

# COOMBE BISSETT AND HOMINGTON

# EXPRESS

Issue No 252 August/September 2020

Lockdown



Sue Smith

Local  
Architecture  
in Focus



Sharon Hallis

Best  
Lockdown  
Bakes



Ann Hewlett

Photographic Competition 2020

## VILLAGE DIARY

### SADLY ALL PUBLIC EVENTS ARE CANCELLED

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How things have changed in the last 4 months. Whilst the World continues to struggle with Covid-19 here in England we are gradually opening up. But it is far from the same, changes have needed to be made to ensure we all stay alert and don't become complacent, Covid-19 is still out there and as we now know it's so easy to pass it to others without knowing. The Churches are open but without singing, non-food shops, pubs, restaurants and other business have opened their doors but with changes. As I write this most other businesses will open at the start of August in a bid to get the Country going again. Along with social distancing, hand sanitizer and gloves, masks will become part of the new everyday normal. Many people are still very nervous about venturing out too far from their homes, whilst others can't seem to wait to flock to our beaches and countryside or board a plane to foreign places. Who would have thought it would come to this. Still it's here and we all have to work with the new ways of living our lives.

After 3 months of take away service, the doors of the Fox & Goose are once again open and thanks to Sue and Keith and staff for all the hard work they have put in to make sure they are Covid compliant. It's good to see the carpark filling up and people being able to support them rebuilding their business by enjoying a meal and drink in the pub surroundings rather than popping in for a take away.

Alongside the changes we have once again returned to hard copy production of the Express, using social distancing guidelines and donning masks and gloves to do the job. We are still going to publish on-line, via the Coombe Bissett website, [www.coombebissett.com](http://www.coombebissett.com).

If you prefer to read the Express on-line and not receive the hard copy **please** let me know and we can remove you from the delivery list. Either email or call, see below for details. Most people canvassed seem to want the hard copy but a few have changed to the on-line version, which will help to reduce printing costs.

Many thanks go to Edie Musselwhite who has decided to hang up her delivery bag after many years helping the Express and to Ann Batten who is taking a break following a hip operation.

We wish John Bletsoe a speedy recovery from a recent stroke; he has spent a couple of weeks in SDH but is now home. We thank him for producing the latest chapter in his story from his hospital bed. That's what I call commitment. Thanks John.

Sadly Zoe Shaw lost her fiercely fought battle with cancer and passed away last month. A popular lady and known to many around our villages her happy face will be missed by all. Our thoughts are with her husband David and her sons Charlie and Jonty.

Congratulations to the winners of the on-line photo competition they all received a beautiful bouquet of flowers from Coombe Bissett Blooms, (Caroline Welfare). She has some really lovely flowers at the moment, all home grown and an excellent alternative to those in the shops.

You will find forms for the 100 Club for completion should you wish to renew/ join for next year. An update on the recent winners can be found on page 9.

Apologises for an error on page 7 in the last edition (issue 251), in the piece about Dennis Kearn, I stated his parents had built a house on the Stratford Tony road called Drivemore. It should read Drimvore.

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

**Latest submission date for next issue ..... 5pm 20<sup>th</sup> Sept 2020**

**Sue Dyer**      email: **cbandhexpress@outlook.com**

Phone: 01722718514



## Chalke Valley Benefice

### Parish of Coombe Bissett with Homington

#### Team Rector

Revd Catherine Blundel – 780134

#### Team Vicar

The Revd Canon Jenny Taylor –  
503081

#### Churchwarden

Mollie Lampard – 718517

#### Lay Pastoral Assistant

Ruth Morgan - 718557

Well, we have opened and worshipped again in our churches! What a joy that has been even with all the necessary rules about social distancing, no singing, no shaking hands but lots of hand sanitising! Although more have come back to our churches than we had hoped for our hearts must go out to those who are still shielding themselves or a relative and therefore cannot join in with worship in the church building. You will receive such a warm welcome when you are able to join us!

Parents you must be rejoicing at the ending of Home Schooling – never mind the children, I am sure you are looking forward to breaking up for the summer like never before! Teachers too, who have been working without a proper break since Christmas you must be so relieved to be finally able to have a rest. Mr Basinger-Adams enjoy your time away from your school! Year 6 Leavers, your end of Primary School has certainly been unique! You leave our school with all our very best wishes for your futures.

Shops are re-opening, although Coombe Bissett Village Shop has been an absolute lifeline throughout these last months and continues to be so, thank you Charles and your team! There are smart new haircuts everywhere and we can again support in person our pubs The Fox and Goose has been simply amazing, Thank you Keith and Sue! Life is slowly becoming more recognisable but even so there is some fear and anxiety still about our futures – both our health and well-being and the economic future of so many. It is easy to become despondent and de-motivated so breathe in our lovely Coombe Bissett and Homington air, rest your eyes on our lovely Coombe Bissett and Homington fields (and the Nature Reserve and the Down!) and enjoy all the lovely Coombe Bissett and Homington people and remember those words from St Paul's Letter to the Romans:

*I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (8:38,39)*

I spoke those words at the funeral of Zoe Shaw last month. Through her battle with cancer Zoe's faith shone through, she would light up a room, a conversation, a life with her bubbly personality and caring nature. We will miss her so much and our love and prayers go to David her husband of almost 30 years and her two darling sons Charlie and Jonty. May she Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory.

Revd Canon Jenny Taylor



# Services in Chalke Valley Benefice

## August – September 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**

<b>2 August 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b>	9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Parish Communion (CW) Morning Prayer (BCP) Parish Communion (CW) Family Communion (CW)	Britford Broad Chalke Berwick St John Coombe Bissett	Jenny Taylor Roger Leake Catherine Blundell Jenny Taylor
<b>9 August 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b>	9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am	Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Morning Prayer (BCP) Holy Communion (BCP)	Charlton All Saints Homington Ebbesbourne Wake Alvediston	Jenny Taylor Jenny Taylor Roger Leake Catherine Blundell
<b>16 August 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b>	9.30am 9.30am 11.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP) Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW)	Odstock Bishopstone Berwick St John	Roger Leake Catherine Blundell Catherine Blundell
<b>23 August 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b>	9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Parish Communion (CW) Family Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Morning Prayer (BCP)	Charlton All Saints Broad Chalke Bishopstone Alvediston	Anna-Claar T-Rosinigh Catherine Blundell Anna-Claar T-Rosinigh Roger Leake
<b>30 August 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b>	10.00am 10.00am	Benefice Communion by by Extension (CW) Benefice Communion (CW)	Broad Chalke Charlton All Saints	Roger Leake Anna-Claar T-Rosinigh
<b>6 September 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b>	9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Family Communion (CW)	Broad Chalke Britford Ebbesbourne Wake Coombe Bissett	Catherine Blundell Anna-Claar T-Rosinigh Catherine Blundell Anna-Claar T-Rosinigh
<b>13 September 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b>	9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 6.00pm	Family Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Holy Communion (BCP) Evening Prayer (BCP)	Nunton Bowerchalke Alvediston Homington	Anna-Claar T-Rosinigh Catherine Blundell Catherine Blundell Jenny Taylor
<b>20 September 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b>	9.30am 9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Morning Prayer (BCP) Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW)	Odstock Bishopstone Broad Chalke Homington Berwick St John	Anna-Claar T-Rosinigh Jenny Taylor Roger Leake Jenny Taylor Catherine Blundell
<b>27 September 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b>	9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW)	Charlton All Saints Bowerchalke Bishopstone Berwick St John	Anna-Claar T-Rosinigh Roger Leake Jenny Taylor Catherine Blundell

**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-Rosinigh: 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



## COOMBE BISSETT AND HOMINGTON VILLAGE HALL

### August and September 2020

At the time of writing this piece, the Management Committee of the Village Hall remains unable to accept near term bookings for functions or meetings in the Hall. We continue to be subject to advice from our insurers, from Government, and in more detailed form from the organisation "Action with communities in Rural England"(ACRE), to avoid any spread of Corona Virus. The conclusion we have reached is that the obligations in respect of cleaning and the general operation of the premises, are so onerous that at the present time it is not practical to open our doors, although the needs of the school were treated as a special exception.

However, it is clear that at a national level, restrictions on activities do appear to have been relaxed and it is hoped that advice in relation to community buildings such as ours will soon be changing. For this reason we are now willing to accept provisional bookings for events from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 onwards on the basis that potential users accept at their own risk it may still be necessary to make cancellations at short notice if we are required to do so. In these circumstances any deposits paid will be refunded. In the initial phase of re-opening, some restrictions and limitations may still apply but further information will be published as soon as this is available.

We look forward to the day when the Village Hall is fully operational again!

Don Morgan Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee.

### VILLAGE CINEMA

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

#### **Remember ,**

*If you would like to book the hall, check our rates on [www.coombebissett.com](http://www.coombebissett.com) where you can also find a booking request form. Email bookings and enquiries to Rachel Coombs on [hall@coombebissett.com](mailto: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](mailto: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

## **COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH**

**Adrian Turnbull 718354**

Speedwatch is back with a new coordinator, Adrian Turnbull. David Germain stood down last Autumn.

You may have noticed the new Speed Indicator, bought by the Parish Council, on the main road. If you obey the rest will have to follow. It provides a great deal of information about drivers habits and hopefully encourages more of them to obey our speed limits.

However, volunteers are needed to operate the radar gun and collect vehicle numbers for further police action and these can be seen in their high visibility jackets at various places.

Would you be willing to give up an occasional half hour to help? Call Adrian for information.  
Keep safe.



# **Coombe Bissett and Homington Show**

together with the CB&H Express

**Thank you to everyone who entered and voted in the online photography competition. You can still see all the entries on the Coombe Bissett website.**

**Congratulations to the winners:**

**“Lockdown”**

**Sue Smith**

**“Local Architecture in Focus”**

**Sharon Hallis**

**“Best Lockdown Bakes”**

**Ann Hewlett**

**Next year’s Show will be in July. We look forward to seeing your entries in person.**

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**CHAV**

**Gerald Bundy**

If you read the report in the last edition, on behalf of the Parish Council, the weedkiller in the children's play park was done and with the bench seat inside having been made secure to comply with Rospa requirements also done by a CHAV it has been possible for the Parish Council to now open the play park, much to the delight of many young children.

No other CHAV tasks done because they did not receive any other requests but they are willing to take on tasks.

# Coombe Bissett Primary

## 100 Club

Praying you are all keeping well and safe during this time. Some of the children have returned to school, faring social distance schooling - and I must say children really are remarkably resilient and we have to give them credit for the level of understanding they have during these restricted times. There are still a number of children busily working safe at home with the 'alternative' parent teachers. We are still safely conducting business and wish to share with you our latest **100** club draws:

### May 2020

- 1st prize Nick & Alex Phillips (£25)
- 2nd prize Barry White (£10)
- 3rd prize Kate Pendleton (£5)

### June 2020

### July 2020

- 1st prize Sheila Spiers (£25)
- 2nd prize Deborah James (£10)
- 3rd prize Charles CB stores (£5)



**100 Club**  
Coombe Bissett CE VA Primary

CONGRATS everyone and thanks so much for continuing to support the **100** club! We will get cheques signed and out to you before the end of the month.

Though we have had an unusual year we have been fortunate to use 100 Club funds to contribute towards the annual Panto in January, Christmas giftings and towards the new Reflection Garden - currently under construction. This will be an exciting fresh start to September and we hope we can extend a welcome to all the CB community when the environment allows.

We are in the process of sorting out renewals soon for the next academic year so please keep a look out. If you have a standing order then this will continue running unless you advise me and your bank otherwise. If you would like to sign up to the 100 Club please find the new forms attached – either £12 annual or £1 monthly - or perhaps you would prefer to drop money to the school.

Thanks again for your ongoing support and we wish to a healthy and safe summer.

Best regards

Kirsten Webster (Admin of CB Primary 100 Club).  
[Websterfam8@gmail.com](mailto:Websterfam8@gmail.com)

## **Coombe Bissett and Homington Foodbank collection news**

We have continued collection on a weekly basis every Wednesday from under the lychgate at Coombe Bissett church. These collections then join donations from many other villages around Salisbury and are then disseminated out as required to the various local charities and then if they have enough for their requirements they go further afield to the Swindon foodbank. A report of where it has all been going, from all the villages can be seen below.

'Last week we delivered car loads to the Salisbury Foodbank, Salisbury Trust for the Homeless and Alabare Supported Housing. Shaftesbury Food Aid came and collected another load and the Swindon Food Collective brought their van down again and filled up with around another 700kg of donations. Thanks to all of you, we've delivered approx 8 tonnes of food to local charities."

When you read of such weights of donations you can feel proud that you have been a part of this thank you very much. The manager of the Swindon foodbank has sent a letter of thanks to all the villages which gives some more information about how food at the foodbanks is used:-

*Dear DWFC Volunteers and the local communities*

*Please accept our deepest gratitude for all the food that was collected and donated to the Swindon Food Collective through your collection projects.*

*This donation will go towards helping to reduce the impact of food poverty on people in crisis due to the Covid 19 pandemic in the Swindon and District area and help to ensure that no-one goes without food unnecessarily.*

*Last year we fed just over 6,000 people of whom almost 30% were children and we collected and (re) distributed 62 tons of non-perishable food. In this time of unprecedented crisis your help will enable us to assist so many more people and enable us to collect and (re) distribute an expected 75 tonnes of donated food. This year we are also expecting our numbers to rise to an all-time high of well over 7,000 people being helped and fed through our distribution centres. This number may be greater the longer this pandemic continues to affect people's financial stability. Without your support this would not be possible and your donation will allow us to continue to give out food to those that are facing a crisis at the time they need it most.*

*Covid 19 has really impacted upon our food bank. We normally have 65+ volunteers but overnight we lost more than 50% due to shielding and isolation. So we paused, re-scope our operations and redeployed people so that we are able to conform to the social distancing requirements both in the warehouse and at the distribution centres; we decided to be open more days, with fewer volunteers doing more "shifts". In doing so, we were able to have smaller teams working 4 days a week in the warehouse instead larger teams for two days, operate an extra distribution centre, on a Saturday morning at the church next to the warehouse, which now functions as a "drive through", as this not only reduces the need for vans to deliver the food boxes but meets the requests of those who are isolating or who prefer not to queue or come into contact with people other than their direct family. We did have to temporarily close 3 centres but one has recently re-opened and another centre managed to open for an extra day to help compensate.*

*Notwithstanding all this, we remain very aware that no one wants to admit that they cannot afford to feed themselves or their family but it is evident that the Swindon Food Collective is often the only option for a growing number of people whose income has drastically diminished because of the Covid-19 pandemic.*

*One lady of 77 years rang for help recently as she had just eaten the last of her frozen vegetables and didn't know how to get any more food and was afraid to go to the shops due to the virus. An 88 year old gentleman had been surviving on crackers for 4 days before he rang us for help. Families with children who would normally get food at school and single people moving into hostels or B and B's all come to us for help. We are also providing Home from Hospital bags for those being discharged so they can leave as soon as possible and free up vital hospital resources for others.*

*I am proud to say that the Swindon Food Collective has risen to the challenge to help as many people as possible through the period of Covid 19 lockdown. Now, as restrictions start to ease the charity is still dealing with the desperate need of these families and individuals who have been most affected by the lockdown.*

*Research is beginning to emerge that clearly shows that families with children are amongst the hardest hit by the crisis; data published by the Standard Life Foundation shows that 42% of families with children, and lone parents in particular, are in serious financial difficulty or struggling to make ends meet, compared to 24% of other households (Source: CPAG). The StepChange Charity are reporting on "The looming post-Covid debt crisis: 590k households fall behind on rent, 820k on council tax bills during lock down"*

*We recognise that this is a marathon, not a sprint. We know that by continuing our service albeit somewhat different due to the isolation and shielding of some of our valuable volunteers, social distancing requirements and restrictions necessary both in the warehouse and distribution, and by adding additional opening days and times, we have created as many opportunities as possible, at this point in time, so that we can reach those in our community that need our help now and in the coming months whilst the whole country recuperates. We may even be able to open up two more distribution centres in the near future so that we can accessible in more places across the town and surrounding area.*

Your donation will go towards feeding people in need directly through our frontline operations.

Please pass on our appreciation to everyone who donated and helped collect.

We thank you all wholeheartedly for the compassion and generosity given to us at this time.

Stay well and stay safe.

### **The way going forward**

The co-ordinator of all the Wiltshire villages who are collecting has said:

"All of our charities have said they expect the situation to worsen considerably by September/October and would love our continued support."

In response to this we have decided that **from August we will continue collections but will now do this on the first Wednesday of the month rather than weekly**. This will still be under the lychgate at Coombe Bissett church, if you need a donation collecting contact Judy on 07762988506. Boxes will be out between 10 and 4 but if you can't manage these times again contact Judy. Charles in the shop is happy to order goods on your behalf and offers 10% off for donations to the foodbank.

Thanks everyone let's make sure our donations still count in the Wiltshire villages food collections.

Judy Evans

# Know your Neighbours

We are now starting to spend a little bit more time outside of our houses and what with the Government's introduction of mandatory face coverings on public transport, in shops and supermarkets, how will we recognise our neighbour? At least the hairdressers and barbers are open so hopefully their hair style is back to normal now, or will be soon? Here is a neighbour who is going to the barbers on Monday!

## Who Am I?

Born in Colwyn Bay, North Wales, the family emigrated to Hobart, Tasmania for £10 as the father's work was scarce in Wales (a waiting list to become a postman). They lived in Hobart for 3 years but returned as a Grandmother became unwell. On returning, they settled in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire and our Neighbour studied fine art for 4 years at the Gloucestershire College

of Art, followed by post graduate studies at University of Sussex.



Having taught art in Plymouth for 4 years, he left, searching for drier weather during the winter and for promotion, head of department. He found one, in Salisbury, the area reminded him of the Brighton downs.

He continued to teach art in and around Salisbury until

1989 when he gave up full time to concentrate on his work as a painter and wood engraver. He moved to Coombe Bissett in 1994.

He has illustrated over 30 books, including 3 of his own. In 2007 Whittington press published a fine press book "Ebble Valley" with both engravings and text by the artist.

He has contributed illustrations to 'Country Life' magazine throughout the 1990's.

Numerous solo exhibitions including Royal Academy Summer Exhibitions, where he was awarded the Print Prize in 1985.

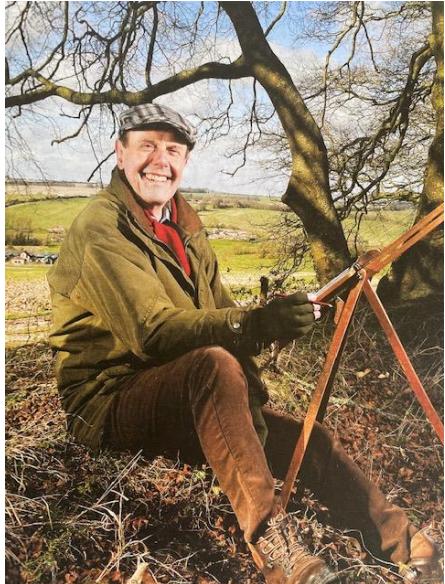
He also made an appearance on Countryfile last year. They had read about him in a magazine and managed to track him through some galleries. Left a message on Monday, they came to have a chat on Tuesday and a week later came to film.



Homington Water Meadows

# *Give Up?*

Howard Phipps was introduced to wood carving through art class at school. He continued this special interest at art college, although thought unfashionable, wood engraving:- ‘a method of relief printmaking’ where the polished surface of a block of end grain Boxwood is engraved with traditional tools with names such as scorper and spitsticker. On completion the surface of the block is



inked using a roller and an impression taken on paper using a hand press (dated 1862)’

Wood carving was more suitable to teaching hours than painting “you don’t have to wash your brushes out after a couple of hours work in the evening”



Howard sent off some early prints to a magazine which were reviewed by The Guardian, he then dropped a note to publishers with some photocopies who responded favourably, the wood carving was taking off.

His Dad collapsed suddenly at the age of 60 which put things into perspective for Howard, he gave up teaching full time and concentrated on his art.

## **Quick Fire Q&A**

1. What was/is your nick name? *Didn't really have one, but a silly woman who taught English called me Howie which I didn't like*
2. If you could time travel, when would you go? *1920's/1930's- only if I was well off, old fashioned England. I liked the artists at that time*
3. What is your pet hate? *Bad mobile phone etiquette e.g on phone while driving, talking on phone when trying to talk to bank teller etc. Rudeness*
4. What is your favourite TV programme? *Haven't had a TV for long so I'll change it to radio – Desert Island Discs, Private Passions, Sorry I haven't A Clue*
5. What do you like most about living in CB & H? *Location is fantastic, beautiful valley, people are lovely, the ones I have met, anyway.*
6. What is the silliest way you have been injured? *Lost a tooth, Mum was upset as it was a new one. Went to the dentist for a check up and she said "Do you want me to patch that up for you? You've got 15 minutes left on your appointment time!"*
7. Where is your favourite place in the world? *The Greek Islands, or Dorset, on our doorstep.*

8. What is your favourite food/dish? *Fish/Paella- except it is hard work to make*
9. What is the best piece of advice you have received? *A head of department at my first job said to me "stand up for yourself" speak your mind and be respected for it.*
10. Would you rather.....live with by the sea or in the countryside? *By the sea*

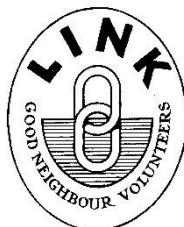


For more information see [howardphipps.co.uk](http://howardphipps.co.uk)

**Thanks to Howard Phipps**

**Interviewed by Rachel Coombs**

## **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

**Local Weather Diary 2020**
**Richard Allen 718522**
**RAINFALL**

<b>Week Ending</b>		<b>TEMPERATURES</b>			<b>Total Inches</b>
		<b>Average Daily Maximum Deg C</b>	<b>Average Nightly Minimum Deg C</b>	<b>Average Mean Deg C</b>	
May	3	13.9	7.5	10.7	2.90
	10	19.3	8.1	13.7	-
	17	15.0	3.7	9.4	-
	24	20.1	10.5	15.3	Trace
	31	23.3	9.6	16.5	-
June	7	18.8	10.4	14.6	0.23
	14	19.0	11.2	15.1	0.45
	21	20.7	12.5	16.6	1.24
	28	24.0	13.1	18.6	0.59
July	5	20.1	<u>13.3</u>	16.7	0.26
<b>Monthly Figures</b>					
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	<u>2.61</u>
Year to date rainfall					<u>20.20</u> inches

**May**

May was a memorable month for sunshine and an almost complete lack of rainfall. My very rough estimate of sunshine hours gave a total of 271 which is almost 50% above the May average and the third highest May total in my records. Similar, but marginally higher totals occurred in 1989 and 1992. Nationally, May's official total was 266 hours and this beat the previous highest May total of 265 hours in 1957.

May was almost completely dry. There was a very small amount in my rain gauge on 23<sup>rd</sup> which was little more than a trace. It was, therefore, the driest May since my records began in 1987 and also locally, taking in to account Don Thorne's rainfall records for Bishopstone, since at least 1950. Indeed, it was the equal driest month of any month since at least 1950. The other equal driest month was as recently as June 2018.

Using May's mean temperature of 13.6C as a measure, May ranked only the eleventh warmest since 1987. However, using the average of each day's maximum temperature as a measure, (19.2C), it was actually the third warmest. The reason for the apparent anomaly is due to a spell of cold nights between 10<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> which saw the temperature drop to almost freezing point on 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> and five successive nights of ground frost.

The last eight days of May were truly spectacular in that there was hardly a cloud in the sky for the whole period (only 27<sup>th</sup> let the side down with some cloud for a while in the middle part of the day). Temperatures settled into the low to mid-twenties, maxing at 24C on 27<sup>th</sup> and again on 31<sup>st</sup>.

## **June**

The warm sunshine which brought May to a close continued for a further two days into June, with two glorious days, making it ten in a row. Indeed, 3<sup>rd</sup> June which was completely void of sun was the first such day since 3<sup>rd</sup> May. We had had thirty successive days when the sun had shone for at least a few hours. The next two weeks were cool and mostly cloudy with spells of light rain on approximately half the days. There was a very fine spell of weather to greet the summer solstice and the longest evenings of the year. The sun shone from mostly clear skies for five days from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> and this spell saw the warmest weather of the summer thus far with temperatures reaching 29C on 24<sup>th</sup> and 30C on 25<sup>th</sup>. The last four days were cool and showery. My estimate of sunshine hours for June was just 166, more than 100 hours less than May produced. My average for June is 184. Rainfall for June was just about average at 2.31 inches.

## **Spring 2020**

Nationally, England had its sunniest Spring since records began in 1929 with 696 hours (average 594). It was so sunny that only three Summers have produced more hours of sunshine (summers of 1976, 1989 and 1995). It was also the fifth warmest spring in England since records began.

Here in Coombe Bissett, my sunshine estimates gave a total for Spring of 638 hours. This was, by some measure, the sunniest Spring I have recorded. The previous sunniest was in 1997 when I estimated a total of 599 hours. There have been two other Springs in my records at a similar level to that and they were in 2003 and 2007. Spring 2020 was the fourth warmest since I have been keeping records. The mean temperature was 10.8C with an average for Spring of 9.8C. The three warmest Springs were in 2011, 2014 and 2017.

Rainfall totalled 5.68 inches which is 22% below the average of 7.34 inches. There have been eight drier Springs in my records. The driest was in 2011 when we had just 2.55 inches in the three months. The wettest was in 2008 when we had 12.58 inches. Only two years ago we got close to that with 12.42 inches.

Who knows what all this means for the rest of Summer 2020 as we are gradually released from Covid Lockdown ?! What I do know is that we, who are lucky enough to live in such beautiful countryside and were able to take daily exercise during lockdown, received a regular dose of endorphins, to help us cope with the restrictions, thanks to the abundant sunshine enabling us to enjoy one of the most spectacular of Spring seasons.

High pressure is moving in as I write this (14/7) to give us several days of settled weather to get the harvest off to a good start, and hopefully, our week on the Thames!

**MINUTES OF COOMBE BISSETT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD VIRTUALLY ON**  
**TUESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> JULY 2020 AT 7 PM**

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

Mrs D James, Mrs N Heron (Clerks). Wiltshire Cllr. R Clewer. 3 members of the public

**22 Apologies for absence:** None.

**23 Welcome to the new Parish Clerk.** D Rattue welcomed Nicola Heron to the Parish Council.

**24 Public question time:** R Maycock enquired if the owners of the property on the bridge side of packhorse bridge could cut the hedge to enable pedestrians easier access during the bridge repairs. D Rattue will make contact. R Maycock thanked D James for her hard work over the last 9 years as Parish Clerk.

**25 Minutes of the last meeting:** The minutes were proposed by C Chelu, seconded by S Gledhill and agreed by all as a correct record.

**26 Declarations of interest:** G Bundy declared an interest in the Neighbourhood Development (NDP). D Rattue declared an interest in 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.

**27 Matters arising:**

**Neighbourhood Development Plan:** The updated Housing Needs topic paper and the Views and Vistas topic paper have been circulated to the Parish Council. The Community Feedback Consultation survey is underway during July. This should clarify local perspectives on developmental preferences. Following the survey outcomes will be scrutinised with views from Wiltshire Council and AONB. D Hobson expressed appreciation on behalf of the parish council of the neighbourhood plan steering group.

**Gates across bridleway 8 in Coombe Bissett:** G Bundy reported that he has communicated with the WC rights of way officer who recommends two bollards at the bottom of Shutts Lane and one bollard adjacent to Pennings Drove and the entrance to the nature reserve. WC will pay for installation of the bollards but the Parish Council will be responsible for paying for the bollards themselves.

**Donkey Field fence:** It is hoped work will commence at the end of August.

**Speeding on the A354:** A relocatable post and two more sockets have been ordered and are awaiting installation by WC. This means the SID can be used along Homington Road and Stratford Tony Road. Community Speed Watch has been resumed and it has been requested that it will run in Homington next time.

**Ramp onto play area:** A ramp installed into the play area has improved ease of access and safety. Thanks to Mr Matt Mould who kindly carried out this work.

**Coronavirus Community support:** This is winding down naturally but the names of volunteers will remain on file should there be a spike in the Autumn. Food collection at the Lychgate will continue on a monthly basis.

**28 Stocksbridge Lane repairs:** It has been brought to the attention of the parish council of the uneven surface adjacent to where building work has been taking place. D Rattue agreed to convey the feelings of the meeting to the owner of the property concerned.

**29 Reopening of the play area:** The play area is now open and being used. Maintenance has been carried out during the lockdown period.

**30 Replacement tree next to the Pack Horse Bridge:** C Chelu asked if a replacement tree should be planted where the unsafe Willow tree was felled. Following discussions the Parish Council did not support this proposal.

**31 Parish Council laptop:** It was agreed that the Parish Clerk should have a laptop and printer for Parish Council Business. S Gledhill proposed a total budget of £600, seconded by A Bird and all agreed.

**32 Tennis Club defibrillator:** C Chelu enquired why the tennis club defibrillator is locked away when the courts are not in use. The parish council contributed 50% of the cost of this from the Community Infrastructure Levy Fund and the tennis club are responsible for maintenance and repairs. It was noted that this is an indoor defibrillator and therefore not suitable for mounting outside. The tennis club will make the defibrillator available for community use at public events if necessary.

**33 Covid-19 crisis appreciation:** The outgoing clerk requested a token of appreciation to local businesses who have supported the community during the current crisis. The parish council agreed that this was not appropriate at the moment but in due course may be reconsidered.

**34 Parking on Recreation Field:**

School

Cricket

**35 Parking on Donkey Field:**

none

**36 Notices on Donkey Field/Beech Tree:**

Neighbourhood plan steering group.

**37 Correspondence received:**

From WC tree officer: The Willow tree adjacent to Coombe Bissett Pack Horse Bridge has been inspected and needs felling. The land where the tree is located is not owned by WC (the land is unregistered according to the Land Registry). Therefore WC will be using their delegated powers under the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act in order to remove the tree. Felling was carried out in June. A resident at Toyd Corner reported that a wooden finger post is broken and needs replacing. WC Highways had been contacted and responded that WC is no longer responsible. The parish council may replace with a wooden or metal sign should they so wish. The clerk was asked to obtain a specification from Wiltshire Council for a metal sign.

**38 Planning:**

Planning received:

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

20/04599/TCA – The Glebe, Homington Road, Coombe Bissett. Work to: 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.

20/04659/FUL – College Farm, Rockbourne Road, Coombe Bissett. Alteration and loft extension to provide improved and increased living accommodation.

20/04958/FUL – Springfield, Shepherds Close, Coombe Bissett. Remove and replace existing garage and store with single storey side and rear extension (amendment to planning permission 19/00544/FUL).

20/05071/FUL – Graylings, Salisbury Road, Coombe Bissett. Single storey rear extension, change to porch roof, reposition and replace garden shed, replace windows.

Planning approved by Wiltshire Council:

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

20/04423/TCA – 1 Old Foundry Cottages, Coombe Bissett. T1 Apple – fell.

T2 Ash – deadwood and thin. T3 & 4 Sycamores – deadwood and crown lift. T5 6 & 7 – Ash's – deadwood and crown clean. T8 Oak – deadwood and crown clean.

**39 Reports from representatives:** none received

**Income:**

Groundwork UK – NDP grant	£3264.00
HMRC – VAT refund	£865.54
Cemetery fees	£180.00
Cemetery fees	£540.00

**Outgoings:**

717 Mrs D James – reimburse PCC for churchyard tree work	£300.00
718 Mrs D James – reimburse PCC for churchyard tree work	£300.00
719 WALC – subscription fees	£301.31
720 Bawden Managed Landscapes – Grass April	£133.42
721 Bawden Managed Landscapes – Grass May	£133.42
722 Bawden Managed Landscapes – Grass June	£133.42
723 Dr A Burnett – NDP fees	£1818.30
724 K Mould – Play area ramp	£546.00
725 Office expenses	£400.08
726 Office expenses	£400.00

**Balance on accounts:**

The balance on the reserve account is: £32139.86

The balance on the current account is: £20225.87

The total of the two accounts is therefore: £52365.73

A Bird proposed, C Chelu seconded and everyone agreed that cheques 717 to 726 be paid.

**40 Date of next meeting:** 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020

**41 The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.**

## **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

David Germain 718531

More and more scams are being recorded by Action Fraud, a national police initiative, and many are then passed on to Neighbourhood Watch. If you want this kind of helpful advice google: Neighbourhood Watch Contact, to join the local group. You will not be pestered, I promise, but I will, as local coordinator be told of your interest. You will have options as to the amount of information you receive.

I suggest you look also at <https://wiltsmessaging.co.uk> and [www.getsafeonline.org](http://www.getsafeonline.org) for additional information.

## **HEDGES and TREES**

We do not have many footpaths in Coombe Bissett and Homington but where we do it is the responsibility of the home owners to keep the outgrowth of their hedges and trees from encroaching onto paths and roads. Obstruction of pedestrians and vehicles is unneighbourly and in the case of road traffic can be dangerous as well. Examples can be seen in both our villages, on the Blandford Road, Homington Road and the through road past Homington especially. The highway, as defined in Road Traffic Acts, can nominally extend a metre beyond the tarmac/kerb where no path exists and even more in places so it is important owners keep control of their boundaries. If Highways do the work you could have a bigger bill and see your birch, beech or privet severely cut back. Do please get out there, you know who you are!

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## **COOMBE BISSETT AND HOMINGTON DRAMA CLUB**

Unfortunately, due to the uncertainty caused by the virus, there will be no 2020 Panto.

This will be the first time for years that we are unable to deliver one, but due to the fact that rehearsals normally start in September, it is just not feasible.

We very much hope to be able to do something in spring, if possible, but otherwise we hope you will all support us next year !

In the meantime, stay healthy and happy.

Lynn Mills  
Chairman  
Coombe Bissett and Homington Drama Club  
01722 718438



**Before Lockdown, Wilton RDA was providing Riding Therapy to 160 riders with disabilities in the Salisbury Area.**

**We have had to temporarily suspend all of our life changing riding therapy activities due to Covid-19. With all our normal fundraising activities cancelled, our income stream has dropped to an unsustainable level.**

**Our 16 wonderful loyal horses & ponies still need to be fed and cared for, during this period. We have therefore launched our 'Feed & Care Appeal'.**

**Now we are all staying at home.....**

- Instead of buying 2 coffees, buy a bale of hay for £5
- Instead of a trip to the cinema, buy a sack of feed for £25
- Instead of a meal out for 2, pay for a farrier for a pony £50

**To donate, please go to:-**

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/RDAWiltonfeedappeal>

**Or send a cheque payable to 'Wilton RDA', to The Pembroke Centre, Home Farm Road, Wilton, Salisbury SP2 8PJ. Please include details of your email address so we can acknowledge receipt of checks by email, to save costs.**

**Every penny helps  
Thank you**

## **Tennis Club Report**

**Janet Finniss 718346**

Following government guidelines we had to close the courts on 24 March 2020 for 8 weeks.

Eventually, on 13 May we were able to start playing singles only, following the guidelines on social distancing and hygiene. Then moving on to playing doubles and the courts have been very well used, probably the most since the club started. At the time of writing this report we are still unable to hold club session, but hopefully, this will soon change.

The weather has been good and we have enjoyed playing on our lovely courts during this very strange time.

## BACK TO .....NATURE!

Is it a bird, a plane or a BMX ramp?

Don't be silly, can't you see, it's a butterfly bank!

And so - to add greater expense, let's surround it with a "butterfly fence"

As butterflies know, just how far they can go - it makes perfect common sense!

Now it's to be said, the wild plugs will eventually "bed"

At present their showing's particularly sad

But would they have spoiled the volunteers toil,

With a large dollop of nourishing topsoil?

And the field of wild flowers - knee deep

Could be fertilised and maintained by some sheep

Although sheep may consume some wild seeds

They could re-spread them far and wide, as they feed!

Oh! The badgers have done a good job

Of eating the eggs of the ground nesting birds

Perhaps they and not our dog walkers

Should be the recipient of the "Head Honchos" terse words

So - is it a bird, a plane or a BMX park?

No! It's an overgrowing field and a white chalk question mark!

The cost to create it was surely immense.....

I'll bet the kids will jump over the fence!!

Nasus Yeldneps



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Salisbury SP5 4LE Tel: 01722 718437  
Email: [foxandgoose@coombebissett.com](mailto:foxandgoose@coombebissett.com)  
[www.foxandgoose-coombebissett.co.uk](http://www.foxandgoose-coombebissett.co.uk)

Well at last we opened our doors on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July, after over 103 days closed due to Coronavirus. Although we have restrictions and guidelines in place as requested by the Government it is good to be open and welcoming back customers and seeing regular faces once again.

Although the first two weeks trading were probably better than we had anticipated we are still currently trading about 40% down on this time last year. However, we are at least open and hopefully with a few good weeks of sunshine for the summer holidays things will pick up.

One of the requirements of the guidelines was for social distancing of a metre plus inside pubs. This has resulted in a 30% reduction in availability inside the pub and numbers will be limited. Therefore, should the garden not be available due to inclement weather we will be limited for table space inside the pub, so booking is very much recommended to avoid disappointment. This includes drinkers as there is no standing or seating at the bar.

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, we are not able to hold our monthly music nights but as soon as we can we will advertise these events once again.

Hopefully by the next edition of the Express we will have more news and information for you.

Mark Wyeth a local Salisbury knife sharpener will be back at the Fox and Goose on Saturday 1st August from 10 am until 12 noon. So, if you need any knives or garden tools sharpening whilst you wait, come along and see Mark on this day and every first Saturday of an even numbered month.

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

Very best regards

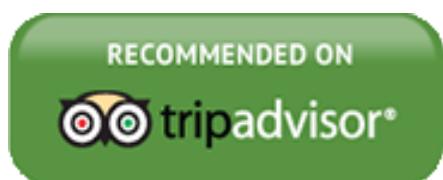
Keith and Sue

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



## **FROM APPRENTICE TO CAPTAIN: A MARINERS STORY      John Bletsoe** **Various Ships from 1962 - 1969**

To round off my time on the Ocean Monarch, a couple of stories about medical emergencies received to the ship's worldwide radio medical centre in Rome. One afternoon on our way to New York we received a message from a Norwegian Tanker that a young seaman had fallen from the funnel whilst painting it, hitting a funnel stay on the way down. We were the nearest ship in the vicinity so we arranged to rendezvous with her in about 4 hours.

The starboard "A" class life boat was prepared and swung out ready for lowering. I was on watch at the arrival so was told to take the boat over to pick up the casualty. It was just twilight, not much of a wind with a 6ft swell running. The 2 ships were about 2 cables apart....400 yards....so with the Staff captain, the Doctor, the quartermasters and myself steering we were lowered to the water , unhooked and off we went. Fortunately the tanker was loaded so there was only about 10 feet free board from water to deck. It was very difficult for the old Doc to transfer himself from the lifeboat to the ship with it rising and falling with the swell. They were using the wooden ladder used by pilots to board and leave the ship. The steps are wide and every step or so there is a 6 feet wide spread to prevent the ladder form twisting in the wind. The young man was encased firmly in a Salveson Stretcher of canvas and cane ideal for the purpose. We were soon back on board and on our way. Unfortunately the young man died during the night due to internal bleeding.

The next day we had another call for medical help from a Greek tanker. We were told an engine room hand had been injured by a super-heated steam leak. Another rendezvous arranged. This time the causality was sent in a very smart on board driven rib. He came up over our pilot ladder at great speed, so off again to New York. This turned out to be a con...the Doc said he had a small burn on his left shin, probably self-inflicted with a cigarette. Apparently his brother was Chief Engineer of a Greek tanker sailing to New York. On the morning of our arrival I was told he had spent the night in a spare passenger cabin having spent the evening in one of the bars being treated to drinks by our USA passengers!

I left the Ocean Monarch in New York on 6<sup>th</sup> September 1962. Having worked 22 months 7 weeks; with the leave I was due, I would return to sea in January.

The winter of 62-63 was particularly cold with a lot of snow. I met Eileen my future wife in November. We seem to hit it off pretty well but we were both still learning our trades. Eileen having just qualified as a staff nurse and wished to be a midwife. I still had to obtain a masters certificate with 6 month sea time still to complete.

It was a bit of a depressed period and when my leave finished in January it was nearly 6 months before I joined the Norman Prince. A modern version of the old Palestinian and Syrian Prince both having been sold to a Greek company, renamed as the Sunny Sea and Sunny Sky. The Captain, we shall call him Edward, a proper scouse, was ideal for the job and kept the 12 passengers royally entertained. He ran a very happy ship.

Eileen went to Edinburgh for 6 months then hitch hiked round Europe for a further 3, then eventually returned to Salisbury Infirmary working on the old private patients section.

I was now a Second Mate, having been promoted towards the end of my service on the Ocean Monarch, the most important part of my job was Bridge Watches 24.00-0400 and 12.00-16.00 called the twelve till four. Secondly, chart corrections. Not a difficult one there as we only carried charts for Europe, North Africa and the whole of the Med, about 600-700 charts. The corrections to charts came in a weekly edition of the notice to mariners. On completion of a correction, the date and number of the correction had to be entered

in the margin at the bottom of the chart so the sequence of the corrections could be told instantly. If the correction number on the chart was not in sequence with the correction to be entered e.g. 125, 127 it meant that we had to find 126. If the numbers of corrections were just entered on the chart but not the correction made this was a serious misdemeanour. The officer was likely to have his certificate cancelled and a heavy fine. We had a second mate who had practised this on a previous ship; it ran aground on a newly discovered 5 fathom patch in the Black Sea. His certificate was cancelled.

In The Furness Withy Group, we as second mates had to assist the Master with the ships accounting. This covered calculations for the whole crew and their appropriate basic wages, overtime calculations, tax deductions, allotments to banks and families, subs taken in port and on board in the bar and stores; e.g. bar bills, cigarettes. Most Masters were very adept at balancing their ships accounts, known as the Portage Bill. The monies to be paid to the crew was called payoff. This was the sweetest phase to be heard in a seaman's ear. The final payoff calculation required care and attention to make sure the calculations put sailors into the best insurance week or tax period. Delays, mishaps aboard and adverse weather could all affect these.

I spent 3 very enjoyable trips down to the med to the Arab ports Ceuta Algiers, Tunis, Alexandria and Latakia with regular stops at Cyprus, Malta and Crete. As like most people old enough, I can remember where I was in 1963 when Jack Kennedy was murdered, I was in Benghazi. I finally left the Norman Prince in March 1965.

I went to Liverpool to sign up for a 12 week course for my Masters Certificate. Like the others it was to be in 3 parts covering a variety of subject; writing , signals, meteorology, navigation magnetism (correcting a magnetic compass) more stability and ship construction. The course was called Ship's Masters Business, (very interesting and extremely useful in the years to come).

I went to the examiner centre in Liverpool to present to His Chief Examiners of Masters and Mates Clerk my watch keeping certificates; conduct, ability and sobriety reports from all the ships' Masters I had sailed with in the last 9 years. Eventually the Clerk told me I was 17 days short of watch keeping time. I should have queried it, because it took 7 months to get those 17 days in, I had to do a five month voyage. So then I went to Southampton school of navigation for a month's refresher before my exams. On seeing the Southampton Clerk he told me the Clerk in Liverpool had made a mistake and instead of being 17 days under I was 9 days over! The Liverpool Clerk cost me 6 months seniority in my Company. I obtained my Masters Certificate later in 1965.

Eileen turned up in my life again in 1965 and we were married in Weymouth in 1966 and settled in Salisbury.

My next ship was as Second Mate on an iron ore carrier, The Sagamore, built for the British Steel Corp. It was built in 1957 in Glasgow. Purpose built she had 5 hatches and 3 holds. The 2 biggest holds fed by 2 hatches. The smallest No.1 fed by 1 hatch. Each hold was a rectangular box, straight up and down sides. No interim decks just a box. The remaining spaces were all ballast tanks; capable of carrying 15000 tons iron ore with still loads of empty space. Not capable of carrying 15000 tons of wheat or coal etc. as not enough cubic capacity. Our purpose for British steel was to load in ports in Canada, Russia, USA, Venezuela, Brazil, Moldavia, Mauritania, Tunisia, Norway, and Sweden. As always we returned to the UK. The longest sailing was to Victoria in Brazil, the shortest to Naavik in Norway.

This was an ideal ship for Eileen and me. Each time, or perhaps most times, Eileen would travel up to the discharge ports where we were for 24-48 hours before we were on our way again. These ports were mainly Middlesbrough, North Shields, Immingham, Newport S Wales, Cardiff, Barry and Glasgow. The length of

our stay on board was about 4 months with 2 months home leave. Seeing Eileen pretty regularly during the voyage was a very good deal.

We had 2 captains who did even time...4 months on 4 months off. One was very good the other a drunken bully! One time, Willie, the latter, was on the Bridge coming down the west coast from the Tyne to the Channel, the visibility was very poor, about 3-400 yards. Willie was sat on a stool in the wheelhouse in front of our radar in the dark, with his head in the day time visor quietly snoring away. I could hear the sound of an approaching vessel's fog horn on the starboard side. I shook Willie but could not wake him. I took control but couldn't see the radar. The siren was getting louder and louder suddenly out of the gloom about 30° on the starboard bow were 2 white lights and a red one. Fortunately we were light ship (no cargo just ballast). The vessel responded well and rapidly swung round to starboard with the helm hard over. We crossed her bow showing her our red sidelight. Thankfully she passed down our portside about 60ft. away. It was a small east coast collier.

Willie was a lucky captain and went through his career without a serious accident where as some very competent ones had very serious collisions and fires on their ships.

With great variation of ports and regular trips back to UK Eileen and I were both very happy with the situation. I was hoping to get home before the birth of our first son, based on trips for the last year this was no problem. However we were sent down to Messamedies in Angola in SW Africa. With 3 weeks down and back to Newport along with 4 days to load, the best I could do was to arrive home the day Eileen came out of hospital with baby Mark.

On 16<sup>th</sup> February 1967, I swapped over to the sister ship Edenmore this was a much happier ship with another heavy but happy, drinker, Alfie. He was very lucky as he had a brilliant Devonian Chief Officer, John. Who was a bachelor who liked to work for nine months of the year and then take leave around June, July and August. John ran the ship as Alfie would be out of the game sometimes for as much as 2 weeks.

One voyage we went on a 16 day trip from Middlesbrough to Murmansk and back to the Tyne. Alfie did not appear until we were alongside in Murmansk. It was a port and naval base as well as commercial; it had several floating dry docks. One had a massive Boomer nuclear submarine undergoing repairs.

John was doing the Captain's bit entertaining the pilot and receiving the Customs Agent, Stevedores and the Military Officer, (a frontier guard in charge of port security). Alfie was perfectly sober and was chatting away to the frontier guard. Apparently he went to his cabin and returned with a handful of photographs he had taken with an admiralty camera on our last visit to Murmansk 3 months before. The Guard Commander gave Alfie a serious telling off, that he must have known these photos were illegal, and he would be speaking to his commanding officer and return in due course. Of course he did not return but Alfie was very chastened. Whilst John was there everything ran very smoothly, however when John went on leave and Alfie did not like the relieving Chief Officer he would telephone John's home pleading for him to return early from leave.

Around this time, it was the way of the merchant service, on Saturday afternoon to give a tot of rum to all ratings after lunch. John would then give the remainder of the bottle to share between the 2 leading hands, the Boatswain and the carpenter, (no work for day workers on Saturday afternoon). One afternoon whilst John was on leave the relieving Mate, Ned, gave a tot to all ratings and leading hands then poured the rest down the sink! I think there was a near mutiny with a delegation up to Alfie complaining about the action of the mate. This was one occasion when Alfie phoned John complaining of the actions of the relieving Mate upsetting the equilibrium of his usually docile crew. John, of course, never did return early from leave.

However, he was mate of the ship for 12 years and only left when he was promoted to Master, after having refused promotion once before because he did not want the ship or the trade the company was offering him. Just before John left the Edenmore the visiting Chief Marine Superintendent came to inspect the ship, now 15 years old, for the excellent job John had done maintaining their ship to a very high standard. It was praise indeed from that gentleman whose standards were also very high.

John became a very good friend of my family and when I was on leave we would often drive down to Devon with Mark to stay with him for a couple of days. Later after our twin boys Simon and Tim were born (1971), Eileen would drive the 3 of them down to Dorchester and meet John in a car park and he would take them off home for a week or so. John unfortunately passed away in his early 70's. He was found in bed with a smile on his face.

I was promoted to Chief Officer, (1st Mate), in April 1969 to the Western Prince. A ship I knew well as I had been apprentice aboard for 2 years, at the beginning of this tale.

The Western Prince had been chartered to Manchester Liners for several years; the company was also part of the Furness Withy Group. We loaded for Quebec Montreal and the great lakes including Hamilton, Toronto Sauté-Sainte Marie, Cleveland, Detroit, Thunder Bay and Duluth. Our cargo was, as always on the Western Prince, general. It was a long time ago but I remember arriving at Sauté –Sainte Marie. My grandfather's brother settled there in the late 19thc. He and his brother were Barnados boys. My grandfather was sent to join the army and then to India. His brother was sent to Montreal to work on a farm. My grandfather, an engineer, went to work at Guy's Hospital after the army. His brother escaped from the farm and went trapping in Northern Canada. He finally settled in Sauté-Sainte Marie raising a family of 5 sons and 2 daughters. We did not have any cargo to load but about 20 slings of timber to discharge. One of my second cousins, Dan, lived just a short walk down the road but was in hospital.

I explained to the Stevedore foreman and asked if there was any chance of getting the night off, in reply he asked, 'what time do you wish to sail tomorrow?' We were all pleased to get a night alongside and one of my cousins took me on a whistle-stop tour of most of the relatives, some of whom I am still corresponding with.

The Captain and I got on really well and he was always ready for a party. At 08.00 the next morning one turned up at my cabin door with a case of beer and a bottle of whisky in his arms. When I had seen him the previous evening he was having 40 winks on his settee. When he realised our grandfathers were brothers. He said he could not let us leave without having a proper drink.

I only went through the Great Lakes waterway once but it was an amazing experience. I believe it is called the St Lawrence Seaway, from the mouth of the river to Duluth is close to 2,000 miles.

Duluth was our last port of call, the most easterly port in the St Lawrence Seaway. I cannot remember what our cargo was but we did load wheat in No. 2 hold. Shore chippies built wooden trunkways from the tween deck, (in between deck dividing the hold into 2 sections.). Grain is very liable, in bad weather, rolling and pitching, to shift from one side of the hold to the other side. There are 2 ways to prevent this: by building the feeder and filling it and the hold. The grain in the feeder will filter to lower hold and underneath the tween deck. The other way is to scoop out a large hold in the centre of the hold and bagging up the grain, filling the hole with bagged grain. This is a very expensive process. These are things of the past today now bulk carrier's have triangular tanks, top and bottom and the upper wing tanks have circular removable doors for grain loaded in the upper wing tanks to filter through. I left the Western Prince in November 1969.



## BISHOPSTONE VILLAGE HALL

***August and September 2020***

### **PLANNED RE-OPENING**

The Village Hall will remain closed during July and August because of building work to install new windows in the Memorial Hall.

However, the hall will be available for hire from 1<sup>st</sup> September for permitted activities, subject to the acceptance of the “Special Conditions of Hire during Covid-19” which are available from the Bookings Secretary and the village website.

### **RURAL ARTS**

The children’s event “**The Bird Show**”, originally planned for April, has been provisionally rescheduled for **25<sup>th</sup> October**.

Look out for announcements in STaB, on the village notice board and on the website.

### **BISHOPSTONE COMMUNITY LUNCHES**

It is hoped that it will be possible to resume Community Lunches in **November** and details will be given in the October edition of STaB and on the village web site. Advance booking will be essential.

### **MOVIOLA at Bishopstone**

Moviola Film Nights are planned to recommence on **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October**.

Please look out for announcements in the October edition of STaB, on the village notice board and on the website. Advance booking will be essential.

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The village hall AGM, which would normally have been held in May, has been postponed until May 2021.

### **BABY AND TODDLER PLAYGROUP**

For general information about the Baby and Toddler Group find our Facebook page *Bishopstone Playgroup*, or contact Kate Pendleton on 01722 780655 or email <[kmpendlenton@hotmail.com](mailto:kmpendlenton@hotmail.com)>. The group are hoping to resume in September, subject to government guidelines.

### **“EXTEND” EXERCISE CLASSES**

For general information about these exercise classes contact Jenny on 01722 780863, email <[jennyberwynjones@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jennyberwynjones@yahoo.co.uk)>

### **PILATES AT BISHOPSTONE**

Contact Claudine on 07788 587937 to discuss on-line Pilates!

### **YOGA WITH HANNAH**

While the Hall not fully open, Hannah is offering ‘Virtual Yoga’ classes via Zoom on Thursdays at 6.30pm. For more details contact Hannah Stocker on 0773 856 1888 or by email: [yoga\\_with\\_hannah@outlook.com](mailto:yoga_with_hannah@outlook.com).



## CRICKET CLUB

**Don Hewlett 741354**

It's been a very frustrating time for all members of our club, but at last cricket has returned to Shutts Lane. Of course, we have taken all of the precautions required by both the Government and the ECB. We have enough sanitisers about the place to swim in, and more rubber gloves and wipes than we can shake a stick at.

The pitch and ground are looking quite magnificent, and this is due to the hours of toil that Ian does throughout the year, providing great wickets that are always admired by our visitors.

We now have a full fixture list for every Sunday, through to the 20<sup>th</sup> September. Do come along to watch in the hoped-for sunshine, but for the time being we are unable to offer you tea and cakes, due to the restrictions.

Unfortunately, we had to cancel our main fund-raising event, which was to be a Ceilidh on the Saturday May Bank holiday, followed by a Chairman's X1 cricket match on the Sunday. Hopefully we will be able to arrange this for next year. Watch this space for further events, as a Boot Sale and Bingo are in the pipe-line.

Thus far we have played just the two as we go to press, both high scoring affairs, with Ganny Sankaran notching his maiden century, and George Mould with his maiden fifty against Crondall CC. But we lost the other game against Newport Gents CC, who managed to get the 32 runs required from the last three overs. Exciting stuff!

As ever, we are always looking for new players to join us, so please get in touch.



## Application Form (ANNUAL)

Please complete the attached Standing Order form, with your surname and initial as the payment reference and return it to the School along with this form by the end of September 2020. There is an option to pay £12 by cheque made payable to "Friends of Coombe Bissett School 100 Club", but payment by standing order is our preferred payment method.

I wish to become a member of the "100 club" from September 2020 to August 2021.

I am an existing member (Please tick)  Yes  No

Name .....

Address .....

..... Postcode .....

Email address .....

Signature .....

I wish to pay by (Please tick)  Cheque  (attached)

Or- I have set up my own Standing Order  (to start 01/12/2020 or Continue from previous)

Or- I, ..... give permission for the following **Standing Order** to be set up to **Friends of Coombe Bissett School 100 Club** - details are as follows:

### NEW STANDING ORDER : Please pay from my account

BANK and BRANCH NAME .....

SORT CODE. ....

ACCOUNT NUMBER. ....

MY CONTACT TELEPHONE NO. ....

### PLEASE PAY TO

**FRIENDS OF COOMBE BISSETT SCHOOL 100 CLUB Lloyds BANK at SALISBURY**

**SORT CODE 30-97-41 ACCOUNT NUMBER 00105115**

Payment ref (my surname) .....

First payment amount **£12**

First payment date 01/12/20 and at the same time **each year** until further notice.

I authorise you go debit my/our account in accordance with before mentioned details.

This request is addressed to the bank which holds my/our account,

Yours sincerely,

Signature ..... Please print name .....

**Friends of Coombe Bissett Primary 100 Club, Shutts Lane, Coombe Bissett,  
Salisbury SP5 4LU**

The information provided will be used solely by the Friends of Coombe Bissett School for the purpose of administering the 100 club, and to communicate wins with you. You are free to withdraw from the 100 Club at any time (although payments will not be returned). To do so, please let the Friends of Coombe Bissett aware of this in writing. Letters can be posted or handed in to the Coombe Bissett Primary school office.



## Application Form (monthly)

Please complete the attached Standing Order form, with your surname and initial as the payment reference and return it to the School along with this form by the end of September 2020 to pay £1 monthly. There are other options to pay £12 by cheque made payable to "Friends of Coombe Bissett School 100 Club" or annual standing order, which is our preferred payment method.

I wish to become a member of the "100 club" from September 2020 to August 2021.

I am an existing member (Please tick)  Yes  No

Name .....

Address .....

..... Postcode .....

Email address .....

Signature.....

I wish to pay by (Please tick)  Cheque  (attached)

Or- I have set up my own Standing Order  (to start 01/12/2020 or Continue from previous)

Or- I, ..... give permission for the following **Standing Order** to be set up to **Friends of Coombe Bissett School 100 Club** - details are as follows:

**NEW STANDING ORDER** : Please pay from my account

BANK and BRANCH NAME .....

SORT CODE. ....

ACCOUNT NUMBER. ....

MY CONTACT TELEPHONE NO. ....

### **PLEASE PAY TO**

**FRIENDS OF COOMBE BISSETT SCHOOL 100 CLUB Lloyds BANK at SALISBURY**

**SORT CODE 30-97-41 ACCOUNT NUMBER 00105115**

Payment ref (my surname) .....

First payment amount **£1**

First payment date 01/12/20 and at the same time **each month** until further notice.

I authorise you go debit my/our account in accordance with before mentioned details.

This request is addressed to the bank which holds my/our account,

Yours sincerely,

Signature ..... Please print name .....

**Friends of Coombe Bissett Primary 100 Club, Shutts Lane, Coombe Bissett,  
Salisbury SP5 4LU**

The information provided will be used solely by the Friends of Coombe Bissett School for the purpose of administering the 100 club, and to communicate wins with you. You are free to withdraw from the 100 Club at any time (although payments will not be returned). To do so, please let the Friends of Coombe Bissett aware of this in writing. Letters can be posted or handed in to the Coombe Bissett Primary school office.