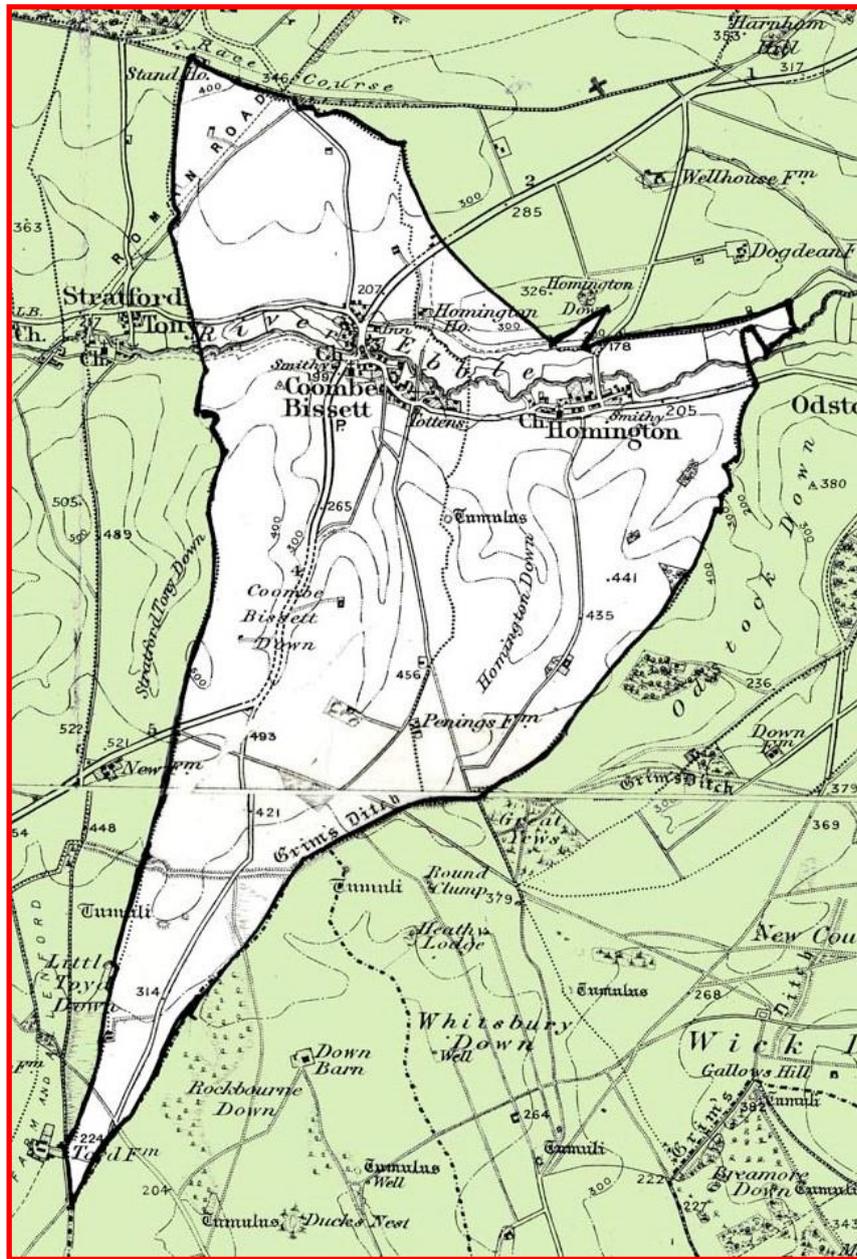


COOMBE BISSETT AND HOMINGTON

EXPRESS

Issue No 256 April/May 2021



Ordnance Survey 1890s revision with the modern Civil Parish boundary superimposed with thanks to Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre

How well do you know our villages?

See page 3 for details of our new competition.

VILLAGE DIARY

LOCKDOWN

Nothing going on yet, but planning for the future as the current restrictions are lifted has started and it is hoped to stage the CB&H Show on the 17th of July 2021. See page 24 and the insert.

Please check with the organisers of the group / event or visit the village / clubs website as the restrictions are relaxed.

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COOMBE BISSETT & HOMINGTON EXPRESS Issue No. 256 April/May 2021

Welcome to this edition of the Express. Spring is in the air and there are plenty of reasons to be cheerful with the roadmap for lifting lockdown! The vaccination programme is in full swing and I like many in our villages have had my first jab. After 12 months of no foreign holidays I'm not rushing to book a holiday abroad this year but fingers crossed 2022 will be a different matter! This year I will be looking to enjoy some of what is on offer closer to home.

Local Council elections will be held on the 6th of May. Due to a resignation from the Parish Council there is a vacancy for a new councillor. All other current councillors will be up for re-election. Nominations need to be made by early April so there is not much time left if you wish to put yourself forward. See page 13 for more details or contact the Parish Clerk for more information on, 01722 718 562, or email at: parishclerkcoombebissett@gmail.com

We are introducing something new in this edition, a small competition for a bit of fun! Where is it? - How well do you know what is in and around our villages? See below for full details.

Sadly, we have to report the death of Dennis Barratt who passed away peacefully in January this year. Dennis had lived at LA Casita, on the Blandford Rd in Coombe Bissett, for just over 60 years. He was known to many in the village and our thoughts are with his sons; Stephen, Andrew and David and their families.

We welcome, and hope the following new neighbours have settled into their new homes and will enjoy living in our villages:

- A belated welcome to Ian and Toni Willshire who moved into Shenstone, Blandford Road in Oct-20. They have both retired and relocated from Broadstairs, Kent to be closer to their young granddaughters, (also in Coombe Bissett), and are looking forward to being part of the community and exploring the nature reserve.
- James and Sally Butterworth, and their children, Molly (5) who is at CB School & Ada (1). They have moved into Orchard Cottage, Homington Rd from Hertfordshire.
- Sally and Dave Jolleys with their daughter Meghan, son Tom and their 3 dogs. They have moved into Campion, Stockbridge Lane from Winchester.
- Bob and Sue Cull who have moved to Homington from Coombe Bissett, such a long way!

Where is it?



Your chance to win a £10 (voucher)

This edition, the winner can spend their voucher at Coombe Bissett Stores. This has kindly been donated by Charles.

How well do you know your village? Each issue we will show a photo of something very familiar from Coombe Bissett or Homington but from an unusual view. If you know exactly what it is and where in which village it is located send your answer to: cbandhexpress@outlook.com by Friday the 30th of April.

In the event of more than one correct answer the winner will be drawn at random.

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

Latest submission date for next issue 5pm 20th May 2021

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

Mollie Lampard - 718517

Lay Pastoral Assistant

Ruth Morgan - 718557

Happy Easter Everyone!



This time last year our churches were closed and we were unable to worship together but social distancing, masks, thorough cleaning and Covid secure measures in place have all meant that we have been able to stay open all through this third Lockdown. So we can celebrate Easter together!! Join us at Homington on Holy Saturday (3rd April) for the Easter Fire service at 6.00 pm and at Coombe Bissett the next day at 11.00 am for our Easter Communion.

As restrictions begin to lift there is such a temptation to break out isn't there? But we must remain vigilant and keep each other safe so our coffee mornings in both Coombe Bissett and Homington will hopefully begin again in September. But we will carefully monitor the situation and will only resume all our social occasions when we feel it is safe to do so.

I have been so thrilled that the church lych gate has been used as a collection point for the Trussell Trust. Thank you to everyone who has contributed and an especially huge thank you to Judy Evans for organising this each month.

As the trees and the flowers start to blossom and as the days become longer hope is all around us so fill your hearts and minds with these words from the Gospel of St John:

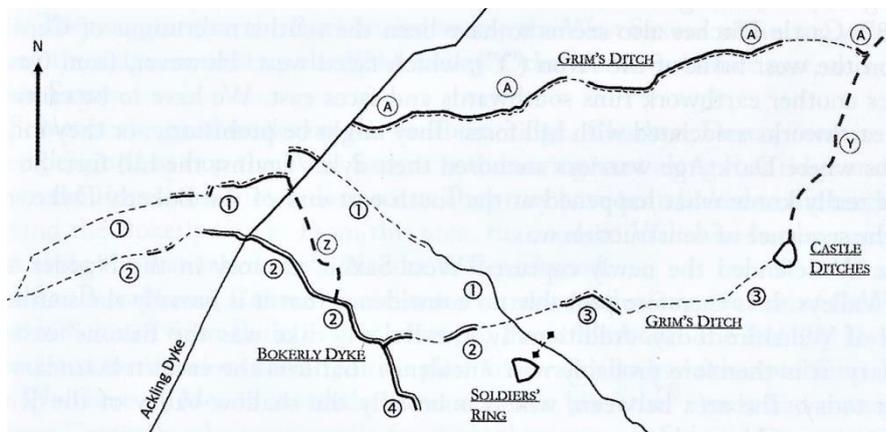
Christ Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.'

Revd Canon Jenny Taylor

People probably hardly noticed when the Roman army left about 409. Farming life here on the downs carried on much as before. Their small round houses and enclosures have gone but, noticeably, their lynchets on the hillsides remain as strips of ploughland where there is a bit more soil. There is little else to see above ground now, apart from the barrows, but from the evidence of the time archaeologists have reconstructed examples of their huts at Stonehenge visitors centre, and a small farm at Butser Hill, near Petersfield. The ancient archaeology of this area has been well reported by Pitt Rivers and, more recently, by Martin Green and others.

More obvious features of the landscape are the banks and ditches on the downs. The Saxons, who had first settled in Essex, spread west and south. The *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* gives us some account of occasional battles, but there is evidence also of co-existence which led to an eventual merger of the races. According to Storr's account of *King Arthur's Wars*, by about 660 the Saxons had advanced into south Wiltshire. The British army withdrew south and built Bokerly Dyke. There was then a temporary lull in the fighting and the Saxons built Grim's Ditch south of us, now the county boundary.

The Saxons were better able to develop the land and occupied the valleys. The British here moved down to work for them. The valley provided meadows for cattle, the lower slopes south of the village were ploughed for corn in three common fields, and the downs were for the sheep. Perhaps originally there were a couple of farms in Coombe, and later a church where the present one is now. The oldest farm sites in Coombe were probably on or near Church Farm and what is now the Old House, with their cottages nearby. The oldest farm site in Homington may be where Manor Farm is. Its church came later. Other farms and their cottages followed later, the older ones probably being those which incorporated stone from the Tisbury area when they were built, or rebuilt, to supplement local chalk and flint. Any brickwork we see here is much later, from about 1700 or just before. No Saxon timber buildings have survived and there is, as yet, no archaeological evidence for them here, but examples of reconstructed Saxon halls and cottages can be seen at West Stow, near Bury St Edmunds.



It is rarely that we make the news, but last year *The Times* reported the unusual find of a rare Saxon silver penny, about the size of a 5p piece, in Coombe Bissett. Many of these coins are found, and they are not normally especially valuable, but this one was particularly rare as showing the head of King Ludica of Mercia and, on the reverse, an inscription for the City of London. He only reigned for just over a year in 826-27, and it had not been thought that he was there then. Its authenticity having eventually been proved, it was recently sold at auction for a record £32,000, twice the presale estimate, which was shared with the landowner.

Unfortunately, this find has not yet been reported to the Wiltshire County Archaeological Service, the Portable Antiquities Scheme run by the British Museum, or any local museum. Apparently, it was found in the mud of a stubble field, so not in the village. One can well understand if the owner of the field should not want to attract treasure hunters, but without knowing where it was found, or its context, it is difficult to assess its historic importance or for us to better understand our history.

We should be grateful for any information on this, or any other find which ought to be recorded.



Services in Chalke Valley Benefice - April 2021

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

Pattern of services during Lockdown restrictions.

Please follow all the safety rules in church. If the Covid 19 situation changes, services may be cancelled at short notice. Churches will normally be open for private prayer. Please check your church noticeboard and weekly e-bulletin.

1 April MAUNDY THURSDAY	4.00pm 7.30pm	Short Communion (CW) Short Communion (CW)	Broad Chalke Bishopstone	Catherine Blundell Jenny Taylor
2 April GOOD FRIDAY	10.00am 11.00am 12 noon 1.00pm	Outdoor Stations of the Cross Passion Reading & Music Devotional Service Devotional Service	Nunton Alvediston Bishopstone Bowerchalke	Anna-Claar T-Rosingh Lay Led Jenny Taylor C Blundell / R Leake
3 April EASTER EVE	6.00pm 8.00pm	Easter Fire Service Easter Fire Service	Homington Fifield Bavant	Jenny Taylor Roger Leake
4 April EASTER DAY	9.30am 9.30am 9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Communion (BCP) Family Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Family Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Family Communion (CW) Outdoor Service	Alvediston Broad Chalke Bowerchalke Britford Bishopstone Coombe Bissett Berwick St John Ebbesbourne Wake Nunton	Roger Leake Catherine Blundell K R Smith / D Blundell Jenny Taylor Archdeacon of Sarum Jenny Taylor Catherine Blundell Roger Leake Anna-Claar T-Rosingh
				
11 April 2nd Sunday of Easter	9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 3.00pm	Parish Communion (CW) Family Service All Age Service Evening Prayer (BCP)	Bowerchalke Coombe Bissett Alvediston Fifield Bavant	Catherine Blundell Jenny Taylor Biddy Trahair Biddy Trahair
18 April 3rd Sunday of Easter	8.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Morning Prayer (BCP) Parish Communion (CW)	Bowerchalke Bishopstone Berwick St John Ebbesbourne Wake Homington	Roger Leake Jenny Taylor Roger Leake Biddy Trahair Jenny Taylor
25 April 4th Sunday of Easter	9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 12 noon 6.00pm 6.00pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Family Communion + APCM Parish Communion + APCM Holy Communion (BCP) APCM Evening Prayer (BCP) Evening Prayer (BCP)	Berwick St John Broad Chalke Bishopstone Alvediston Ebbesbourne Wake Bowerchalke Homington	Roger Leake Catherine Blundell Jenny Taylor Roger Leake Catherine Blundell Lay Led Jenny Taylor
2 May 5th Sunday of Easter	9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Family Communion (CW) Family Communion (CW)	Broad Chalke Britford Ebbesbourne Wake Coombe Bissett	Catherine Blundell Jenny Taylor Catherine Blundell Jenny Taylor

Ministry Team:

Team Rector ~ The Revd Catherine Blundell: 01722 780134

Team Vicars ~ The Revd Canon Jenny Taylor: 01722 503081, The Revd Dr Anna-Claar Thomasson-Rosingh: 01722 238267

Curate ~ The Revd Roger Leake: 07947149456 Licensed Lay Minister ~ Mr David Blundell: 01722 780134

Team Administrator ~ Mrs Emily Broomhead: 07890 262376

URC Ministers ~ The Revds Ana & Tod Gobledale 01722 330980, The Revd Jackie Lowe: 01722 780008

Assisting Ministers:

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

Lay Worship Leaders:

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



Services in Chalke Valley Benefice - May 2021

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Pattern of services during Lockdown restrictions.

Please follow all the safety rules in church. If the Covid 19 situation changes, services may be cancelled at short notice. Churches will normally be open for private prayer. Please check your church noticeboard and weekly e-bulletin.

2 May 5th Sunday of Easter	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Broad Chalke	Catherine Blundell
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Britford	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	Family Communion (CW)	Ebbesbourne Wake	Catherine Blundell
	11.00am	Family Communion (CW)	Coombe Bissett	Jenny Taylor
9 May 6th Sunday of Easter	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Bowerchalke	Catherine Blundell
	11.00am	Family Service	Coombe Bissett	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	All Age Service	Alvediston	Biddy Trahair
	11.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Berwick St John	Roger Leake
	3.00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)	Fifield Bavant	Biddy Trahair
13 May ASCENSION DAY	6.00am	Dawn Communion (CW)	Lodge Farmhouse	Catherine Blundell
	2.00pm	Primary School Eucharist	Coombe Bissett Church	Jenny Taylor
16 May Sunday after Ascension Day	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Bowerchalke	Catherine Blundell
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Bishopstone	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	Berwick St John	Catherine Blundell
	11.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Ebbesbourne Wake	Biddy Trahair
	11.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	Homington	Jenny Taylor
23 May PENTECOST WHIT SUNDAY	9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Berwick St John	Roger Leake
	9.30am	Family Communion (CW)	Broad Chalke	Catherine Blundell
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Charlton All Saints	Anna-Claar T- Rosingh
	11.00am	Family Service (CW)	Nunton	Anna-Claar T- Rosingh
	11.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	Bishopstone	Anna-Claar T- Rosingh
	11.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Alvediston	Jenny Taylor
	6.00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)	Bowerchalke	Roger Leake
	6.00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)	Homington	Lay Led Jenny Taylor
30 May TRINITY SUNDAY	10.00am	Benefice Communion (CW)	Bowerchalke	Catherine Blundell
	10.00am	Benefice Communion (CW)	Nunton	Anna-Claar T- Rosingh
6 June 1st 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)	Ebbesbourne Wake	Catherine Blundell
	11.00am	Family Communion (CW)	Coombe Bissett	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	Morning Service (CW)	Odstock	Anna-Claar T- Rosingh

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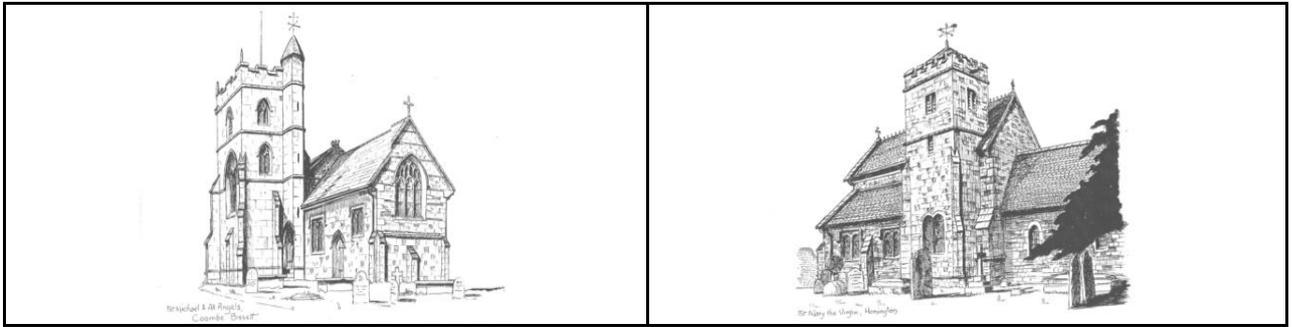
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01722 718152



PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF COOMBE BISSETT WITH HOMINGTON

**The Annual Meeting of Parishioners and the Annual
Parochial Church Meeting will take place in St
Michael's Church, Coombe Bissett at**

7.00 pm on Wednesday 21st of April 2021

Elect churchwardens, members of the PCC and
sidesmen

Hear about our activities and plans for the future.

Give your views on what we should be doing.

All parishioners are warmly invited

Mary Harris
Secretary
718257

Tribute to Dennis Barratt

Very sadly Dennis Barratt died in January after some months of declining health. His family gathered in our church to say farewell and he was laid to rest in our churchyard next to his beloved Edna as he had asked. We will miss his cheery presence and our love and condolences go to his family.

This was his Tribute written by the family. May Dennis Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory.

Dennis was born on 1st April 1931 in East Dulwich, London; he was the only child for his parents George and Florence.

When he was still young, the family left London and settled down in Salisbury in Feversham Road, just off Castle Road, this is where he spent his Childhood, playing in woods , climbing trees, playing in Victoria Park and now and again getting into trouble. He attended the local schools in Salisbury, where he forged his friendship with a couple of other lads who enjoyed cycling, and they would think nothing of having a day out down to Bournemouth, or Poole, and then cycle back.

When Dennis left school he went off and did his National service, and on his return he managed to find a job on the SEB, southern electricity board. His skills in drawing lead him to be a Draughtsman, this involved going out for a couple of weeks on a new building site, and mapping and measuring all the underground electric cables for that area, and then returning back into the office, which was then in Salisbury's new canal. Then he applied all his measurements and readings onto giant maps which were stored and kept for future reference.

When Dennis was in his late 20s, he began dating a young girl called Jeannette, their relationship grew, and they soon married, as a wedding present from Dennis's parents, a plot of land was acquired in Coombe Bissett, and Dennis was able to build a bungalow called La-Casita, Over the years the family grew, and they had three boys, Stephen, Andrew, David. Sadly when the boys were in their teens, the marriage ended, but Dennis was able to keep hold of the bungalow, and the boys remained there until they bought houses of their own.

The years passed, and Dennis's passion for Square Dancing lead him to meet a fellow Dancer called Edna, their friendship grew over the following years, and they both enjoyed dancing in the evenings and going away for weekends in their caravan at dancing events, Their love was strong, and Edna moved in with Dennis, at Coombe Bissett. Many hours were spent in the garden, planting shrubs and flowers,

Edna had retired from work, and when Dennis reached 65, after 45 years of service on the SEB, the caravan was upgraded, and they travelled the length and width of the country, staying away for weeks at a time, dancing and walking and fully enjoying life. For many years their holidays were caravanning, but as they both got older, it became harder to be able to get away, so they were both happy to stay at home more with the family coming to visit and stay.

In 2016 Dennis, and both families, were told of devastating news that Edna had a tumour on the brain through the hard work of Edna's family she was able to be cared for at home and stay with Dennis, but in 2017 after a brave and courageous fight, Edna passed away with Dennis and her family by her side.

Dennis deeply missed Edna, but he kept himself busy in the garden, and was a regular visitor to B&M and Home Bargains for his shopping trips. Dennis also enjoyed his visits to the church, and chapel, where he would have a coffee and some cake, and a good chat with other people.

But with his own health taking a turn for the worse, he was admitted to hospital, and on the 21st January passed peacefully away, to be reunited with Edna, and catch up on those square dancing moves.

Stephen, Andrew, David and the family, would like to thank all the carers that came and cared for Dennis when he was at home, Salisbury District Hospital for their work to make Dennis as comfortable as possible, until he passed peacefully away, Chris White Funeral Directors for their care, support, understanding, and hard work at this difficult time and Canon Jenny Taylor, thank you for all your hard work, in everything you have organised for us, and giving us all, and Dennis a loving and caring service.

Week Ending	TEMPERATURES			RAINFALL	
	Average Daily Maximum Deg C	Average Nightly Minimum Deg C	Average Mean Deg C	Total Inches	
Jan	3	3.2	-0.8	1.2	0.48
	10	2.9	-0.4	1.3	Trace
	17	8.2	4.2	6.2	0.94
	24	6.9	2.4	4.7	1.66
	31	7.3	3.8	5.6	1.56
Feb	7	7.5	3.0	5.3	1.10
	14	1.4	-2.1	-0.4	0.42
	21	10.9	7.3	9.1	1.45
	28	10.9	<u>4.1</u>	7.5	0.09

Monthly Figures

January	6.0	2.1	4.1	4.21
February	7.7	3.1	5.4	<u>3.06</u>
			Year to date rainfall	<u>7.27</u> inches

January

January's temperatures divided more or less equally between cold winter days when the temperature did not exceed 6C and much milder days. The first ten days of the month were cold, continuing the wintry theme which endured during the last week of December. The temperature in this ten day period did not exceed 5C by day and there were five nights below freezing. The coldest temperature of the winter occurred on New Year's Eve when the temperature dropped to -5.4C (22F). There were a couple of bright days in this period, but it was mostly dull and also very dry.

With the exception of one very cold day (max 3C), the next 10 days were mild and often unsettled with rain on most days. A second but much shorter cold spell occurred between 22nd and 26th. The first snowfall of the winter fell in the early hours of 24th but only to a depth of two centimetres. The next couple of days were very cold and the snow laid around in sheltered places until the mild weather and rain returned on 27th. The last day of the month was cold with a maximum of just 2C and with sleet at times.

January's mean temperature of 4.1C meant that we had a rare case, these days, of a colder than average month. The average for January locally since 1987 is 4.9C. It was the coldest January since 2017. The month's rainfall of 4.21 inches was above the average of 3.88 inches. My estimate for sunshine hours was 38 which is half of the average for January and only once have my estimates given rise to a lower total and that was in 1996 when I estimated 31 hours.

February

February started with mild, rainy weather but from 6th to 14th we had a spell of good old fashioned winter thanks to a high pressure system bringing us persistent air from the east. This spell included a rare "freezing" day when the thermometer stayed just below freezing point throughout the day on 8th. Throughout the six days from 8th to 13th the temperature did not

rise above 2C by day and each night produce sharp frosts, the lowest being -4C on the night of 11th/12th. Prolonged snow flurries occurred throughout the day on 9th. It was a real gloves and overcoat day due to a biting easterly. The following morning, we woke to a thin covering of snow to a depth of ½ cm. Thin as it was, it stayed on the ground in sheltered spots for the next four bitterly cold days. This spell of wintry weather managed to put a brake on the advanced growth of the spring flowers which had seen daffodils starting to open in the first week of the month. The weather turned mild once again in the last two weeks of February which saw twelve consecutive nights without frost and temperatures by day reaching as high as 14C on 24th. The combination of the cold spell and the mild spell in February meant that the mean temperature for the month of 5.4 C was spot on the average. It is another example of how misleading a measure “average” can be. The month’s rainfall of 3.1 inches was also spot on the average for February.

WINTER 2020/21

The winter overall was slightly colder than average with a mean of 5.0C (1987 to 2021 average 5.3C). It was the coldest winter since 2010 (4.8C). There were sharp contrasts between the cold spells of late December/early January and the first half of February with the very much milder weather around mid December and in the second half of both January and February.

The winter’s rainfall total of 13.12 inches compares with an average winter total of 11.1 inches. It was the 8th wettest winter in the period since 1987 but its total is a very long way short of last winter’s 18.9 inches and that of 2013/14 with its amazing total of 25.13 inches!

My very rough guesstimates of sunshine hours made it the dullest winter in my records. I estimated a total of 166 hours compared within an average since 1987 of 233 hours. My figures give nothing more than an indication from one year to the next, but I was interested to see from the Met Office charts that this area had between 75 and 85% of normal sunshine hours this winter. My guesstimates made it 71% so perhaps I'm not a million miles off course!

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

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust: Bees, Biodiversity, and B-lines

The bees have recently been declared the most important organisms on the planet, but they have also joined the list of endangered species. Responsible for pollinating food crops and almost 90% of wildflowers, they interact with just about everything in an ecosystem and ultimately support our entire livelihoods. To abate their concerning declines, conservationists have been putting into action a range of projects: from small-scale field studies to creating national networks of wildflower-rich habitats.

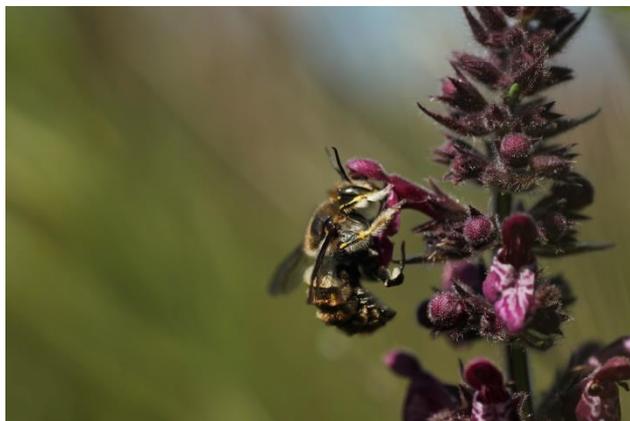
George Allen, from University of Plymouth, studied the biodiversity of bees at Coombe Bissett Down and explored the ecology of some fascinating species, including the wool carder bee, which gets its name from the woolly nest it makes out of plant fibres. For further information about George's research please visit the blog page on the project's website:

<https://www.wiltshirewildlife.org/coombe-bissett-project>

Bees have also been supported by local wildlife projects such as those lead by Rebecca Twigg, including The Secret Garden, Five Rivers community garden, and the creation of the award-winning, interactive Salisbury Bee Trail, which uses a combination of maps and augmented reality, to help people connect with their surrounding wildlife. Rebecca recently delivered an online talk for the Coombe Bissett Down project which explored bee identification and gardening tips for pollinators; a host of informative resources can be explored on her website: www.kingdomofsticks.com

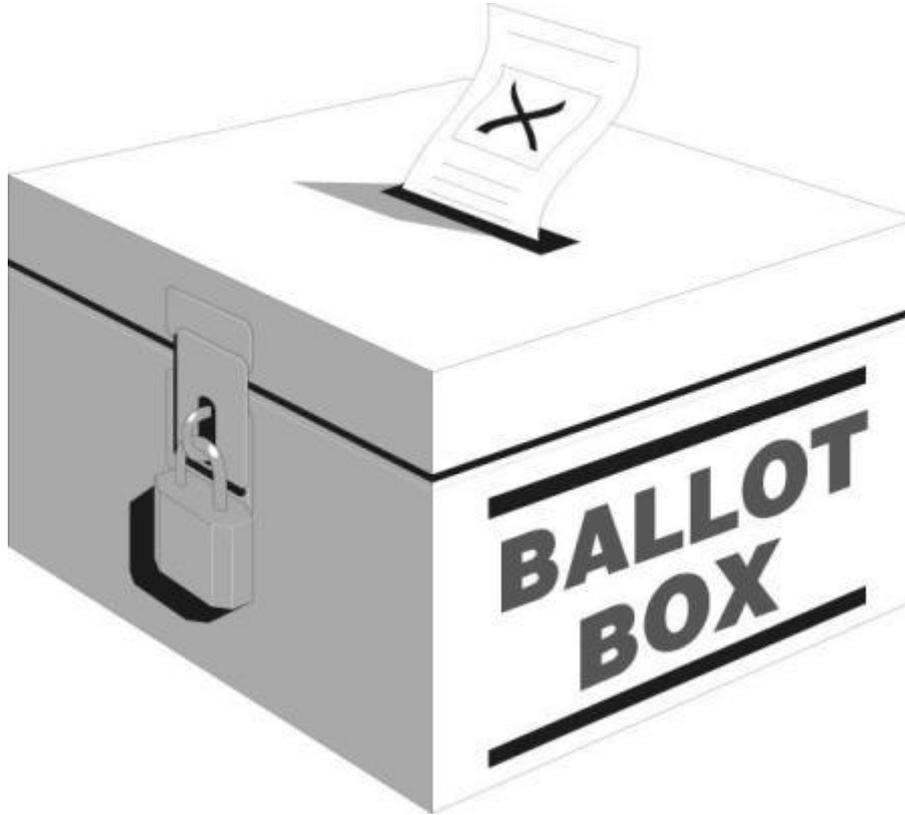
An extraordinarily ambitious programme, led by Buglife, has been creating and restoring a network of 3 kilometre-wide 'insect pathways' that span the entirety of the UK. This 'B-Lines' project helps protect some of our most threatened species and contributes towards the global effort to combat climate change. Coombe Bissett Down forms part of the B-Line network and we will be hosting a talk, led by Buglife's Conservation Officer, Hayley Herridge, on Tuesday 6th April 12 – 12.30pm, which will explore the project and its associated benefits. We are also going to provide free packets of wildflower seeds to our local community to support this project and help create new areas of bee-friendly habitat.

If you are interested in joining our talks, or receiving a free packet of wildflower seed in the post, please get in touch with us at CBDproject@wiltshirewildlife.org.



Would you like to help shape the future of Coombe Bissett
and Homington over the next 5 years?

**Parish Council elections take place on
Thursday 6 May 2021.**



Would you like to join the Parish Council?

There is at least one vacancy for a councillor due to a resignation from the Parish Council and all other current councillors will be up for re-election.

Parish councillors liaise with Wiltshire Council on a number of matters including planning where they have an advisory role.

If you would like to nominate yourself as a prospective parish councillor you will need a proposer and a seconder.

Please contact the Parish Clerk for more details.

Phone: 01722 718 562 E-mail: parishclerkcoombebissett@gmail.com



Don Hewlett 01722 741354

Coombe Bissett & Homington Cricket Club

Hope springs eternal, in looking forward to a full season of cricket at Shutts Lane. Providing, that is, Boris's boat laden with the lock down measures, doesn't sail into stormy waters.

Given the go ahead, our club will be able to hit the ground running, as Ian has been hard at work, preparing the hallowed square, and the whole playing field is looking magnificent for this early part of the year.

We have a full fixture list for the season, starting on Sunday the 25th of April, through to the 12th of September. Seventeen matches at Shutts Lane, together with five away. This year, we travel to Wookey Hole on the 11th of July, and to the lovely ground at Stourhead the following week.

Unfortunately, we have been forced to cancel the Jazz Evening on the 29th of May, as this would contravene covid restrictions, but hopefully we will be able to go ahead with the match against the Chairman's X1. If not, we will try to arrange both events later in the year. Watch this space for details, as this will be our main fund-raising event to booster our funds, as they have taken a right old belting, due to the Covid crisis.

As ever, our club will welcome any new players, from fourteen to aged, especially younger people. Please get in touch if you fancy pulling on the whites, and playing for this very friendly club. We will be doing a spring clean on Sunday morning the 11th April at 10am, come along and meet the team. Spectators are am always.welcome, so join us for a cup of tea, and a slice of cake on match days.

Join Coombe Bissett & Homington Cricket Club Facebook page, for news, gossip and updates.



Know your Neighbours

With lockdown v3.0 firmly underway it has been quite difficult to find a suitable, willing, and able resident. But luckily, I have one for this edition, who can it be?

Who Am I?

Born on a farm near Gillingham, Dorset in the days when tractors were not around to help with the farm work but horses, or 'husses' (Dorset accent). Our resident was asked to turn the hay one day while her father had to do the milking. Sat on the metal seat with the machinery behind the horse, she thought she had finished the field, when her dad came to inspect, 'You missed abit' he commented 'you need to go back round and do the edge' Off she went again, only she went too close to the barbed wire fence. It got caught up in one of the tines and started chewing up the fence. This frightened the horse. A helper in the field heard the commotion and came running over to help, 'better get this sorted before your Father sees' He managed to rectify the barbed wire fence and pull it back together, but the machinery always stayed abit bent!



At 11 years old our resident was sent to a C of E convent school run by nuns. Once confirmed the girls had to attend Chapel or Church four times a day on Sundays wearing veils and had incense every morning. One morning our resident forgot her prayer book, so she sneaked back into the Chapel to retrieve it but was caught by a passing nun. She was severely chastised for entering the Chapel without wearing a veil. Saturdays were letter writing day. These had to be left unsealed and were often censored and deceptive, e.g., 'having a lovely a time' School life were not happy days for our resident so when she left at 16yrs and got a job in a poultry farm she could not have been happier.

She lived in Woodsford Castle, near Dorchester, now owned by English Heritage. 3 years later she got a job for a growing firm called F&G Sykes (Poultry breeders) performing post mortems on chickens then later, giving and organising vaccinations to chickens throughout Wilts, Hants and Dorset, describing it as 'the best job, ever'



Having upgraded from her scooter to a mini van, running late one day and having had to stop for a coal lorry, our resident had to catch up on time. So, travelling at some speed raced onto work and pulled in at the yard. Shortly after followed by the police, 'Do you know how fast you were going?' they question her 'I know I was going quite fast' she replied. '90mph! but as you're on private property we won't be able to charge you, consider this as a caution'.

A letter of warning went out to all employees stating 'a female driver was caught speeding' but as our resident was the only female employee it did not take much to work out who it was.

It was while she was here that our resident met her husband to be and they got married in 1966....

Give Up?

Rita Coombs left F&G Sykes in 1966. Her and Noel bought a small holding in Compton Abbas where she reared batches of calves. Unfortunately, Rita's dad had a massive heart attack so they were called back to cover the family farm, near Gillingham, while he recovered.

In 1968 Rita and Noel had a son, Rob, Rita's parents had just moved to Zeals and the family farm was up and running, back on track. Rita's sister and husband took over, so Rita and Noel moved to West Grimstead to start a small haulage firm as buying a farm was not affordable.

They had 2 more sons, Jeff and Ted. Rita was working around the boys at home. Taking phone calls for the lorries on the landline so she could not go out. The family outgrew West Grimstead and moved to Sillens, Coombe Bissett in 1977 where they had plenty of space for the boys to grow, have friends to play and the business to expand.

Rita remembers her late neighbour, Hedley Farries, who had a skip business, where the boys had their eye on an old 'grannie' moped in one, 'take it on' Hedley said to them. They and their mates managed to get it going, basket on the front and basket on the back. They tried to break it, recalls Rita, made ramps, jumps etc. But it just would not die.

Now the boys have grown up, Rita enjoys seeing her grand children and great children chasing around the paddock.

Family plays a big part in Rita's life along side her dogs and her love of knitting and DIY skills. Roll on the lifting of lockdown restrictions to bring on the re-opening of Grannie Reets 5* Café to family members on Sunday afternoons with her selection of random pick an mix selection ranging from salt and vinegar chipsticks, chicken korma and flapjacks to apple and blackberry crumble.



Quick Fire Q&A

1. What was/is your nick name? *Raisin, by Dad as I stole them from the cooking cabinet*
2. If you could time travel, when would you go? *My childhood days at the farm*
3. What is your pet hate? *When you find something broken and no one owns up to it*
4. What is your favourite TV programme? *Yorkshire Vet*
5. What do you like most about living in CB & H? *The space and views of where we live*
6. What is the silliest way you have been injured? *When I was 9 yrs old I rode into the back of a coal lorry while talking to my sister on my bike. Winded myself. I had to carry my bike all the home as the front wheel was totally buckled.*
7. Where is your favourite place in the world? *Dorset, Ringstead Bay as it's quiet*
8. What is your favourite food/dish? *Roast beef, Yorkshire pudding with all the trimmings*
9. What is the best piece of advice you have received? *Don't buy anything unless you can afford it*
10. Would you rather..... have a dog with a cats personality or a cat with a dogs personality? *A cat with a dogs personality although I'm not a cat person I would want to be able to take it out for walks*

Thanks to Rita Coombs

Interviewed by Rachel Coombs



COOMBE BISSETT AND HOMINGTON VILLAGE HALL

April and May 2021

Looking forward to Mid-Summer Re-Opening

Our reading of the Government's road map out of the Coronavirus jungle is that all legal limits on social contact and restrictions on the number of people who can attend public events will be lifted no sooner than 21st June 2021. If that proves to be the case then we would expect that the Village Hall will be back in business to welcome all the normal events and activities immediately after that date. Meanwhile we must just be patient and see how things progress!

During the lockdown the committee has been busy working through a programme of small scale tasks to improve the appearance of the Hall and the available facilities. You will have noticed new signage at the front of the building. We plan to treat the external wood fascias to improve their appearance and extend their life. A length of soffit boards are to be replaced and some internal and external areas are to be painted. Around Easter time, works are planned to complete the tarmacking of the car park near the kitchen and provide a new hard surface route for wheelchairs leading from the patio ramp. We have already purchased new tables to replace the rather tired old baize topped card tables. A new hot water system is planned to provide almost instant hot water to both the kitchen and bar and much larger capacity of cylinder. We hope to improve the lighting in the Homington Room and the front hall area. Some other ideas are still in gestation!

We look forward to being able to invite you all back into the Hall by Mid-Summer Day!!!

Don Morgan Chair of the Village Hall Management Committee.

VILLAGE CINEMA

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

Remember ,

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

hall@coombebissett.com

**MINUTES OF COOMBE BISSETT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD VIRTUALLY ON
TUESDAY 09 MARCH 2021 (unconfirmed)**

Present: Councillors: D Rattue, D Hobson, P Crosthwaite, C Chelu, S Gledhill, A Bird and G Bundy.
N Heron (Clerk). Wiltshire Cllr. R Clewer.

82 Apologies for absence - none

83 Public Question Time – no questions

84 Minutes of the last meeting – the minutes were proposed by G Bundy, seconded by C Chelu and accepted by all as a true record.

85 Declaration of interest – G Bundy declared an interest in the Neighbourhood Development Plan and C Chelu declared an interest in the refused application at Penvale, Stratford Tony Road. They will therefore not take part in any Parish Council considerations.

86 **Matters arising:**

2021/2022 Budget: The 2021/22 budget was presented by the clerk. A Bird proposed that the budget was accepted, P Crosthwaite seconded and all were in favour of the proposal.

Neighbourhood Development Plan: S Gledhill advised that it will be necessary for the NDP to go through a Strategic Environment Assessment and it will be at least another two months until the next official consultation. The steering group is completing the current draft of the plan.

Bollards across bridleway: G Bundy has been given all the required information from WC and will liaise with the clerk so that the bollards can be purchased.

Donkey Field: The Donkey field is still flooded so the contractor is unable to commence the fence work. C Chelu has contacted the water board for information and there is no evidence of a leak. A new spring may have opened up allowing more water into the field.

Speed indicator device: The latest SID report is on the website. C Chelu reported that there are some glitches and therefore some of the very high reported speeds might be incorrect. A Turnbull has contacted the manufacturer of the device for advice. G Bundy reported that it might be possible to resume Speedwatch from 12 April.

Cemetery Policy: G Bundy has updated the cemetery policy, S Gledhill proposed, P Crosthwaite seconded and all were in favour that the policy should be adopted.

Playground repairs: A Bird presented several quotes for woodchip. S Gledhill proposed, seconded by C Chelu that we purchase top up woodchip in bags from CPA Horticulture no earlier than June so that volunteers can lay the woodchip within social distancing rules. All were in favour to proceed on this basis. A Bird also reported that a damaged tree plaque needs replacing and all agreed that a slate effect commemorative plaque can be purchased at a cost of £115.00.

87 **Parking on Recreation Field:** Cricket Club 25 April; 02 May

88 **Parking on Donkey Field:** none

89 **Notices on Donkey Field/beech tree:** none

90 **Correspondence received:**

- Cohanim Architecture – several emails re conflict of interest, site viability, validation issue and design amendments; the Parish Council will respond in due course and S Gledhill has submitted a further response to the amended plans to Wiltshire Council.
- CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) – invitation to enter Best Kept Village Competition; due to the volume of work required the Parish Council will not be taking part.
- Mrs D James – request to relinquish responsibility for Recreation Ground key; the Parish Council will make alternative arrangements and the Clerk will liaise with the Village Hall Committee.

- Mrs P Crosthwaite – letter of resignation sent to the Chairman; D Rattue thanked P Crosthwaite for all her hard work, time and effort, she will be sorely missed by the Parish Council.

91 Planning

Application Ref: 21/02129/TCA – trees in a Conservation Area

Proposal:- 1. Ash reduce in height and rid of dead wood.

2. Beech - safety reasons, reduce in height

3. Cherry reduce in height .

Reduce by up to 30% to clear power cables.

At: Bridge House, Salisbury Road, Coombe Bissett, SP5 4LE

Application Ref: 21/01329/FUL

Proposal:- Erect 1 no. dwelling; form new access from Shutts Lane and associated development

At: Land adjacent to Footes House, Homington Road, Coombe Bissett, SP5 4LY

Application Ref: 20/10975/FUL – AMENDED PLANS

Proposal:- Stabilisation of existing quarry embankment utilising piling system to part of site. Retaining of existing quarry embankment with Geocell system and anchoring system to part of site. Excavation and removal of made ground. Remediation works to existing soil structures. Erection of: 3 x residential structures (forming 6 x units), associated parking, associated landscaping. Erection of: 3 rammed-earth artificial hills between units.

At: Churchill Place, Old Blandford Road, Coombe Bissett, Salisbury

Application Ref: 21/00684/FUL

Proposal:- Proposed redevelopment of outbuilding to residential dwelling with amenity area and parking

At: Greenacres Farm, Rockbourne Road, Coombe Bissett, SP5 4LP

Application Ref: 21/00845/FUL

Proposal:- Conversion of existing outbuilding in the countryside to residential dwelling with parking and amenity area

At: Greenacres Farm, Rockbourne Road, Coombe Bissett, SP5 4LP

Planning approved:

Application Ref: 21/00039/FUL

Proposal:- Proposed demolition of site shop and construction of replacement site shop

At: Coombe Nurseries Touring Caravan Park, The Race Plain, Netherhampton, SP2 8PN

Application Ref: 21/00427/TCA – work to trees in a cons area

Proposal:- T1 Yew reduce by 1/3

At: The Croft, Homington Road, Coombe Bissett, SP5 4LR

Application Ref: 20/09371/FUL

Proposal:- To build a garage/hobby room in the garden.

At: Greenacres Farm, Hardy House, Rockbourne Road, Coombe Bissett, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP5 4LP

Application Ref: 20/02659/FUL – approved with conditions

Proposal: New dwelling

At: Land adjacent to Ebble Cottage Blandford Road Coombe Bissett Salisbury Wilts SP5 4LP

Application Ref: 20/10621/CLE - Certificate of Lawfulness

Proposal:- Use of land to the rear of Penvale as a domestic garden for a period greater than 10 years

At: Penvale, Stratford Tony Road, Coombe Bissett, SP5 4JZ

Application Ref: 20/09874/FUL – approved with conditions

Proposal:- Proposed detached garage and store

At: Pennings Farm, Pennings Drove, Coombe Bissett, SP5 4NB

Application Ref: 20/10352/TCA – work to trees in conservation area

Proposal:- Cherry and Norway maple (G1) - reduce crowns by up to 3 metres, to previous pruning points and/or suitable growth points.

At: Martins, Stratford Tony Road, Coombe Bissett, SP5 4LE

Application Ref: 20/09816/FUL – approved with conditions
Proposal:- Single storey hardwood conservatory to rear elevation.
At: Shepherds Cottage, Barbers Lane, Homington, SP5 4NG
Planning refused:

Application Ref: 20/09748/FUL

Proposal:- Erection of rear single-storey extension (Part-retrospective)
At: Penvale, Stratford Tony Road, Coombe Bissett, SP5 4JZ

Planning appeals:

Appellants name: Mr and Mrs Royle

Proposal: Certificate of lawfulness for works to main barn and agricultural building including new metal sheet roofing, new concrete floors and blockwork walls reclad in existing metal sheet cladding.

At: Cranbourne Farm Barn, Blandford Road, Coombe Bissett, SP5 4LF

92 Reports from representatives

Flood Warden – Pippa has heard from environment agency about the Ebble project, there is a meeting on 18 March which D Parsons will attend.

Police Report – Matt Holland who has been a considerable asset to our community over a long period of time has retired. We are very grateful to him and wish him well in the future.

93 Finance

Balance on Accounts as at 09/03/21

Current £14,622.08

Reserve £32,141.98

Total £46,764.06 (of which £2622.65 is NDP balance)

CBCP Outgoings 08/01.21 to 08/03/21

27/01/21	A Bird	RI outgoing Clerk Gift	£50.00
27/01/21	Cricket Club	Rec Field Grass 2020	£475.00
27/02/21	Bawden	Grass January	£133.42
27/02/21		Office Expenses	£652.96
03/03/21	A Bird	RI Safety Sign	£20.16
03/03/21	Bawden	Annual Hedge Cut	£486.00

CBPC Income 08/01/21 to 08/03/21

29/01/21	Nat West	Interest	£0.26
22/02/21	HMRC	VAT Refund	£510.00
26/02/21	NatWest	Interest	£0.25

The parish council noted the previously agreed monthly expenditure.

94 Date of next meeting: 11 May 2021 at 1900

95 The meeting closed at: 2050

Memories of my Life by Ron Shorland (Part 3) - The Perfect Gentleman

A big blot at this period was my dear Ruth had an internal examination and was advised that what caused her problems could develop into something far more serious and she needed to have a hysterectomy. This was done and after she came home I got special leave to look after her. When she felt able, we walked up the road outside the caravan site, at first the distance between two lamp posts, as she recovered we did two more each day, by the end of the week we were up to 10 and she felt well enough for me to go back to work. My annual leave allowance was five weeks, three in the summer and two in the winter. The chaps in charge of the leave register should have docked me one week, but surprise, surprise, it didn't happen, the benefits of good buddies.

The firm Ruth worked for was Elliot Automation one of the first computer manufacturers in this country. They were taken over by The General Electric Company from Wembley and some of the Wembley employees were transferred to Boreham Wood which they greatly resented, they made the life of the Elliot people most unhappy with their snide remarks and refusal to integrate. As much as Ruth liked the work she did, she resigned and left the job. On the site where we lived Ruth was friendly with a lady who was a telephone operator and she talked Ruth in to applying for a job, as I have said the phone service was part of the Post Office, so she had to take an exam. She did so well she was taken on as a clerical officer, better pay and better hours. Her office was at New Barnet it was handy as a bus stopped almost outside the site and likewise on the way home. We were happy in our jobs and decided to take a holiday. I let Ruth decide where, almost knowing it would be in the Mediterranean, right; she chose Greece. I had passed it in the Navy but never landed there. We had a package holiday everything arranged for us, the air trip, the hotel with full board and on landing at Athens, transport to take us to our hotel, several other people on the plane were on the same package as us. There were arranged excursions which were extras but not expensive. We went to Delphi famous for the Oracles, we had a guide who read to us, but it was quite windy so we missed some of it. We went to Corinth where St Paul was said to have read his epistle to the Corinthians. Most impressive was Corinth Canal cut through solid rock and in places the sides several hundred feet high. But best of all we went on a ship called Meltemi to visit two of the small, 'there in a day and back', islands. I still have two of the plates we bought on my sitting room wall. We had a packed lunch each day and if we were back in time an evening meal.

Things seemed to be going nicely when our Union called a strike, it was over money. We hadn't had a rise in our basic pay for three years but the union's case was the cost of living index had moved up several points. Edward Heath the Prime Minister at the time, poured petrol on the fire saying in a speech that we were already paid more than our job warranted. Ruth's side of the Post Office was not called out. I have never thought that strikes solved anything, in the end it's a matter of compromise by both sides. I did take part in a march from Golders Green in N.W, London to Hyde Park. I thought our Union boss would have a prepared speech to deliver to us but he never turned up. That was my total participation. I could see this taking a long time. In the end it took six weeks.

I contacted my landscape gardener friend, he said come on down, I have a big job on – right up your street it turned out to be in the Bishop Avenue at Hampstead. I have mentioned this in my previous writing. There was a large open air swimming pool at the rear of the property quite a wide terrace between it and the house and a wide paved area round it, this was the job. Though my friend had the job of keeping the garden tidy the pool hadn't been used or maintained because he knew it was not likely the owner would be turning up.

Our supervising staff at Barnet had their own equivalent of a union, theirs was called association. During the strike they took over the supply of cash and stock to the sub Post Offices such as the one we had in our village, there were plenty in our area perhaps 30. The aforesaid on reconciling the main stocks found there was an exact £1,000 discrepancy, the wrong side. People of my grade, but not me, were asked to check the figures and came to the same conclusion. It must have been cash because stock always came to an inexact figure. So some sub-postmaster had a lucky windfall and failed to return it or there was an opportunist among the managers. It had not been solved when I transferred from Barnet. During the strike undelivered mail piled up. The red pillar boxes were blocked but business still sent their usual mail most of it collected but not by our drivers who belonged to our union and were all out with us. But that mail was bagged and stored, much of it at Mount Pleasant, this was an enormous place which received much of London's posted mail and of Southern England on the east side. It was vast, I saw the inside of it when I was a postman and we sometimes took unsorted mail there, opened at hatch and tipped it onto a moving belt, through the hatch you could see hundreds of sorters trying to cope. There was so much mail, the Post Office hired several large halls in London to store the mail until eventually it would be dealt with. Once back at work, we were offered an advance of pay, I was the only who deferred. The serving counter had two positions blanked off so six clerks did the work of the previous eight. We had been forewarned that TV records were about to be

computerised and three clerks we had brought back from retirement to help us out of the previous mess our system had been in had been dispensed with. I managed to get on re-employed; with no work having been done on the system there was a lot to be done to transfer every vestige to Liverpool where the computer was based. All we got was a list of addresses to visit; I was delighted to reply to one batch of 24 with the terse reply, "All single story business premises no residential accommodation". I thought put that in your pipe and smoke it. But the general atmosphere of the office seriously went downhill and I wanted out.

Ruth's mother who was a widow and lived in a big old farmhouse kept in touch by telephone but we found it difficult to visit and this worried Ruth so I came up with the idea, why don't I apply to transfer to an office closer to home. Blandford, where Mum was, was not a Head Office and a chance to transfer there was practically nil. But with Westley and her sister Patsy living here, I applied to come to Salisbury. My personnel office told me it might take me a long while but in just over two months Salisbury was willing to take me on. Ruth had to resign her job but I told her not to take her pension contributions which she could have done in case the Telephone Service had an office in Salisbury and lo and behold they did have, more of that later.

My boss at Barnet was a man called Georg Mahn, he was a bit of an enigma, he was married with a beautiful baby girl, a nice wife who sometimes came into the office at lunch time, they went out presumably to have something to eat etc. It was rumoured he was engaged in an extra marital and I thought silly man, to put in jeopardy what he already had. On my last day he took me out for a drink, he got quite emotional, thanked me for my effort in helping to get the TV office up to scratch, I reminded him there were five of us involved. He gave me the afternoon off to go down to the main office which was a separate building from mine, to say good bye to the typists, who had plenty of work from me from the prosecutions. I had achieved, I was told, in excess of 100. I knew most of the staff and they seemed sorry to see me go one of them was Julie, one of the people who chauffeured me when I was making my evening visits, she insisted in a kiss on the lips. So farewell Barnet, hello Salisbury. I went on summer leave before starting there.

When I first saw the house down here I almost thought of going back to Barnet. It is positioned along a lane which leads to Stratford Tony, the last one of four. That was the one good point. The plot is on a slope and a great chunk had been removed to build it. It wasn't built for me but to house someone to help on the farm. It had been empty for some time. I think a better plan would have been to build it into the slope. Perhaps a garage and a store room and from the front height and at that level the floor would have joined the slope without removing all that spoil. There were no steps leading up to the house that was a priority so I went to Norlostone at Winterslow to buy stone and sand and cement. The stone was Kentish Ragstone, not shaped but cheap. I had done some stonework when I did landscaping but having to shape each piece slowed my progress but I had the steps done before I went back to work. Working on a Post Office counter was the same everywhere in the country; the main difference is the people who work in them. I think Londoners are unique, London is a huge cosmopolitan metropolis you could put Salisbury in it thirty or more times. I am talking about when I came here in 1974, Salisbury was like an Oasis in a desert, I loved the accent and I found myself picking up some of the jargon. Because of my experience I sometimes had periods off the counter and I liked manning the enquiry desk. The bible we used was the Post Office Guide with a section for every country which told you, what services were available, the customs form to use for packets or parcels and some items that were banned. The one which most users found it hard to believe was that the United States did not accept registered or insured mail and to prove it I let them read the instruction for themselves. I had a few days doing TV evasions visits at Shaftesbury and Salisbury we did not do evening calls and we never found anyone at home on a daytime call.

I realised I was heading for retirement. I never got bored at work and one or two things in my memory stand out. We had one chap who came in and said. "Do you sell durex?" We told him where to go but he was Australian and told us it was the transparent sticky tape they used to secure parcels. Another highlight was the Solstices at Stonehenge when we were invaded by the visitors and most armed with a green giro cheque. The cheques were made payable at a designated office and we were warned that if we paid a cheque that was not for us and it turned out to be fraudulent we were out. Also cheques for £50 or more had to prove their identity. The altercations which took place were fierce and too many to count. If we could have a shilling for every time the F word was used we could have all retired millionaires. One poor boy hit our glass screen, they were laminated with three sheets of thick glass, and he cracked the first sheet but walked away severely chastened. A bit unkind we called them the sick, lame and lazy.

Ruth being six years older than me retired those years before me and found it hard going, doing a bit of shopping, sometimes if the bus times suited meeting me in town for a glass of wine. We did manage for Ruth and her sister, Patsy, to have a holiday in Spain, they both needed a change of scenery and this did the trick. I soldiered on doing any odd job

which my overseer wanted help with, a bit of an anti-climax. There was one serious happening when there was an attempted raid on the office. When we opened there was a strong smell of smoke which we investigated, the smoke came from what used to be our accounts office, no longer used since we were no longer a head office. The raiders had covered two windows with 3 ply boards and set about cutting into the large safe they succeeded only to find nothing in it.

When I reached 60 I could have retired but had the chance to stay on and deal with inquiries but while I worked on my pension was determined at the age sixty. For a couple of years I had a salary and pension but I did a simple sum and realised I was working a day and a bit for the tax man, so called it a day. As well as my pension we were paid a bonus which came from my pension contributions. It was generous and I asked Ruth if she would like to go on a cruise but she declined. So I let her choose, we never had separate money. Pay off our mortgage, good idea, my choice, double glazing to save me painting which is not my favourite pastime.

Once retired, gave one time to do all those things you never got around to while working. I still had a lot of wall building and path laying to finish but all work and no joy doesn't make a happy boy. We were lucky to have friends at the end of our lane and often went out with them to Mudeford and the New Forest. We also loved going to Stourhead, visits to the Playhouse in Salisbury where some very well-known actors and actresses appeared. Many visits to the Jade Chinese restaurant in Exeter Street, excellent cuisine and my favourite was sweet banana fritters in a lemon flavoured cream sauce.

Ruth's health was worrying she suffered from nose bleeds which on two occasions she was hospitalized because of their severity. On another occasion she had bad stomach cramps and was prescribed bed rest and ibuprofen. She didn't respond and I got so worried I got the doctor to visit, it was a locum, a nice lady and she took Ruth's blood pressure and straight away phoned for an ambulance. She explained to me that Ruth had been bleeding internally because of the ibuprofen and her life could have been in danger if I hadn't called. The hospital suspected that Ruth's kidneys could have been the cause of her troubles. A kidney specialist called at the hospital monthly to see patients with kidney problems and so Ruth got to see him. He first asked to see her prescription list; one item he queried had been prescribed when she had gout quite a long time ago. When he found out how long she had been taking it he nearly exploded, he explained once the gout cleared she should not have taken anymore. Her doctor had told her she would have to take it for the rest of her life. The specialist asked me the name of her doctor and he said, "Bloody man needs shooting". Ruth had a scan it was found she had only seventh of normal kidney function. She had a slight operation to some veins so that she could be dialysed. I think she knew and I knew this was the start of the last chapter of her life, the chances of a transplant was nil. Every week on Monday, Wednesday and Friday she was taken to Portsmouth hospital to lie on a bed for six hours, from 9am to 3pm, leaving home at 7.30am back home at 5pm. She asked me to let her go. How could you say yes when you had 43 years of living and loving to remember, but the hospital saved me by not allowing her to come home. On the last day I visited she was so sedated she opened her eyes for a few second then closed them.

I got a phone call at 2am on the 11th November 2003 to say she had died. I didn't see her body at the undertakers and I didn't want her ashes after her cremation I preferred my memories of her in her prime. What a lucky man I had been. I am asked often what the secret of old age is, I always give the same answer, "Don't smoke and marry the right woman,"

I hope I haven't bored you.....

CCTV

David Germain 718531

If you have a CCTV at your house (maybe just for the front door) or Business the Police would like you to tell them for the benefit of the community. It may just provide the support they need when searching for offenders or missing persons.

Please register yours via Community Messaging on www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk and tick CCTV Operator/Owners box.



Coombe Bissett and Homington Show Saturday 17th July 2021

Following Boris' roadmap announcement a few weeks ago, we are very optimistic that this year's Show will go ahead. The committee are full steam ahead with organisation, and we hope there will be lots of new exhibitors as people have learned new growing skills during lockdown!

The schedule is included in this edition of the CB&H Express. We already had the schedules printed ready for last year, so please forgive us for re-using them for this year's Show. The Show last year was planned for 4th July, so don't be surprised to see a few American references dotted throughout.

A slight alteration is the Westley Cole Cup. This is a stand-alone category, with its own trophy, and this year we will be awarding it to the Best Lockdown Banana Bread, as a nod to all those cooks who baked during lockdown. So, stockpile your flour again, and enter this class!

The Show will, of course, abide by any government social distancing rules which are in place at the time. Announcements will be made via email, the Coombe Bissett Website, and the Coombe Bissett Show Facebook page if restrictions are changed.

We can't wait to see you all in July.

Abigail Bird 718645

Coombe Bissett Stores – the story so far.

Charles May: owner

I've been asked to write a brief overview of Coombe Bissett Stores, which will hopefully give you a few insights of where we came from, what we do and perhaps where we're going.

After working at Ringwood Brewery, back in 2000 I had just come back from a year driving overland to Australia (that story will have to wait until another day) and was walking around Salisbury looking for a job. Oddbins were advertising for a delivery driver, and it turned out to be perfect for me. I was able to engage directly with customers, both in the shop and while delivering, offer high standards of customer service, lots of learning about the wines, spirits and other products, and, most importantly, regular tasting sessions! However, with a set list of products we had to turn away customers who were looking for something a bit out of the ordinary, and we were unable to offer beers from any of the excellent local craft breweries, which as a real ale drinker and enthusiast I found very frustrating.

In 2003 I'd decided that I wanted to have my own business and the idea of a specialist beer shop and grocer was born. In September 2003 I opened Abbey Stores in Salt Lane Salisbury. We soon found ourselves busy with a wide range of specialist real ales and other beers (around 100 at any one time), draught cider, a range of interesting spirits and a selection of fine foods and gifts. We also sold sandwiches, groceries, milk and were probably one of the first shops to offer Ecover refills. We were a village shop in the centre of the city, trying hard not to be just another convenience store.

We were interested in expanding into a second shop, and our search was still on when one of our existing customers came in one Monday morning and after a brief chat, he explained that the village shop in Coombe Bissett would soon come on the market and would we be interested in running the business?

It didn't take long to decide that this was the perfect opportunity, it was an established business, close, but not too close to Salisbury and with parking. With the existing owner retiring the building had been purchased by a consortium of villagers who were determined not to lose their local shop. They had decided not to run it themselves as a "community shop" with volunteers and a paid manager, so in January 2008 I became the proud owner of Coombe Bissett Stores. A full internal refurbishment brought the interior up to date and I installed new refrigeration and computerised tills. The Post Office was also transferred onto the shop counter, meaning that any member of staff can work on either shop transactions or at the Post Office, occasionally at the same time!

Over the years we have built up the business and increased the stock lines and variety of products sold. The original Abbey Stores closed in 2011 when the lease on that building ran out.

In 2014 the shop was threatened with being flooded when groundwater rose to unprecedented levels all around us; thankfully, unlike several other properties close by, we were not flooded. The continuing challenge is from the inevitable rise of the supermarkets, who seem to be determined to suck the lifeblood out of the surrounding areas with their huge out of town megastores and home shopping delivery vans.

We have always offered a free delivery service in Coombe Bissett, nearby villages and Salisbury itself. We continue to diversify our offering, covering all the essentials such as bread, milk, cereal, eggs and the like alongside more interesting foods and products that cannot be found so easily elsewhere or in the supermarkets. I think that a village shop should offer a bit of everything from the ordinary to the exciting and we try extremely hard to keep that in mind when sourcing new products.

When Covid came along last year all these elements came together when suddenly the supermarkets couldn't cope with the demands being placed on them from all directions. We were able to assist by ramping up our customer home deliveries, bringing in extra stock from new suppliers, dealing with orders for collection, coping with the extra mail volumes through the Post Office and, most importantly, keeping an eye on some of our more vulnerable customers in the community. I must pay tribute to my wonderful team: Alice, Bruce, Carol, Mary, Reece and Sam, who are the backbone of the business. Thank you all, it is a pleasure to work with you.

It is gratifying to see that many of our older customers are now receiving their first or even second vaccinations, a light on the horizon for all those struggling during this very tough time.

If you would like to see for yourself what we are all about, please visit in person or request a home delivery or collection order and we will do our best to help.

Coombe Bissett Stores and Post Office is open Monday to Friday 7am to 6pm and Saturday 7am to 1pm. Please email collection or delivery requests to shop@coombebissettstores.co.uk or phone 01722 718852. We look forward to hearing from you.





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

So, as we reflect on a full year of Coronavirus, lockdowns and restrictions is there light at the end of the tunnel?

By the time you read this we would have been closed for eight months out of twelve, and the months that we were open, we were under tight restrictions which severely impacted on the business to operate profitably. We can honestly say that if it wasn't for the Government grants to help businesses during lockdown, we would not be here now writing this newsletter.

However, the vaccine programme has gone tremendously and is well on target to vaccinate most of the vulnerable groups. The Government has proposed a "Road map" with dates to come out of lockdown and begin to get back to some sort of normality

Pubs can only open using Beer gardens or outside areas from April 12th. From May 17th customers will be allowed inside, probably with some sort of restrictions in place. From June 21st all restrictions could be lifted. This all depends on various conditions such as transmission rates, covid related deaths and hospital admissions.

As far as the Fox and Goose is concerned, we will not be opening on the 12th April for a couple of reasons.

One being that the Government can, a week before these dates advise that transmission and death rates are still too high and extend lockdown and could amend these dates. In our case if we wanted to open on the 12th April, we would have had to purchase food and drink ready for opening the week before and thereby once again possibly face the prospect of throwing away food and drink products which we cannot afford and will not do so again, as the last time we locked down we threw away over a thousand pounds worth of stock.

Secondly, although last April during lockdown the weather was fantastic, the great British weather cannot be guaranteed to produce this fine weather again. If we were to have a cool or rainy period of weather in April, we would only be able to seat approximately 24 customers under our covered patio and this is not viable.

So, we are looking at opening on Monday 26th April when we can confirm that a lockdown has not been extended and that, as we are nearer the month of May the weather will be better and it will only be a couple of weeks to go before we can let people inside again. Although not confirmed as yet the probable opening times will be from 12 noon until 9 pm whilst only the outside areas are being used.

We will continue to offer our Take Aways on Friday and Saturday and we would like to thank everyone who has supported us during these few difficult months.

Due to us being in lockdown, there isn't a lot of news to tell you about, however for those that didn't hear Kayla and Ash are the proud parents of a little boy named Theodore (otherwise known as Dave). We are all pleased for them and I'm sure you will all get see them all soon.

We would like to thank everyone for their support during lock down and hope that by the next newsletter in June we will have better news to write about.

Keep well and best regards
Keith and Sue

Westbury 19.9.75 – 2.3.76 Ocean Transport 20.5.76 – 2.4.77

For the next couple of years I worked on two ships as chief officer and for most of the time it was mostly enjoyable. The voyages were from two and a half to three and a half months down to Uruguay, Brazil and Argentina. Neither of the ships had refrigeration space for cargo so it was all general cargo. Loading in the UK was an easy job as we had a cargo superintendent to plan and load cargos nearly all the time in Liverpool. From time to time I had to work out the stability and drafts at each arrival and sailing from discharge ports. These were in Salvador, Brazil, Vitoria, Paranagua, Itasai, Santos and Rio de Janeiro. Also Uruguay. Montevideo, Argentina, Buenos Aires and Rosario (up the River Plata).

Both these ships, the Ocean Transport and the Westbury were well fitted out with discharge and loading gear. The Westbury had sixteen derricks and the Ocean Transport twenty. So maximum for Westbury was eight gangs and the Ocean transport ten. After a quiet three weeks at sea our lives were due to get substantially busier. On arrival at our first discharge port, the loading ports down the coast were booking their cargo space for the homeward loading. So homeward cargo plans begin to be taken into consideration for the eventually completed plan. Mainly do not over stow, (blocking in cargo at the discharge port with cargo for another port), and try to even out the cargo in each hold for the discharge port, taking into account the ease of discharge of the cargo in various holds. The idea is to employ as many gangs as possible so that they all finish at the same time. Of course, this never happens but it is a guide to aim at as is for the vessel to have good stability and sensible draft. The Ocean Transport had two deep tanks which at sometime had to be flooded. These would need to be cleaned and rubbish disposed of.

Sometimes in the Argentine we could have completed loading but space had been booked for Brazil. On arrival at the Brazilian load port we found the cargo had been cancelled so we had to sail home with space in the holds...all very annoying.

Buenos Aires was a very sad city at this time, due to high inflation and a very dangerous police force. The walk to the dock gate was dangerous and crew members were liable to be held at gunpoint by police in roaming cars; robbed of cigarettes, money and valuables and then sent back to the ship. No recrimination was possible.

It was the time of the Sandanistas, a rebel force opposing the government. Many of these were just young people: students and out of work youngsters. Eventually they became known as the Disappeared ones, it was rumoured that they were thrown out of aircraft into the South Atlantic.

One morning I was walking up the starboard side of the foredeck making notes on the condition and of any damage to the main deck ship side railings. The stevedores were having their lunchbreak ...mainly beef and bread. There were three asadas, (BBQ's), going on in cut down forty-gallon oil drums. It had been raining very heavily further up the river with large islands of weeds floating by. Across my vision came a body, head in the weed island, arms outstretched. He had been shot in the back of the head. The alarm was raised and he was pulled out of the river a couple of hundred yards downstream. This was a very regular occurrence. Many bodies made it to the mouth of the river Plate and washed up on Uruguay shores. They protested about the bodies and the cost of burial. It was a very sad time for Argentina inflation was so high that stevedores were paid twice a day, at lunch and end of the day.

Our chief engineer had been on ships running to the Argentine all his sea-going career. He was a fluent Spanish speaker, quite a small man with a roundish body. He had two nicknames...Egg on legs and because he used a stethoscope to listen to his engine...Dr. Diesel. Years before he had bought his girlfriend a small flat in the centre of town. One trip she asked him for new curtains. He was most distressed when the new curtains cost more than the price of the flat!

The first two trips were with Walter who was a reasonable Master and John who was a nutter, who liked his drink too much with whom I had previously sailed to New Zealand with. For the next trip, I write about, the Master was Arthur, a very pleasant man who had a drink problem.

After years of trying, I finally received permission for Eileen and the boys to come for a trip to South America. The cabin for the boys was very small, a bunk for Simon and Tim, a daybed for Mark, they were comfortable enough. Having moved to Downlands, Coombe Bissett on 12.9.76, Eileen had been in touch with the boys schools and arranged for them to have the time out of school subject to home schooling on board from Eileen. Arthur was the master when they joined in Glasgow, a couple of days before Christmas. We had a very rough trip from Glasgow to Liverpool and I remember my morning watch. We made just ten nautical miles in four hours. All were sick except Simon.

On arrival in Liverpool on New Year's Eve we had no cargo work for a couple of days so I nipped home to bring the car back to Liverpool. We were going to leave it with our friends on the Wirral to use it for the three months we were away.

Two days passed before we sailed, and we arranged to meet our friends at a Chinese restaurant near the CE Cathedral. I knew roughly where it was. It was a rainy misty evening, and I was coming south away from the docks looking for the right turn to the Cathedral. No right turn. I missed the traffic lights on my left which were red, and I hit a car coming from my right. He went over the pavement into the window of a large Barrett's shoe shop. Luckily everyone was unhurt, I was breathalysed and was alcohol free, the police were then very helpful. We eventually made it to the restaurant and my friend John, (as he still is), drove us back to the ship. It took two months to get the repairs completed and as John was driving it home, a car came out of a junction straight into the side of our car! Another two weeks repair. So, John and Val became a two-car family for just a few days before we returned.

Loading went very well; we had a big cargo to take down to South America. The freight was worth just over one million pounds to the company.

The voyage was very successful regarding profit and for my family. Good weather arrived just south of Lisbon and stayed with us all the way to Brazil. Arthur did not appear to be drinking openly. However, he had an orange powder which he took with gin in the mornings.

The carpenter knocked up a small pool made of canvas and plywood which the boys loved. Eileen schooled them for three or four hours a day as well as hand sewing two sets of curtains for our Downlands sitting room.

Our first port was Salvador in Brazil the ships agents organised a taxi to take them to the beach. Apparently, it was quite beautiful with lots of shade, so they did not get sun burnt.

Three more ports Itajai, Victoria and Paraguay, having more time in the latter. Once again, a car was provided, the driver took us to Brumenauer an extraordinary town built in a Swiss style surrounded by jungle. We had a marvellous lunch in a Chorestcoria, a specialist restaurant serving fourteen types of meat with rice and salad. The meats were speared on a sword and BBQed. Waiters walked round continually slicing off meat onto your plate. It was not a restaurant for a vegetarian! We had just a few hours in Rio, but the agency came up trumps to take the family to see the statue of Christ and a marvellous view of the whole city.

At Santos we managed to get ashore together. We ate lobster thermidor for the first time. It was expensive and I only just had enough money. We were two miles from the ship, but we had a magical walk back through parkland.

Arthur was showing signs of alcoholism. We had to anchor for a few hours before entering Santos. As the pilot boat approached, I warned him, but he did not appear. Eventually he phoned and asked me to enter port with the pilot ship. All the ports from now on were very hectic with cargo loaded at one hold and discharged at another. Our next port was Buenos Aires, where the company's head office was, actually in the 'red light' area. The head man had arranged to take us out for a beef dinner, 'La Cabanya'. They certainly served wonderful beef. The special one was called, 'Grande Baby Beefy', six inches across and two inches thick. Arthur had an omelette; he was not well and sat smoking a cigarette pushing ash and omelette around his plate. We got back to the ship and put him to bed. The next day he had to be hospitalised with intravenous treatment. There was no chance of him coming home on the ship.

Our last loading port was Montevideo, so I took the ship down river overnight berthing in the morning. We had a lot of cargo to load and a few tons to discharge. As in Uruguay the stevedores had a BBQ on deck. There were large amounts of 9" x 3" timber which we had used as dunnage to protect big skeleton cages in the outward cargo. It all looked pretty chaotic.

We were expecting a visit from the chairman of Furness Withy, the parent company. He had flown down from Panama having transited the canal on a Shaw Savill ship sailing home from New Zealand. They had a couple of weeks at sea to tidy up as well as paint. What a mess. With no Master I stayed out of the way as much as possible whilst he toured the accommodation. No problem there for him it was always spotless.

This man was not a seafarer but an accountant by profession. He knew very little about the workings of ships. On the way round decks he was dodging slings of cargo. I tried to explain why all the timber was on deck. Also outward bound we had a million pounds worth of freight and homeward eleven thousand tons of cargo. He tried to tell me the ship was not making money. The ship was about fourteen years old, and he was on about depreciation. She had paid for herself many times over. At the end of his deck inspection all he could say was that she could do with a spot of paint. No wonder the company disappeared years later.

Arthur had been sent to dry out by the company and as far as I knew he was doing ok. The new Captain boarded before we sailed, Roger, a very pleasant man I had met before. We had a good weather voyage home to Liverpool. John brought our car to the ship and we headed back to Downlands on April 4th 1977. Our first look at our new home in spring and it was covered with primroses and daffodils.

Tennis Club Report

Janet Finniss 718346

Following the lifting of some restrictions, we are able to play tennis again from Monday 29 March 2021. We are all looking forward to spring coming and some nice warm weather to get us back on court, either by coming along to club sessions or by booking a court on the online calendar. I am sure it will be a busy summer at the club.

Membership is due for renewal on 1 April 2021 and all members will receive information via email. We are planning to hold all the usual tournaments during the summer. New members are always welcome. If you are interested in joining, please come along to one of our club sessions or ring me on 01722 718346, email geo.jan@btinternet.com.

Club Sessions:

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

CHAV

My reports seem to get shorter each month and due to the present lockdown nothing further to report at present.

However I felt you might be looking for a CHAV report as, from a personal point of view, I always look forward to reading reports from those who produce them for the Express on a regular basis.

Hopefully my next report will be full of information.

Gerald Bundy.



Together we can...

"Soar on wings like eagles."

20th March 2021

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

The beautiful surroundings of our school and its grounds, remind us all just what a privilege it is to be a part of the lovely countryside which surrounds us all. As the children fill our school once more, so the snowdrops and daffodils fill our hedgerows and gardens, a reminder to us all of both the inspiration and joy that nature brings. To celebrate the coming of spring, we asked the children to write their own poems and we hope you enjoy reading a chosen few.

With best wishes to you all,

Berkeley Basinger-Adams

Spring

On the fresh, crisp breeze,
An early buzzard lazily soared.
The sun crept slowly upward, a barest slither of gold,
Far below, trees stirred from their sleep.
Daffodils began to unfurl, flowers like trumpets;
The birdsong, a soft, trilling melody, a chorus.
As the sun rose, the grasses and flowers waved and nodded,
Greeting the spring.

By Phoebe Richter, Ash Class

Dog Walks

Sun coloured trumpets on daffodils
Leading the marching band of nature,
A bee's extravagant pattern, streaks of
Golden sunshine, creeping out of blackness
Candy floss blossom as pink as a rose,
These are the things that I see with
My dog beside me.

By Kit Palmer, Ash Class

Sense of Spring

The tantalizing swirl of yellow honey,
The beautiful sound of baby chicks tweeting,
A scrumptious, warm hot cross bun,
The lovely scent of a field of buttercups,
The tickle of butterflies landing on your arm.

By Barney Tidmarsh, Fir Class

Spring

Snowdrops as white as blinding pearl,
Poppies as red as a scorching hot fire,
Rooks build their nests in the top of tress,
In the fields the bees collect their honey,
Now tulips burst out of the ground,
Going to the fields to see the baby lambs

By Charlie Uden, Fir Class

Spring Poem

I can see great green grass growing in the wind,
I can feel the nice burning hot sun streaming on my arm,
I can hear beautiful grass swaying in the calm wind,
I can taste the nice, fresh air washing in my mouth,
I can smell the sweet taste of nectar up my nose.

By Toby Davis, Elm Class

Spring

I can see sheep,
I can see yellow daffodils blowing,
Pussy willows dangling across the stream,
Sunshine high in the sky,
Blossom like candy floss,
Tulips lining up like Oak Class in a row.

By Edward Sartin, Oak Class

Spring

I can see green grass swooshing,
I can see little leaves fluttering in the trees,
Trees full of flowers,
Little white flowers,
Bowing tulips lining up.

By Daniel Hubbins-Wylie, Oak Class



SILVER



LEVEL

Shutts Lane

Coombe Bissett

Wiltshire SP5 4LU