consultees (e.g. AONB, Environment Agency etc) to comment on the draft Plan. The Regulation 14 Consultation is scheduled to take place later this summer.

After this the draft Plan will be amended as necessary and then submitted to Wiltshire Council who will conduct a further Regulation 16 Consultation on the Plan. The Plan will then be subject to independent examination. Following this the Neighbourhood Plan will be put to a Community Referendum. If it receives majority support, in planning jargon it will be 'Made' and formally become part of regulatory planning policy. It is hoped that this will be achieved in 2023.

6. Open Forum:

a. A Parishioner asked if any further update had been received on The Old Vicarage Planning Consultation.

No further update had been received at the time of the meeting.

b. It has been noticed that the drainage grip outside Foundry Cottage is still blocked. Cllr Chelu has previously contacted G Axtell at Highways regarding this issue. As Grip cutting was late starting this winter, due to the change in grass cutting and along with a few breakdown issues the programme is behind schedule. Mr Axtell will treat it as a priority. *Cllr Chelu will contact Mr Axtell again for an update.*

Fox & Goose flooding, this was first raised in May 2021 when the road was resurfaced. In March 2022 Mr Bollen at Wiltshire Council was trying to come to a resolution with the Major Maintenance team, however The Council as yet have not had a response. *Cllr Chelu will request an update.*

c. A member of the public asked if the white gates along the A354 could be cleaned as they are looking worn. *Cllr Chelu*

will ask the parish steward to clean these on his next visit to the parish.

d. It has been noticed the sign erected in Homington for the Queen's 25th Jubilee Celebrations is missing; the Council were asked if they knew the whereabouts of the sign. *The sign was placed*

on the Barn at Homington Farm which has recently been demolished. The owner of Homington Farm has the sign and Cllr Gledhill will ask the owner about their future plans for it. The Council welcome any suggestions for a permanent plaque to mark the upcoming Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

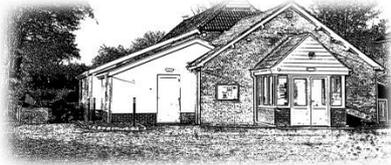
e. A Parishioner noticed the increase in aircraft flying over Coombe Bissett which is causing some noise.

Unfortunately, due to wind conditions and 'no fly' restrictions over Boscombe Down and Middle Wallop the route for the aircraft sometimes have to change and may fly over Coombe Bissett and surrounding areas.

f. The Parishioners would like to thank The Parish Council for all their time and hard work they dedicate to the villages.

7. To close the meeting.

The meeting was brought to a close by The Chairman at 6.55pm



BISHOPSTONE VILLAGE HALL

JUNE 2022 EVENTS

LATEST COVID ADVICE:

While there are now no official restrictions, Covid is still with us so we would ask everyone to respect others and not to come to the hall if they have any symptoms or have had close contact with an infected person unless they have had a negative lateral flow test.

Friday 3rd June – Jubilee Fair

Come and toast the Queen at a Jubilee Fair from **5.30 to 7.30pm**. The bar will be open and snacks available.

There will be a variety of stalls including plants, cakes, local crafts and a tombola.

BISHOPSTONE COMMUNITY LUNCHES

Monthly community lunches will resume in October.

MOVIOLA at Bishopstone

Friday July 1st “The Duke” is a British comedy-drama film directed by Roger Michell, with a screenplay by Richard Bean and Clive Coleman. Dealing with the 1961 theft of the *Portrait of the Duke of Wellington*, the film stars Jim Broadbent, Helen Mirren, Fionn Whitehead, Anna Maxwell Martin and Matthew Goode.

The film was awarded 5 stars from *The Guardian*^[5] and *The Daily Telegraph*^[6] following its world premiere at the Venice Film Festival.^[7]

Friday July 29th “West Side Story” This will be the last film of the season and will be preceded by a buffet supper.

Doors open at 7.00pm with the film commencing at 7.30pm

Entry **£6.00**. Please book in advance with Caroline Ash on (01722) 781044 or Sue Taylor (01722) 780316

A cash bar with snacks and ices will be available.

HALL BOOKINGS FOR SOCIAL EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS

Both halls are available for hire subject to any restrictions in place at the time.

To enquire or make a booking, please contact the bookings secretary Margaret Barter (01722) 780471

BABY AND TODDLER PLAYGROUP

The playgroup meets on Friday mornings during term-time from 9.30 – 11.00am.

Due to ongoing Covid restrictions, the playgroup is operating a booking system each week to limit numbers. Find further information on our Facebook page *Bishopstone Playgroup*, or contact Kate Pendlenton on 01722 780655 or email < kpendlenton@hotmail.com >.

“EXTEND” EXERCISE CLASSES

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

PILATES AT BISHOPSTONE

For further information contact Claudine on 07788 587937 or email: claudineblake@aol.com

YOGA WITH HANNAH

For more details please contact Hannah Stocker on 0773 856 1888 or by email: yoga_with_hannah@outlook.com.

SARUM SPINNERS AND WEAVERS

For more detail about the group please contact Les Smith on 01722 780761.



Don Hewlett don@coombebissett.com

At last, after suffering from the effects of the dreaded Covid, we can now look forward to, hopefully, a full season of Shutts Lane cricket. The pavilion is now in full use, and we can now have proper cricket teas!

As with other organisations, it's been a couple of tricky years for our club, missing half of the season in 2020, and no less than nine games lost to the weather last year. It just seemed to rain on Sundays! We also look forward to arranging some fund-raising events, keep an eye out for planned Bingo Night in October, which is always particularly enjoyed by the kids and families

Mr Weather has stepped in again already, to scupper two of our games of our games this season, and our club is still looking for victory, after coming second best, in the two completed ones, still things can only get better.

A date for your diaries: Friday 3rd June for the much anticipated, Coombe Bissett v. Homington match. Ice Cream & cold drinks will be available from the pavilion, and cakes & sarnies galore.

As ever, we welcome new players from fourteen upwards, so please get in touch.

Blooming valley welcome

Villagers will mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee when six fascinating gardens open their gates to the public to raise money for charity. Gary Lawrence found out more.

THE WEEKEND of June 12 will see the beautiful village of Broad Chalke welcome visitors for its Platinum Jubilee event as the owners of six gardens throw open their gates in celebration – and raise money for good causes.

Just £7.50 grants access to all six gardens, as well as a photographic exhibition and a flower festival and organ recital in All Saints church. Proceeds will go to Wiltshire Community Foundation's Welcome Fund, which supports groups working with refugees and asylum seekers, and All Saints' restoration project.

Broad Chalke is tucked away in the Chalke Valley between Shaftesbury and Salisbury with water meadows, cress beds and ancient woodland clustered around a clear chalk stream.

Possibly its best-known garden is at Reddish House, where artist Jason Brooks and his wife Lucy Yeomans, a former editor of *Harper's Bazaar* and ex-editor-in-chief at *Net-a-Porter*, moved in last March.

They are looking forward to showing off gardens made famous by the man who put his indelible mark on them, photographer and fashion designer Cecil Beaton. His tenure at the house from 1947 until his death in 1980 often left villagers agape at the glamorous models, film stars and showbusiness icons who visited. Greta Garbo liked the Grade II-listed Queen Anne home so much she stayed six weeks.

Other much-travelled suitcases to cross its hallway belonged to Truman Capote, David Hockney and Francis Bacon. In more recent years it was owned by music stars Robert Fripp and Toyah Wilcox.

Jason and his wife have resisted the temptation to put their own stamp on the gardens just yet so June's open day may be a last chance to see them in their current form.

"I love the sense of history of the place and all the people who have stayed and been photographed here," he says, "but it's also the fact that you can see what the different owners have done within the gardens."

Information

Tickets for the open gardens are available from 1pm to 5pm in the village hall, where there will also be teas and tempting cakes to reward the returning walkers – or set them on their way.

- More details at broadchalke.info

"In a way I think it is a photographer's garden and when Cecil originally designed it, he was thinking about different backdrops where things could unfold."

It was at neighbouring Grade II* listed King's Old Rectory, another garden on the trail, that Beaton photographed Garbo.

The 15th century house was leased by novelist and poet Maurice Hewlett in the early 20th century, and he created water features from the River Ebble which flows through the garden. Current owner and co-organiser Fiona Butcher has replanted it, but it retains many of the original features.

Coniston next door is built on land that was once the King's Old Rectory's orchard. Its disused watercress and withy beds are echoes of a cottage industry that saw watercress taken to London by train in baskets made from the witheys. Some willows were lost in recent storms which, coupled with the removal of die back-affected ash trees, has opened up the wild garden, says owner George Todd.

The garden at nearby Michelham Cottage was planted in 2005/06 when owner Derek Brown had a former paddock combined with the existing plot. The result is a meadow

garden dotted with perennials, trees and shrubs and which has flower beds, a kitchen garden and a pond.

On the opposite side of the river Chalk Pyt House, owned by co-organiser Di Jeans and farmer husband Andrew, has ornate flower beds casting a riot of colour around a neat lawn. Finally, Anthony's Ground, an idyllic 18th century thatched farmhouse owned by former Wiltshire High Sheriff and co-organiser Ashley Truluck, has a variety of trees, shrubs and flower beds as well as stunning views across this well hidden valley. WL



Right: The King's Old Rectory with views to the church.

Below: Reddish House the former home of Cecil Beaton.

