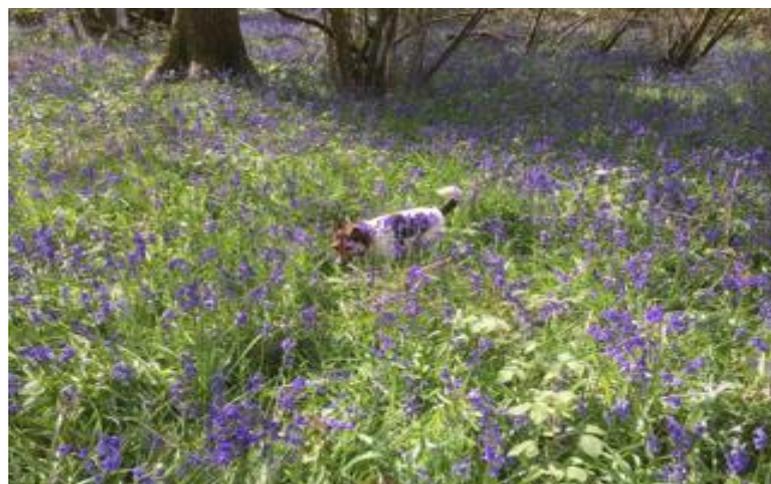


COOMBE BISSETT AND HOMINGTON

# EXPRESS

Issue No 257 June/July 2021



Main picture with thanks to Louise Hartgill

## VILLAGE DIARY

As lockdown eases some events are starting to appear although some restrictions may be in place and are of course, subject to change if Government guidance is updated.

Knife Sharpener at F&G	5 <sup>th</sup> June 10am to 12 noon
Chalk Valley History Festival	23 <sup>rd</sup> to 27 <sup>th</sup> June
Coombe Bissett & Homington Show	17 <sup>th</sup> July

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Well, I'm not sure what has happened to spring? So roll on summer! According to Richard Allen's weather report we have had the coldest April since he started his records some 35 years ago. It seems to me, that May is going down as unseasonal - cold, wet and windy. On the bright side shops and businesses have been opening up and since the 17<sup>th</sup> of May the, Fox & Goose, along with other pubs and restaurants have been open indoors. Another tick in the box on our road to a more normal lifestyle, fingers crossed it continues.

We have a new feature this month called, The Year. Thanks to Sharon Hallis, for taking the time to start going through old editions of the Express, to put this first article together. With it comes an invitation to submit your photo memory for a particular year which could end up being published in a future edition. See Page 17 for more details.

The photo competition attracted several entries all correct; it must have been too easy! Details of this edition are shown at the bottom of the page. Please submit your entries by the 30<sup>th</sup> of June. Thanks and good luck.

Sadly, we have to report the deaths of three lovely ladies who have lived our villages for many years.  
Brenda Bacon;  
Daphne Lever; and  
Christine Webster.

Are thoughts are with all their families at this sad time. A short tribute for each, provided by Revd Cannon Jenny Taylor, can be found on Page 5. Further tributes will be published in the next edition.

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

- Russell & Kate Hartford, their school age children, Florence & Harry and their 3 dogs, have moved to, Staddle Stones, Stratford Tony Road, from Downton.
- Zoe Boyden & Christopher Greenwood and their dog Perdy have moved to 4 Thorne Close from Barford St Martin

## Where is it?



Your chance to win £20 Fox & Goose Voucher!

If you know exactly what this is and where it is located send your answer to:

[cbandhexpress@outlook.com](mailto:cbandhexpress@outlook.com)

Congratulations to Chris Baughn for guessing our first mystery photo: the lantern in the Coombe Bissett church lychgate.

A big thankyou to Coombe Bissett Stores for donating the prize (and randomly selecting our winner from the correct entries).

In the event of more than one correct answer the winner will be selected randomly.

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> July 2021**

**Sue Dyer email: [cbandhexpress@outlook.com](mailto:cbandhexpress@outlook.com)**

**Phone: 0172271851**



# 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

In the last weeks we have lost 3 dear members of our communities.

Christine Webster and Brenda Bacon from Coombe Bissett and Daphne Lever from Homington. All long standing and loved members of their communities. There are some words about each of them later.

Numbers are still restricted at funerals because of the pandemic but a mark of our Communities during these past months has been the way villagers have come and stood in our churchyards and along our roads as the coffins make their final journeys. That action has shown care and compassion and a marking of the passing of a much loved friend. In some ways it is a returning to an earlier time when communities would line roads, doff hats, stand still and close curtains to show their respect for the passing of a life. Customs that give us all time to draw breath, reflect and give thanks for lives.

You will have seen the two adverts concerning Coombe Bissett School- for a Clerk to the Governors and for an Eco Leader – do please spread the word about these posts – even better apply for them yourselves!! If neither of them appeals you could always apply to be a Foundation Governor – we need those too!! Please get in touch if you would like to know any more details - you will be so, so welcome.

On June 22<sup>nd</sup> we have a Baptism, Confirmation and Communion Service in church for our school – you are very welcome to join us – the Bishop of Ramsbury is coming to lead our service.

We are hoping of course, that this month sees the lifting of all Covid restrictions – I am longing to hear the walls of our churches echo again with singing! Check our Service rota and come and join us!

Revd Canon Jenny Taylor

### **Brenda Bacon**

Brenda died in May in Milford Manor Nursing Home where she was been living for the last 18 months. She had lived in Coombe Bissett for over 50 years, living with Albert – first at their farm and then on the Blandford Road.

She was the perfect Farmer's wife, even though originally from the town, looking after the stock as well as her dear Albert. She had suffered several years of ill-health which sadly had curtailed all their holiday jaunts they had planned for retirement.

Albert was able to be with her shortly before her death and we send all our love to him as he mourns Brenda.

### **Daphne Lever**

Daphne had lived in Homington nearly all her life and she and her dear husband Terry celebrated were married for 67 years all together.

She loved flowers and, with Terry, was often seen pottering and tending to her garden with always a kind word for anyone who was passing by.

Daphne was always interested in other people and so many friends enjoyed her kind and gentle company. She was a never-ending support for her two children, her grandchildren and she was so proud to being a Great Grandmother.

We send Terry and his family our love as they mourn Daphne.

### **Christine Webster**

Christine arrived in Coombe Bissett about 25 years ago and immediately joined in with Village life enthusiastically. Whether it was making curtains and cushion covers, attending Phoenix and Gardening Club meetings, coffee mornings and lunch clubs, Christine was there!

She was an active driver for the Link, a member of our Church congregation and someone whose company was always joyful and funny. Never one to give up, she had even began to master the intricacies of an ipad!

We send our love to her family as they mourn a dear Mother, Grandmother and Sister.



## Services in Chalke Valley Benefice - June 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.**

<b>6 June 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b>	9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am	Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Morning Prayer (BCP) Family Communion (CW) Family Communion (CW) Morning Service (CW)	Broad Chalke Britford Berwick St John Ebbesbourne Wake Coombe Bissett Odstock	Catherine Blundell Jenny Taylor Lay Led Catherine Blundell Jenny Taylor Anna-Claar T-Rosingh
<b>13 June 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b>	9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am 3.00pm	Parish Communion (CW) Family Communion (CW) Family Service All Age Service Morning Prayer (BCP) Evening Prayer (BCP)	Bowerchalke Nunton Coombe Bissett Alvediston Charlton All Saints Fifield Bavant	Catherine Blundell Anna-Claar T-Rosingh Catherine Blundell Biddy Trahair Rhoderick Voremberg Biddy Trahair
<b>20 June 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b>	8.00am 9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 6.00pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Morning Prayer (BCP) Parish Communion (CW) Songs of Praise	Bowerchalke Bishopstone Odstock Ebbesbourne Wake Homington Berwick St John	Catherine Blundell Jenny Taylor Anna-Claar T-Rosingh Biddy Trahair Jenny Taylor Roger Leake
<b>27 June 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b>	9.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am 6.00pm 6.00pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Family Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Holy Communion (BCP) Evening Prayer (BCP) Evening Prayer (BCP)	Berwick St John Broad Chalke Charlton All Saints Bishopstone Alvediston Bowerchalke Homington	Roger Leake Jenny Taylor Anthony Hawley Ann Philp Roger Leake Lay Led Jenny Taylor
<b>4 July 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b>	9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am	Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Family Communion (CW) Family Communion (CW) Morning Service (CW) Morning Prayer (BCP)	Broad Chalke Britford Ebbesbourne Wake Coombe Bissett Odstock – Riverside Berwick St John	Jenny Taylor Anna-Claar T-Rosingh Tony Monds Jenny Taylor Anna-Claar T-Rosingh Lay Led

**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 Gobleddale 01722 330980, The Revd Jackie Lowe: 01722 780008

**Assisting Ministers:** The Revd Canon Anthony Hawley: 01794 390607, The Revd Canon Tony Monds: 01722 420942  
The Revd 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 - July 2021

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<b>4 July</b> <b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b> <b>after Trinity</b>	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Broad Chalke	Jenny Taylor
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Britford	Anna-Claar T-Rosingh
	11.00am	Family Communion (CW)	Ebbesbourne Wake	Rosingh
	11.00am	Family Communion (CW)	Coombe Bissett	Tony Monds
	11.00am	Morning Service (CW)	Odstock – Riverside	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Berwick St John	Anna-Claar T-Rosingh Lay Led
<b>11 July</b> <b>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b> <b>after Trinity</b>	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Bowerchalke	Jenny Taylor
	9.30am	Family Communion (CW)	Nunton	Anna-Claar T-Rosingh
	11.00am	Family Communion (CW) <i>(Anna-Claar's last service)</i>	Coombe Bissett	
	11.00am	All Age Service	Alvediston	Jenny Taylor
	3.00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)	Fifield Bavant	Biddy Trahair Biddy Trahair
<b>18 July</b> <b>7<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b> <b>after Trinity</b>	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Bowerchalke	Catherine Blundell
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Bishopstone	Jenny Taylor
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Odstock	Catherine Blundell
	11.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Ebbesbourne Wake	Biddy Trahair
	11.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	Homington	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	Animal Service (CW)	Berwick St John	D & C Blundell
<b>25 July</b> <b>8<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b> <b>after Trinity</b>	9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Berwick St John	Kate Rosslyn Smith
	9.30am	Family Communion (CW)	Broad Chalke	Catherine Blundell
	11.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	Charlton All Saints	Ann Philp
	11.00am	Family Service	Nunton	Adrian Taylor
	11.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	Bishopstone	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Alvediston	Catherine Blundell
	6.00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)	Bowerchalke	Lay Led
	6.00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)	Homington	Jenny Taylor
<b>1 August</b> <b>9<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b> <b>after Trinity</b>	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	Adrian Taylor
	11.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Berwick St John	Lay Led

#### Ministry Team:

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Coombe Bissett CE VA Primary School



“Soar on wings like eagles, run and not grow weary, walk and not be faint” Isiah 40:31

We are hoping so much that you will want to join our Team of Volunteers as our Eco Advisor and Do-er!

We have a School Eco-Council but we need someone to encourage, inspire and work with our children. This could include anything from gardening to arranging litter pick.

Please contact the Revd Canon Jenny Taylor or the Head, Mr Berkeley Basinger- Adams if you are interested.

We look forward to hearing from you!!

[revjennytaylor@gmail.com](mailto:revjennytaylor@gmail.com)

[admin@coombebissett.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@coombebissett.wilts.sch.uk)



## Coombe Bissett CE VA Primary School



“Soar on wings like eagles, run and not grow weary, walk and not be faint” Isaiah 40:31

### **We are looking for a new Clerk to the Governors...could it be YOU?!!**

#### **Job advert: Clerk to Governors**

**Hours of work: 2 hours per week, 52 weeks per year**

**Contract type: Permanent**

**Interview date: TBC**

**Commencement date: 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021**

**Salary range** From £10.21 per hour to £10.62 per hour

#### **Additional information:**

**The Governors are seeking to appoint a Clerk to Governors to support our Governing Body.**

**The successful candidate will have an understanding of the governance and legislative requirements relevant to a school or educational establishment (or a willingness to develop);**

**Have experience of providing administrative support in an organisation (school specific training, can be provided).**

**Provide confidential administrative support to our full governing body; Have excellent organisational skills including planning, minute taking and record keeping.**

**Have excellent communication skills both written and oral.**

**The Governing Body meets approx 6 times a year (currently Remotely), in the evening usually. The meetings are planned well in advance. With the exception of the meetings, home working will be required for this role.**

**This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.**

**All applicants will be subject to a Disclosure and Barring Service check before appointment is confirmed.**

**Please contact Mrs Allison Brown, School Business Manager at [finance@coombebissett.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:finance@coombebissett.wilts.sch.uk) or Mrs Michelle Fiander at [admin@coombebissett.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@coombebissett.wilts.sch.uk) for further information.**

## News from the Village Show Committee

## Summer Fun and Foraging

Don't we all love the summer with its long daylight hours, warm evenings and the chance to spend more time with family and friends. That long cold winter seems a distant memory now.

If, like me, you are a keen gardener the month of June will be the start of reaping your rewards from all the hard work in the past months. Tasting the first carrots and potatoes, what joy! I love the sound carrots make when you pull them up and my youngest has such fun finding the early potatoes when we dig them up for the kitchen table. It's like digging for buried treasure.

As we head towards the school holidays, I thought I'd share a few things we like doing here on the farm. How about a spot of baking using something from the garden...?

### Chocolate Beetroot Brownies

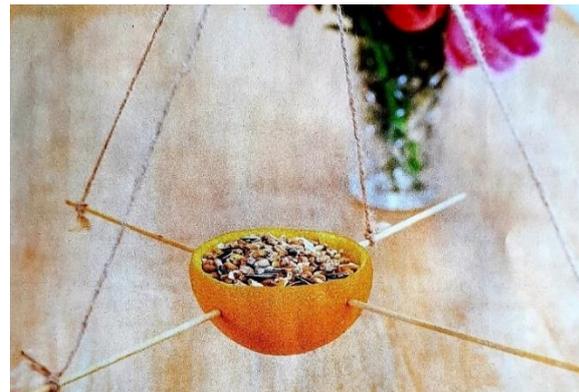
400g chopped cooked beetroot (best to wear gloves during prep, unless you like stained hands!), 100g unsalted butter, 200g plain chocolate (70% cocoa), 1 tsp vanilla extract, 250g golden caster sugar, 3 eggs, 100g plain flour, 25g cocoa powder.

Beat the sugar and eggs until light and foamy. In a separate bowl mix all the other ingredients together, then gently fold in the egg mixture. Pour into a lined tray and bake at 180°C for about 30 minutes until its firm to touch and just a bit gooey in the middle.

Yummy!



### How about making your own birdfeeder!



Or.....

- Swimming in the river Ebble, bit chilly but needs must when the pools were closed!
- Climbing our special 'Magic Tree', the fallen down tree in the middle of the water meadows field below Homington Down.
- Rolling down our hill in the long summer grass
- Making daisy chains and watching all the little bugs in the lawn.
- Cycling to Nunton to fill up the milk bottles.
- Playing tennis, such fun and what a view from the courts in Coombe Bissett.
- **And last, but in no way least is the long-awaited Village Show. I know my children and myself will be entering as many classes as we can. I'm really hoping you will be too!**

### And finally, just for laughs.....

Why did the carrot blush? Because it saw the salad dressing!

How do you make gold soup? Make sure it has 24 carrots!

What did the rabbit say to the carrot? Nice gnawing you!

What is a vegetable's favourite martial art? Carrotee!





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

## YES, WE ARE OPEN AGAIN!

As from Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May we have been allowed to open inside again and I can honestly say it's great to see so many regular customers visiting us again.

Although we opened on the 26<sup>th</sup> April, we could only accommodate customers outside only. This would have been no problem usually, as we do have a fairly large garden area. However, the great British weather was not going to let us get away with it for long and there were some days and evenings when it was impossible to sit outside and enjoy it.

A big thank you to all the brave souls who did come to visit on what must be one of the coldest and wettest May on record.

We await Richard Allen's weather report to confirm.

### **As I looked back to see what I had written in last June last year it was a bit surreal and I will quote from June 2020**

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

*Although we can use our garden to create social distancing it becomes more difficult inside the pub. However, we will look into how we can may the pub safe for staff and customers once we know a bit more.*

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

### **I don't know about yourselves but I never thought in my wildest dreams a year later we are still saying the same thing!**

Hopefully with the vaccine programme really going well we will see the next stage of the Governments road map come to fruition with the lifting of all restrictions on June 21<sup>st</sup>.

We are still offering a Take Away service; please phone your orders through as we do not monitor emails and Facebook messages on a constant basis.

We will be monitoring the ongoing Covid updates and will look at organizing events again in the pub when we are allowed to do so.

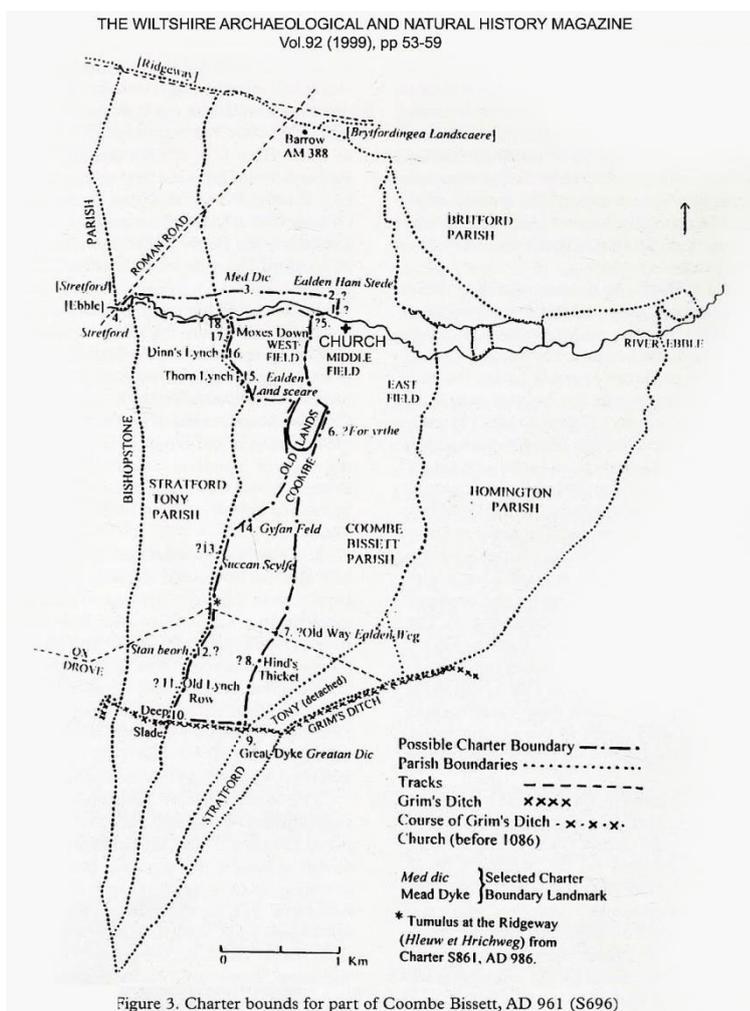
Mark Wyeth, our local Knife sharpener will be at the pub on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> June between 10am and 12 noon. Mark is very reasonably priced and can do most knives on the premises whilst you wait.

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

Best regards

Keith and Sue

Thanks to Sir Hayden Phillips, we now know where the rare Saxon coin of King Ludica of Mercia was found - in a field which he and his wife then owned south of the church in Coombe Bissett and east of the Blandford Road. The coin was minted in 827-828 when there was a monetary union between the Saxon kingdoms of Mercia and Wessex, and was perhaps lost not long afterwards. No other finds have been found in that area. The find has now been recorded by the County archaeological service on the Historic Environment Record (HER). As part of a national data base, it will in due course be under MW177441 on their website at <https://services.wiltshire.gov.uk/HistoryEnvRecord/Home/Index>



From work done by the late Jenny Acornley on Saxon charters of the tenth century, published in the *Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine* 1999 (WAM 92), we can see that the coin was found towards the south of an undefined area known then as Middle Field. The east and west fields were, of course, on either side. The charter boundaries set the pattern for our villages today, then part of the Hundred of Cawden.

Being close to Wilton, a royal borough and the regional capital, estates here were mostly held directly from the king, either by people close to him or by the church, which gave an unusual degree of stability of ownership throughout the medieval period.

There are few written records of the time, which is why it is so important to build up the archaeological record. The oldest parts of our villages tend to be towards the road junctions. The best way we can help to add to our knowledge is not so much by looking in the fields, but by keeping an eye on what may be found in our gardens!

The most useful documentary evidence of our history of the time comes with William the Conqueror's doomsday survey of 1086, a record of wealth and a legally binding basis

for taxation. It notes land holdings, population, and land use both then and in the time of Edward the Confessor, whose death in 1066 gave William his claim to succession.

Buildings also provide evidence of the past. The nearest one showing Saxon work is the church at Britford. Our church at Coombe Bissett probably has Saxon work in the foundations, but the earliest obvious work is the Norman south aisle. Both these churches may well have replaced earlier timber buildings. A new edition of Pevsner's *The Buildings of England, Wiltshire* thoroughly revised by Julian Orbach, which I and others were able to help with, is about to be published by Yale University Press.

Norman kings maintained and developed the Saxon manorial and administrative system. The churches continued to care for our spiritual lives and, through the monasteries and then the cathedrals, to provide schools, hospitals and almshouses, laying the foundations of the welfare state.

Unlike the Saxons, or the Danes to the north, the Normans sought to rule the country rather than colonise it. Within a few generations, rather than a few hundred years, the races had merged. From having been Celts, to being Romano-British and then Anglo-Saxon, we were now all English.

# Know your Neighbours

This edition, with lockdown restrictions now beginning to ease, I was able to have been lucky enough, for you, the reader, to widen my potential scope of study.... With my own personal experience, it didn't take long trying to think of this interesting local resident...

## Who Am I?

Born in Tintagel, Cornwall in 1942, father was a GP, mother a nurse. They moved to London after 3 years due to his father's work, just after the war. Our resident went to school in London where the philosophy was to think for oneself, and to encourage individual thinking. This led to individual sports, not team playing ones, and like all schools set a foundation for our resident's future. But ironically, his career role would be to play a big part in a team and a very important one at that!

Whilst working on his uncle's farm in Sussex, following an argument with the herdsman, his uncle said to him; "Don't you be thinking you know everything with your posh schooling! Alf, the cowman knows more about cows than you do!"

He went onto medical school at University College Hospital in London and specialised in anaesthesia, obtaining his anaesthetic Fellowship at Westminster Hospital. He also had a keen interest in mechanics and electronics, and so was seconded to Imperial College of Science.

During his last year at medical school, he met his future wife who was training to be a nurse. It sounded all very romantic; it was over a heroin addict patient! No other information can be remembered!!

He claims to have taught her how to cook scrambled eggs, on the wards, but if you ask his wife, she claims she knew already! They got married in 1966 after they both qualified and registered in each of their professions.

During these times, hypodermic needles were sharpened on a wet stone on a side wall of the autoclave room. There was no plastic. Fluids were administered via glass bottles through red rubber tubing. There were late night doctor rounds with chicken and cocoa. No waiting for TTO's (your tablets to take out). It was like scenes from "Doctor in The House". Far more efficient in those days!



# *Give Up?*

For 2 years Alastair Lack and Maggie lived in Stanford, California, where he was a visiting professor in the anaesthetics and computing department. He established links between smaller hospitals and with the main hospital via a computer system. This was a huge communication breakthrough which obviously made a terrific difference to the American healthcare system.

In 1974 Alastair, Maggie and their growing family moved to Coombe Bissett, as an anaesthetist post at Salisbury had come up and this was the perfect location for them.

Here, Alastair pioneered a waste gas system in theatres; following a research article proving waste gases in theatres caused miscarriages in pregnant theatre nurses. The Department of Health held a meeting in Salisbury, resulting in ventilation systems being installed throughout the country extracting waste gases.

Due to Alastair's interest and exceptional knowledge of major trauma he was also finding himself being often called out to accidents, as at that time, in 1977, ambulances were just "pick up and run" units. Alastair worked closely with the local ambulance station officer in educating the ambulance drivers, and instigated the transition and development of ambulance drivers into becoming skilled paramedics around this part of the county. Between 1978-1982 paramedics were now being trained and he did not have to attend to so many accidents himself and get involved with so much prehospital care personally. But BASICs (British Association for Immediate Care) doctors developed, where on call trauma doctors attend trauma incidents offering their extended skills and drugs.



**Alastair with his response vehicle**

From 1982-1988 Alastair was the Chairman of the Medical Advisory committee and was later involved with the new hospital design. He was part of the team when the plans all started in 1984, and saw it through until it opened as Salisbury District Hospital, on the Odstock site in 1993, 9 years later.

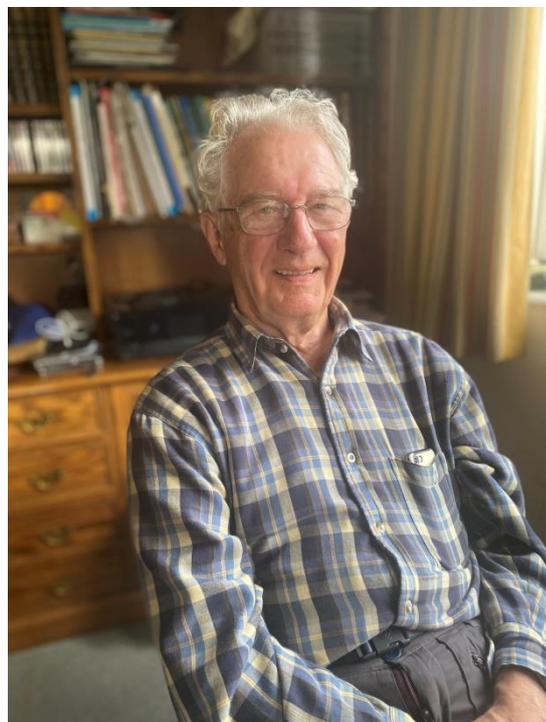
Eventually, Alastair retired in 2003 as, "to be honest, I was pretty knackered", but retiring has not meant he has been taking it easy. He wrote two books just before retiring which are still in print and used in anaesthetics twenty years later. He volunteers at the Cathedral as a guide and spends a lot of time with his family, which includes numerous grandchildren.

But he could not keep away from the hospital setting for long and returned for 9 years as a Governor, starting up the National Lead Governor Network, where various Lead Governors across the country come together to discuss the role of Governors; discuss oversights of hospital care and provide a support network. It gives opportunities to raise standards in hospitals nationwide.

Now, Alastair enjoys growing and cultivating wild flowers such as cowslips and ‘pheasants eye’ – which is all too rare these days. He enjoys walking on the nature reserve where he has started a successful dog poo collection with Val. He plays golf twice a week and hasn’t made Maggie scrambled egg since but then I don’t suppose he needs to now she knows how to!!

## Quick Fire Q&A

1. What was/is your nick name? *Never had one*
2. If you could time travel, when would you go? *1890 in the peak Victorian invention times*
3. What is your pet hate? *Prosecution of whistle blowers. If you see something wrong, you shouldn’t be persecuted for reporting it.*
4. What is your favourite TV programme? *Repair Shop. I am a member of Salisbury Repair Cafe, speciality Electrical and Mechanical repairs*
5. What do you like most about living in CB & H? *Its countryside and the lovely people who live here*
6. What is the silliest way you have been injured? *Never seriously been injured, touch wood!*
7. Where is your favourite place in the world? *Home*
8. What is your favourite food/dish? *Pickled herring in sour cream (a Swedish dish)*
9. What is the best piece of advice you have received? *To treat everyone as your equal, as you never know when the plumber for example would be as important in society as the surgeon.*
10. Would you rather be incredibly skilled at an incredibly boring job or be incredibly unskilled at an incredibly interesting job? *Be incredibly unskilled at an incredibly interesting job as I can always skill myself up.*



Thanks to Alastair Lack

Interviewed by Rachel Coombs

### RNLI garden Party

**Enjoy a special evening and help support our Lifesavers** - The Salisbury, Wilton & District Branch of the **RNLI** invite you to their annual MIDSUMMER GARDEN PARTY on Thurs 1<sup>st</sup> July at Wilton House from 6:30 p.m to 8:00 p.m.

There will be drinks, canapes and a raffle, with music from “Jazz Coast”. There will be the chance to meet some of the crew from Mudeford Lifeboat station too. Tickets are £18.00 available from Ray Stedman at [rnliwilton@gmail.com](mailto:rnliwilton@gmail.com) or 07591 963939

ACTION FRAUD have said that over 15,000 hacked email and social media accounts reported in one year.

If a hacker got into your email or social media account, what would they find? Health and banking information? Names and contact details for your friends and family? Private photos and messages? For most people, it's at least one of those.

Your email and social media accounts contain a wealth of personal information about you, which makes them a lucrative target for cyber criminals. Between February 2020 and February 2021, Action Fraud received 15,214 reports about email and social media account hacking. The majority of reports (88%) were made by individuals, with 12% of reports being made by businesses. Analysis of the crime reports revealed that Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat were the most affected social media accounts, with phishing messages being the most common tactic used by cyber criminals to lure unsuspecting victims.

The motivation behind the hacks are varied and can range from financial gain, to revenge or personal amusement. Some victims are extorted for money, whilst others have their accounts used to send malicious links to their contacts. One victim who had multiple email and social media accounts hacked paid over £2,000 to regain access to them. Another victim reported that her hacked Facebook account was used to trick her friends into sending money into a PayPal account they thought belonged to her.

Secure your email and social media accounts in just a few minutes. Here's what you need to do:

1: Use a strong and separate password for your email, as well as other important accounts, such as your banking or social media accounts.

2: Enable two-factor authentication (2FA). It will help to stop hackers from getting into your online accounts, even if they have your password.

3: If you can't access your account, search the company's online support or help pages. You'll find information about how to recover your account.

For detailed instructions on how to reset your password or enable 2FA on your accounts, visit:

<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/secureyouraccounts>

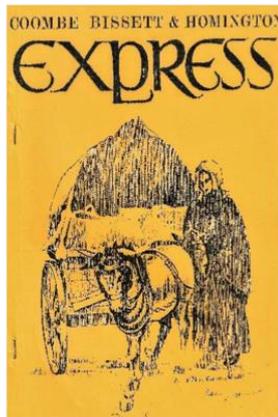
### THANK YOU

A very big thank you to the kind person that found my blue earring and left it on the gate post for me to find. So upset to lose it and amazed to find it again. Whoever you are I'm really grateful. Thank you.

Chris Wilson. Homington Down.

Reunited

## The Year is.....1978!



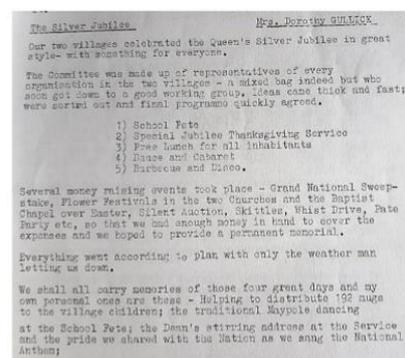
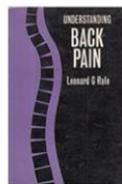
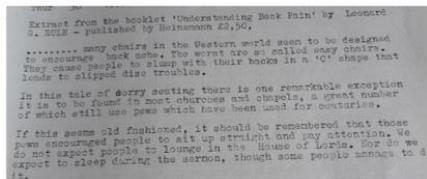
Thanks to a very generous benefactor I have recently become the proud owner of a whole set of CB & H Express back issues...256 in total, not forgetting we went digital for two due to recent unprecedented events!

They are an invaluable insight into the life of our villages and a wealth of addictive information...history, recipes, walks, events, comings and goings, church life, school life.....the list is endless!

I was fascinated by the original motivation for this remarkable achievement (with the next publication about to be 257) and pleased to say the motivation and dedication of those involved is no less today!

Such are the beginnings of this magazine. I personally feel that this will fill a void in our Community life and that as we stride forward into the future the magazine will become part of our Villages; part of our way of life; an agent of unification continuing in the mode established by our Countryside Festivals and our Silver Jubilee Celebrations.

I was amused to see two entries on the same page..about as diverse as one might get.....however, that judgement may well change once I have delved into many more! A little snippet from a booklet and a report of the villages Silver Jubilee Celebration.....



I have to confess it was purely personal amusement since, in 1977, I spent that very Silver Jubilee Day in my local Royal Infirmary (many miles north of our beautiful villages) with a mild (thankfully) back injury. Ah, how I could have benefitted from a copy of said book in later years!

So...where does this all lead? Well, with such a wealth of archive information I thought it would be great to share it with you but also to invite you to send in **your** photos from times past. 'The Year' will be announced for each coming edition and if you would like to have your photo memory posted please email it to us at [cbandhexpress@outlook.com](mailto:cbandhexpress@outlook.com) with a brief caption. So, after the recent difficult times, let's kick off with our happy moments in our next edition:

## The Year is 2000!

I am sure you will agree that Westley would be delighted and proud that his legacy continues today

Looking forward to hearing from you!

Sharon Hallis

# Coombe Bissett and Homington



# SHOW

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

Coombe Bissett Village Hall

2.30pm

**Open to anyone:**

**Friends, family, experts, and novices all welcome**

The schedule is available to view

[www.coombebissett.com](http://www.coombebissett.com) - select 'show'

**ENTRIES MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE VILLAGE SHOP BY  
5pm TUESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> JULY**

We will be following all social distancing guidelines in place on the day. Please make sure you provide an email address on your entry form so that we can contact you with any last minute changes.

**Follow us on Facebook at Coombe Bissett Show, or on the  
Coombe Bissett Community fb group**

For more information contact Abigail Bird 01722 718645; [abigailbird@hotmail.com](mailto:abigailbird@hotmail.com)

## CHALKE VALLEY HISTORY FESTIVAL

As many of you may now know, the tenth Chalke Valley History Festival WILL be happening this year on Richard and Katie Jowett's beautiful Church Bottom site here in Broad Chalke.

This year we're putting on a slightly shorter festival – it will be running from Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> to Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June. It's still going to be a very full programme, though. Those attending will be able to watch our greatest living playwright and learn how to build a Roman road. There will be a former Archbishop of Canterbury and political party leader alongside some of the best-known and loved TV historians. There will be demonstrations from the Tudor kitchen, stone age flint-knapping and a Cold War-era armoured brigade headquarters. It will be possible to learn about the dark art of Georgian body-snatching, how to make wattle and daub and learn how to make a Tudor salve and herbal cure. The head of the UK's Armed Forces, the best-known shepherd in the land, and the most eminent international human rights lawyer in the UK among those who will be speaking. There will be Sword School, a vintage fairground, some of the country's most brilliant, successful and eminent historians but also late-night storytelling around the fire with Dan Snow and Michael Wood, and fast and furious fun with the History Tellers.

Perhaps most importantly of all, there will be food, glorious food – and historical fast food too – as well as drink, camping, glamping and live music every single day of the festival from 1920s flapper music to the ancient ballads of English folk music.

There are other changes too. While there will be much that is very familiar, there are changes too. This year we only have two marquees for tented talks, but we do also have two outdoor stages as well as a far wider and fully integrated programme of further events.

We've also a different ticketing system this year in which there will be a one-ticket price for all the Outdoor Programme (including all events at the two outdoor stages).

Anyone living in the Chalke Valley is most welcome to claim a free ticket to the Outdoor Programme on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Please do contact the Ticket Office on 01722 781133.

We really look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in a little over a month's time!

## 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 10763



## COOMBE BISSETT AND HOMINGTON VILLAGE HALL

**MAY and JUNE 2021**

### *Almost back to Normal*

The UK government has published a four stage ‘road map’ to direct our lives through the COVID epidemic to something approaching normality. From 17<sup>th</sup> May we will be in stage 3. In respect of the Village Hall, this means that once again we are able to accept bookings for indoor events for groups of up to 6 people. Subject to any new advice which may be published, after 21<sup>st</sup> June, bookings for all the regular types of activity can once again take place in the Hall, including dancing!!.

Even before the 21<sup>st</sup> June there are some exceptions by which larger groups are permitted e.g. for weddings or wakes. If anyone is considering making a booking to use the Hall for these or other activities, further information is available on a very helpful web site run by ‘Action with Communities in Rural England’, ACRE the body which advises village halls across the country. Their activity table shows what is permitted at each stage of the ‘road map’ and subject to which conditions. The web address is: [acre.org.uk](http://acre.org.uk)

Hopefully on your next visit to the Hall you will see that a number of modest improvements have been made around the place while it has been closed to the public.

Please note that to make a booking for an activity at the Hall the correct Email address for contact with Rose Hawkins, our new Bookings Secretary, is [cvbhbookings@gmail.com](mailto:cvbhbookings@gmail.com)  
We hope we will shortly see the Hall busy again with all our lively village activities!

Don Morgan Chair of the Village Hall Management Committee.

## VILLAGE CINEMA

**Great news!! We will be returning in September with an Autumn season of films for your enjoyment and we are really looking forward to welcoming everyone back.**

**As before screenings will be on the third Thursday of the month.**

**Dates for your diaries : 16<sup>th</sup> September , 21<sup>st</sup> October, 18<sup>th</sup> November.**

We are hoping that all Covid restrictions will be over by then but if necessary we may have to restrict numbers. At least with our café style seating it is easier to keep apart.

**The programme of films will be announced in the next Express.**

**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 Rose Hawkins [cvbhbookings@gmail.com](mailto:cvbhbookings@gmail.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

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### **Tennis Club Report**

**Janet Finniss 718346**

Tennis players have been braving the weather, ever keen to play after the lifting of the restrictions. The online calendar has made it easy to book a court. The committee decided to go ahead with the usual club tournaments this year, starting with the Red Leader competition, played from May to September with 9 pairs taking part. This is a very keenly fought competition and some pairs have already played games with interesting results.

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](mailto:geo.jan@btinternet.com).

#### **Club Sessions:**

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

#### **Tournaments (Details will be emailed to members)**

Mixed Doubles	Sunday 27 June followed by BBQ at Don & Ruth's
Ladies Doubles	Saturday 21 August
Men's Doubles	Saturday 4 September



Coombe Bissett Primary School  
Shutts Lane, Coombe Bissett  
Salisbury, SP5 4LU  
Tel: 01722 718380  
Email:  
[office@coombebissett.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:office@coombebissett.wilts.sch.uk)  
Website:  
[www.coombebissett.wilts.sch.uk](http://www.coombebissett.wilts.sch.uk)  
Headteacher: Mr Berkeley Basinger-Adams

**Coombe Bissett Primary School – Supporting Mental Health Through Music – sponsored by the Wylie Arts Society and the Friends of Coombe Bissett School  
By Barbara Turvey**

**Body Percussion Workshop “The Beat Goes On!” with Ollie Tumner**

**‘I just loved all of it; I didn’t have a best bit, because I loved it all.’**

So said one of the older children from Coombe Bissett Primary School, of their day of music making.

I went to observe the afternoon sessions, as representative for Wylie Arts Society, who sponsored this event. I quickly got the idea that just watching was not an option! Wow, what energy and engagement with the children Ollie had.

Using voice, foot tapping and stamping, hands and body, the children very quickly made amazing coordinated sounds, having plenty of opportunity to move and express themselves without worrying about social distancing or mask encumbrance. He taught them so much in a subtle way about Italian musical terms and musical cultures from around the globe. The final group made up a dance with a rumba rhythm. This, of course, was instantly popular with the children, and was a brilliant and somewhat noisy finale, to the day’s activities.



Week Ending		TEMPERATURES			RAINFALL
		Average Daily Maximum Deg C	Average Nightly Minimum Deg C	Average Mean Deg C	Total Inches
March	7	7.8	2.0	4.9	Trace
	14	9.9	3.9	6.9	1.05
	21	12.0	5.5	8.8	0.03
	28	11.5	4.7	8.1	0.40
April	4	14.3	5.1	9.7	0.00
	11	8.9	2.3	5.6	0.36
	18	11.5	-0.5	5.5	0.01
	25	15.4	1.8	8.6	0.00
May	2	12.5	<u>2.0</u>	7.3	0.55

**Monthly Figures**

January	6.0	2.1	4.1	4.21
February	7.7	3.1	5.4	3.06
March	11.0	4.3	7.6	1.48
April	12.1	1.8	6.9	<u>0.87</u>
Year to date rainfall				<u>9.82</u> inches

**March**

This year March came in and went out like a lamb. The month began under an area of high pressure and a very sunny and warm 1st and 2nd. The high pressure continued but gave anti cyclonic gloom for the next couple of days with a marked drop in temperatures between 4th and 7th. The skies cleared from 5th to 9th to give a period of cold, sunny days and frosty nights. Pressure fell away between 10th and 13th and this gave us a spell of wet and often very windy but mild weather. This inch of rain turned out to be of great significance since, in the following 45 days, we were only to receive measurable rainfall on 2 days. High pressure returned on 15th which was a bright sunny and mild day. A quiet spell of dry and mild weather with mixed days of sunshine and cloud lasted until 26th when overnight rain totalling 0.43 inches fell. The end of the month saw some very warm temperatures and two glorious days on 29th and 30th with blue skies and the thermometer reaching 19C 66F.

The month's total rainfall was 1.48 inches which is 1 inch below the March average. The mean temperature for March with 7.6C which is 0.5C above the average. My estimate of sunshine hours was 84 and this compares with an estimated average for the month of 119.

**April**

April's weather was hugely exciting for a weather stats nerd like me!! It was a record breaker, temperature wise and, for a change, not because it was the warmest. It was in fact the coldest April I have recorded. The mean temperature was 6.9C which, the observant among you, will notice was colder than March had been, (See above 7.6C) The previous coldest April I had recorded was in 1989 when the mean temperature was 7.1C. The average mean temperature for April in my records (back to 1987) has been 9.3C, so this April's mean was a huge 2.4C below normal.

The unseasonal cold in mid-April and the absence of rainfall put a brake on Spring growth. I cannot remember the blackthorn blossom looking so good for so long. The hedgerows refused to green up and the daffodils, which had started early, kept going for several extra weeks in the absence of warm sunshine. Grass growth was minimal and the magnolia was a victim of the persistent frosts coming just at the wrong time. It was not until 20<sup>th</sup> that temperatures warmed up a bit and together with nearly a week of mostly cloudless skies it was, finally, "good to be in England now that April is here".

What was more notable than the low 24 hour mean temperature for April, was the low average night time minimum temperature. The reason that excites me is because, like everyone, I hate the fact of global warming and what I have noticed is that the warming has not been due to the incidence of high day time temperatures but more the absence of cold temperatures. April's average nightly minimum temperature of 1.75C bucked the trend in a big way as the average for April in my records is nearly three times this at 5C. The previous coldest April by minimum temperatures was in 1990 when the figure was 2C.

Temperatures dropped below freezing on 11 nights including a run of eight successive nights between 11<sup>th</sup>/12th and 18<sup>th</sup>/19th. Only five nights recorded temperatures above 4C which is the level below which we would expect to receive a ground frost, making some 25 ground frosts in the month. Despite the incidence of frost in the month, none were severe, the coldest being -1.9C on 6/7<sup>th</sup>. Were it not for the global warming trend, this April's clear night skies might have produced more severe frosts. There have been 25 colder April nights since 1987 than this month's -1.9C. The coldest being two consecutive nights on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> April 1990 when the thermometer dropped to minus 6C.

As it has been a wet Sunday as I prepare this report, I have gone back through my records to produce a chart showing the number of April nights below +4C, the number below 0C and the number below -2C for each of the last 35 months of April. The chart shows very clearly the evidence of the warming trend in those 35 years as well as highlighting the unusual incidence of cold nights this April.

**The following data highlights the unusual incidence of cold nights this April.**

There have been 371 ground frosts, an average of 11 each April. This April we had 25.  
There have been 78 air frosts, an average of 2.3 each April. This April we had 10.

**The following data highlights the warming trend when examining April nights since 1987.**

Between 1987 and 2003 April nights averaged 14 ground frosts whereas between 2004 and 2020 the average had fallen to 8.

Between 1987 and 2003 April nights averaged 4 air frosts whereas between 2004 and 2020 this had fallen to less than one.

Between 1987 and 2003 April nights averaged 1.5 nights below -2C whereas between 2004 and 2020 there was only one such occurrence in those 17 years which was in 2008.

I am not sure anyone will have got this far but if you are still awake, a final word on April's cold nights. In 35 years, taking the average nightly minimum temperatures for the months November through to March, a total of 175 months, this April's 1.75C was colder than all but two Novembers, six Decembers, six Januarys, eight Februarys and three Marches.

The cool mid to late Spring carries on at the time of writing (18/5) with no sign yet of the jet stream moving north to allow us to enjoy some continental temperatures.

# Coombe Bissett Down – A Case Study

By Oliver Davies

The Coombe Bissett Down Project, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, oversaw the purchase and reversion of a large area of arable field back into species-rich chalk grassland. The process initially involved a combination of growing and harvesting nutrient-drawing crops, ploughing, and sowing a mix of wildflowers. However, the final step of the reversion process, and the long-term management plan for the entire nature reserve, is dependent on conservation grazing; this is where semi-feral or domesticated grazing livestock is used to maintain and increase the biodiversity of natural or semi-natural habitats. At Coombe Bissett Down, Herdwick sheep and Dexter cattle prevent the chalk grassland from naturally succeeding back to the scrub and woodland habitat that would have once existed before the land was originally used for farming. This is achieved by limiting the ability of competitive species to dominate, removing coarser plants, creating gaps in the sward for germinating seedlings to exploit, and cycling nutrients through dung – nutrients will also be taken out of the habitat with the removal of wool and meat.

The main objective for conservation grazing in a lowland calcareous grassland is to find the balance between overgrazing and undergrazing: overgrazing causes the loss of valuable flower heads and tussocks and creates too much open ground, which facilitates the invasion of thistles and ragworts; meanwhile, undergrazing results in a build-up of rank herbage and plant litter and allows scrub and dominant species, such as tor grass, to proliferate and shade smaller species. The type of stock also dictates the type of grazing that occurs: sheep are highly selective, close-to-ground grazers that tend to nibble down soft and palatable plants and leave grass stems; cattle are generalist browsers that push through scrub and pull out coarser vegetation with their prehensile tongues, which creates a more structurally diverse grassland. To best support the wildlife at Coombe Bissett Down, the Herdwicks and Dexters are rotated between fenced-off sections of the nature reserve, allowing for nimble-footed sheep to graze on the steep slopes and hardier cattle to tackle scrub and coarse grasses. However, the sheep are removed from the wildflower meadows in the summer to prevent them from removing all the flower heads, and the cattle are housed off-site during the winter as they can poach the soil too much when it's wet.

The overall result of this careful management is a high proportion of stress tolerant, non-competitive plants (the chalk grassland specialists) and a rich floristic diversity. This supports an abundance of insects, and the mixture of scrub and grassland also provides habitats for birds. Mammals take advantage of the bountiful supplies of seeds and grasses, which in turn supports populations of predators – some of which also benefit from the presence of livestock and their dung. Like most ancient semi-natural habitats, lowland calcareous grassland has suffered from the intensification of agricultural practices and the drastic fluctuations in the populations of wild grazers. To best protect these habitats, more of it needs to be created, and the methods that once allowed us to live side-by-side with wildlife should be readopted. This will to ensure the long-term preservation of some of our rarest habitats, and it will also contribute towards our own survival.



## BISHOPSTONE VILLAGE HALL

**JUNE 2021**

We are pleased to confirm the following events as we hopefully move towards full opening in the summer.

We shall be following government guidelines to keep the hall a Covid-19 safe venue, which are:

Do not attend if you or anyone in your household has had Covid-19 symptoms within the previous 48 hours.

At least **until 21<sup>st</sup> June**, anyone entering the hall will be required to:

- Hand sanitise on entering and leaving the hall, and before and after using the toilets.
- Follow a one-way system as marked by arrows on the floor.
- Wear a mask. Masks can be removed when seated if eating or drinking.
- Maintain at least 2 metres distance between individuals or groups, which can be no more than six people or two households. (Once in a group, you cannot swap to another group, even when outdoors.)

### **MOVIOLA at Bishopstone**

The following films have been booked:-

#### **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June – “Little Women”**

*‘Little Women’ is a coming of age period drama based on the novel by Louisa May Alcott. While the March sisters enter the threshold of womanhood, they go through many ups and downs in life and endeavour to make important decisions that can affect their future. It is written and directed by Greta Gerwig and has an impressive cast including Emma Watson, Saoirse Ronan, Meryl Streep and James Norton.*

#### **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July – “Love Sarah.” Preceded by a BBQ.**

Films will start at 7.30pm with doors opening at 7.15pm. Prior booking by calling Caroline Ash on (01722) 781044 is essential so that appropriate seating can be set out for your safety. Tickets £6.00. Payment can be made in advance via BACS, or at the door via a card reader, cheques payable to Bishopstone Village Hall Management Committee or the correct cash in an envelope.

There will be no bar for the June films, but you are welcome to bring your own refreshments.

### **HALL BOOKINGS FOR SOCIAL EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS**

Both halls will be available for hire once restrictions are lifted. To enquire or make an advance booking, please contact the bookings secretary Margaret Barter 01722 780471

### **BABY AND TODDLER PLAYGROUP**

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

### **“EXTEND” EXERCISE CLASSES**

For 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

### **YOGA WITH HANNAH**

For more details please contact Hannah Stocker on 0773 856 1888 or by email: [yoga\\_with\\_hannah@outlook.com](mailto:yoga_with_hannah@outlook.com).

### **SARUM SPINNERS AND WEAVERS**

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

**OCEAN TRANSPORT 21/12/76 – 2/4/77**

One incident I failed to include when recounting my trip to South America with the family, which I feel is worth mentioning, was a visit Eileen and the boys took to the Zoo in Buenos Aires. They all enjoyed travelling on the local buses called 'collectivos'. These are very small buses with about 30 seats and all highly decorated with mementoes around the driver's seat. Whilst driving these very fast buses, a driver would be indulged in other pastimes such as; talking to a mate, listening to the radio, reading a newspaper, taking money and finding change. The city bus map is divided into squares all with numbers in them. The simple way was, prior to the trip, to find the number of your square in another square in the direction to your destination. If your destination has the number of your bus in it then you have cracked it in one. It may take one or two changes but made it very interesting and the boys loved planning the route.

The zoo is situated near the domestic airport; the international airport is outside the city. As they were being driven through a park which was very close to the airport, the driver suddenly drove off the road onto the grass. At the arrival at another road he told all of his passengers to leave the bus and drove off leaving them all at the roadside.

On the ship we were told that an attempt had been made on the life of the president. Apparently he was flying out from that airport and the rebels had mined the runway and planned to blow it up as the plane was taking off. However it was such a short trip the aircraft did not have a full load of fuel so took to the air before passing over the mined section. The subsequent explosion had no effect on the aircraft.

On board we were getting worried about Eileen and the boys. It was our wedding anniversary so we had arranged a surprise party to celebrate. We also had a very heavy thunderstorm with a lightning strike on our VHF whip aerial which had completely disappeared.

Still all's well that ends well and Eileen and boys having used the bus map to find another bus, safely returned and we had the party after our evening meal.

**BANBURY 15/6/77 – 29/9/77**

I joined the Banbury in Liverpool when she was handed back to Furness ship management, (as we were now called). She was fifteen years old and had been on a bare boat charter to an Australian company trading round the Australian coast and the Far East. She had been very well maintained by the Aussies and had just fitted out with a dry docking prior to her handing back. The Captain who had been on board for a few days, I will call him Ian. I had not met him before, but like the Captain on the Western Prince down to Nigeria, he was difficult to get to know and spent most of his time in port in his cabin drinking. He, like Eddie of the Western Prince, was a former Chief Officer on the Pacific boats. The Star cargo ships trading to the west coast of North America. All the Masters and Deck Officers cabins were on the same deck, the Master and the 2<sup>nd</sup> mate on the starboard side, myself and the third mate on the port side. Every cabin for Officers and Petty Officers were connected to an auto telephone exchange. However Ian would not use it, and just shouted for the 3<sup>rd</sup> mate to come to his cabin when needed. This I found very annoying, as did the 3<sup>rd</sup> mate. I suggested to him that the next time he called, he quickly left his cabin and went out on deck. After a few days he took the hint and telephoned, surprise, surprise, the 3<sup>rd</sup> mate was much easier to get hold of.

This was the Queen's Silver Jubilee year and she was coming on a visit to Liverpool to review the British ships in port. To make it easier for her, but not for us, we were all given a time to leave the harbour with a pilot and proceed to anchorage as instructed by the Harbourmaster.

We had a very young and sociable Mersey pilot who had drawn the short straw for this job. He had to stay on board the whole of the next day whilst at anchor and bring us back in the following day.

The instructions were very clear for the review. The Queen would carry out the review on board a small ferry, the Royal Iris. On exiting the lock into the river, a command radio signal would be broadcast from the Royal Iris, for all ships in the review to blow two five second long blasts on our whistles. That was it. No more whistle blowing at all.

We mustered in the wheelhouse 10 minutes before the Royal Iris was due to leave the lock. Ian appeared and was very drunk. I was for some reason sent to the foc'sle, with a uniform cap, not mine I did not possess one. As the Royal Iris went by we blew our whistle, the same on her return but more so. Very embarrassing as in the reception party aboard the Royal Iris was the Chairman of PSNC, (Pacific Steam Navigation Company), one of Furness Withy's owned companies. But Ian was not yet finished. We were due to leave at 20.00 hrs to return to our berth. The 4<sup>th</sup> engineer was in the engine room preparing the engine when Ian walked up to the telegraph and rang full ahead. Well, the ship was still at anchor and not quite ready to manoeuvre. The chief engineer came on the bridge and wanted to know what was going on. The chief was

very annoyed and disappeared below decks. Ian staggered and left the pilot, 3<sup>rd</sup> mate and myself to get on with getting the vessel back to her berth.

At 06.00 hrs the next morning we were back alongside, the pilot off home, and we got a couple of hour's kip before work started at 08.00 hrs. At 10.00 hrs a superintendent arrived from London and wanted to know what was going on. This was unfortunate as it is an unwritten rule that what happens on a ship, stays on a ship, as far as possible. This however was a complaint from the Chairman of PSNC and the chief engineer whose main worry was the fright given to his 4<sup>th</sup> engineer. Like the Orotava, the Banbury, has bridge control. Manoeuvring the ship can be automatically carried out by using the telegraph. The duty engineer just has to stay in the engine room control room and watch the dials. The outcome was that Ian was sacked on the spot by the superintendent. A very sad outcome, which in some ways the company was to blame.

The reason for Ian's erratic behaviour was that the two masters who worked the ship did a voyage on, then a voyage off. Ian had worked the previous voyage, but on arrival in Liverpool was informed that the other Master had received an invitation to a Buckingham Palace garden party. Ian had a holiday booked with his family during his leave but instead had to work. Later I was told that the company found him another job as, Master with, Kuwait Shipping Co., with more money, but all their ships were dry. It was a very embarrassing experience for our crew and the company.

The new Master arrived the following day. He was living in Ringwood at the time. A very much nicer man than Ian who had been recovering from a serious illness. Three months previously he was Master on board one of our refrigeration ships and en-route to Panama from New Zealand he was taken ill with a burst duodenal ulcer. He needed urgent medical treatment and at the very least, stabilise his condition. The Americans sent a paramedical team out over the pacific, found the ship and two paramedics parachuted close to the lifeboat that had been launched from the ship.

The ship then headed for the Galapagos Islands from where the Americans flew him to Panama where the operation saved his life. He was several weeks in hospital before he was well enough to fly home.

Our voyage on the Banbury was to take us to the Caribbean and the West Coast of South America. The Banbury was quite an awkward ship to manage. Although she had a service speed of 18 knots she had to be loaded very carefully. Motor ships, or at least the Banbury, needed the engine started on diesel then changed over to fuel oil. Her generators ran on diesel and her capacity for carrying diesel was not really sufficient. This is ok if diesel is readily available. but apparently diesel was not in sufficient quantity to supply ships south of Panama.

Whilst loading in Liverpool we had to keep a tight eye on the ships positive stability. Our first discharge port was Hamilton Bermuda, (my old hunting ground). All our cargo for this port had to be palletised and stowed in the tween decks, the highest deck in the hold.

It only took us five days from Liverpool to Bermuda and we arrived at the pilot station about 16.30 hrs, during my watch. The channel to Hamilton is quite straight forward except for a very acute bend to port of the naval base that was called, Island Island. I explained to the pilot that he should slow down just before turning to port at the bend, and then went below for my tea. Half way through my meal the vessel took a violent list to port and did not immediately return to the upright. Very slowly she returned to the upright position. On returning to the bridge I asked the pilot why he did not slow down. He said he could not see the need. I then asked him if he understood the word, `tender`, as applied to a ships stability. No, he said. That explained a lot for me. He asked if I had been to Bermuda before. Yes, I was on the Ocean Monarch from 1960-1962. I did not remember him being a cadet or a navigating officer. Actually he was what was known as the, `glory hole steward`, who cleaned the crew's alleyways and bar. He had no idea of the safe stability of ships and had worked on harbour tugs before pilot training.

A Bermudian officer who was senior 3<sup>rd</sup> officer, whilst I was junior second on the Ocean Monarch was working in the china department on a large store on Front Street, right at the bottom of our accommodation gangway. I telephone in the evening to see if we could meet up for a pie and a pint at lunchtime next day. We were due to sail at 15.00 hrs that day so an early meeting was arranged at the department store for 11.30 hrs.

I went casually dressed in a summer shirt and KD's. He said we were going to the Bermudian Hotel, so they would not let me in without a jacket and a tie. Very colonial I thought. He took me to the clothing department at the store and tried a few lightweight jackets on. All too small, I had a feeling that he was not too pleased to be bothered with me. He said, this one will fit and we had better get going. It was a green and white striped jacket and still much too small for me. On arrival at the hotel the boss waiter told my friend that I could not enter the dining room as I did not have a tie. But he then said, never mind I have one here, and produced a navy blue tie, which looked ridiculous with the green and white striped jacket. Lunch was nothing special and my suspicions were confirmed during the meal. He told me he flew to the UK four times a year to buy china for his store, mentioning that Poole Pottery was a big seller for the store. I told him I lived in Coombe Bissett and that he would be very welcome to stop by for lunch. He knew where Coombe Bissett was and came through

here on his way to Poole, but made a lame excuse of not having time to stop. I do not know if I offended there, but I do know that as a Bermudian, he thought he should have had the job I had, even though when on the Ocean Monarch we both had a first mates certificate and I was at least 2 years senior to him. We sailed at 15.00 hrs, the ship having discharged all her tween deck cargo for Hamilton, leaving us with a much healthier margin of positive stability.

I remember it being a beautiful summer's day and I was on the port bridge wing day dreaming, and the southern coast of the Island now just below the horizon. Chippy, (our carpenter), came to me and said there was a work boat alongside us on the starboard side. I called the Captain and then went down to see what they wanted. It was a large twin powerful boat with 4 men in work clothes and life jackets. At full speed they could certainly obtain a speed of 30 knots and being low in the water would soon lose sight of land. They had been chasing us for nearly half an hour and wished to know how far back to Bermuda and the direction. Having given them the course and distance they thanked us and headed off to home. I called Bermuda radio station and told them they were on their way back. They called later to say they had arrive back safety in Hamilton.

### **OROTAVA 2/6/78 – 30/10/78**

I sailed on the Westbury or the Ocean Transport for around 9 months and then found myself once again on the Orotava going out to the States, loading coal for Hamburg. After a couple of trips, we were sent to the Mississippi to load grain for Japan. Hold cleaning on that ship was massive especially after loading coal. The ships holds were in a very poor state with large amounts of scale on the watertight bulkheads. We did our best to get the ship clean enough for grain, but it was an enormous task. Number three hold with seven thousand tons could not be emptied until we reached the new providence channel through the Bahamas Islands. This gave us five days before entering the Mississippi. We did our best, but I knew it would not be good enough. Sure enough we failed the inspection and were sent to a cargo berth near the centre of town to await shore labour to come and finish the job. The next morning, we had a gang of about 30 cleaners with long ladders, plenty of metal scrapers and they worked two shifts from 08.00 hrs to 17.00 hrs and 18.00 hrs to 23.00 hrs, a pretty long day. The foreman used a 20-20 shotgun to blast scale down from the different parts, this was very effective! Now the holds were dry we closed all the hatch covers to keep them so. At the end of the day the 3rd mate would close the covers. On the third morning he came to my cabin and told me that one of the cleaners was lying on the tank top at the bottom of number three hold, his head in a pool of blood. By this time the Captain, Brian, appeared and asked if I would like to go down and see who he was. Not really, how about you? The police arrived, no volunteers there, then the Coroner, no way, but he said his corpsman would be arriving soon and he would sort out the situation with his team. Meanwhile the top cop was talking to the foreman and getting a few leaders on the poor lad at the bottom of the hold. The conclusion was that he was missing from the twilight shift and not been seen at all but that he had returned early before the rest with a bottle of wine. He climbed between the two after lids, drank the wine and passed out. It was dark when the second shift began and they did not tell the foreman he was missing, this was unfortunate as there would have been a search for him.

The beam strengthening the section ran horizontal inside of the hatch, meeting at an obtuse angle at the centre of the underside of the hatch, keeping the two sections about fifteen feet apart. Enough room to crawl in, drink his wine and pass out. Perhaps he had a split-second dream that he was falling, then oblivion.

The poor 3<sup>rd</sup> mate was in a pretty poor state knowing that his action had been the last straw in the young man's death. The police and coroner assured him that he would not be in anyway blamed. I had a long session with him and explained that had I closed the hatches the result would have been the same. I had sailed with him a couple of years before and was very pleased to have him as a 3<sup>rd</sup> mate.

Luckily no lasting effects and he recovered from the shock well. The ship was on her way to Japan and because the Japanese had found more than the usual insects from that particular silo we had loaded from, they requested fumigation. This was carried out when each hold was completed by laying belts across the cargo containing cyanide. During the voyage to Japan the belts would slowly release the cyanide letting the gas sink through the grain. We were told to keep the accommodation entrance doors closed for at least five days.

One strange thing about the Orotava was that on my first visit to her in 1971 when she was four years old, every time the radio officer transmitted on six megawatts the main engine stopped. Each time the vessel returned to the near continent experts came on board to try to solve the problem. She was the first bridge control ship I had sailed on. When away from port the engineers could pass control to bridge, meaning the bridge to engine room telegraph would do exactly as commanded by the bridge personnel on their telegraph. So, with this system in place the engine room was unmanned at night and at weekends. Each engineer had his cabin alarmed and if he was the duty one, he would switch the alarm to his cabin. Everything in the ER was alarmed and if one went off the duty engineer would have twenty seconds to get to the ER to answer the alarm or else it would ring in the Chief Engineer's bedroom. In the ER control room was an indicator board, alight would flash indicating the problem. Pressing the light would silence the alarm allowing the engineer to get to the seat of the problem.

On our last visit to Dunkirk two young electricians, one Dutch and one English, who designed bridge control units were given the opportunity to solve the problem, after a couple of hours they had sorted it out by placing a small 10p condenser into the bridge control system. 'That was cheap' I remarked, 'it's not the cost it's knowing where to put it!' that was it solved, and she did not have that problem again.

My time was up on the Orotava, and I was relieved on the Atlantic side of the Panama Canal at Christobal.

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### **Cricket Club**

Don Hewlett 741354

Thankfully, with some Covid restrictions lifted, we were able to hit the ground running, to get our season off to a prompt start on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April.

Three cheers ring out to all who support our club, namely our ever-generous Patrons, also the Coombe Bissett Express, for donating a leaf blower, for which our loyal groundsman, Ian Newman is particularly chuffed. Thanks also to our super band of ladies, Sam, Ann, Sherry and Debbie, for providing tea's, individually plated, and served outside, to adhere to current restrictions.

If anyone would like a swim, we have a paddling pool, and enough sanitiser to fill it, located at the pavilion.

Thus far, on the playing front, three games played, two won and one lost, with the weather scuppering one other. Both, James Taylor 84 and Ganny Sankaran 55 have passed the half-century mark. The match against Dorset Wanderers, won by 8 wkts, no less than six teenagers were in the side, which bodes well for the future of the club. We much look forward to the game against the Chairman's X1 on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May starting at 11am, also to the away trips to Wookey Hole on the 11<sup>th</sup> July, and to the lovely ground at Stourton the following week.

If you fancy pulling on the whites, please get in touch, as we always welcome new players.

Catch up with all the news and match reports, by visiting our web-site, just google coombe bissett cricket club.

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF COOMBE BISSETT AND HOMINGTON HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 20th MAY 2021 AT 6.30 pm (unconfirmed).**

**Present:** Councillors: S Gledhill (Acting Chair), C Chelu, A Bird, K Byatt and L Reed. Councillor D Hobson joined the meeting via Zoom.

**Apologies for Absence:** Mrs N Heron (Clerk) due to illness.

**In Attendance:** R Clewer (Wiltshire Councillor) and two members of the community.

Cllr S Gledhill welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Minutes of the last meeting:** The Chair explained that due to the Corona Virus pandemic the 2020 Annual Meeting had been cancelled. The Minutes under consideration were therefore those from the 2019 Meeting. They were proposed by Cllr C Chelu, seconded by Cllr A Bird and carried unanimously.

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

**Vote of Thanks**

The Council unanimously passed a vote of thanks to Derrick Rattue as Chairman, Pippa Crosthwaite and Gerald Bundy, for the work they had done over many years for the community. All have recently stood down from the Parish Council.

**Chairman's Report - D Rattue:**

During the year we have held 6 Council Meetings. Because of Corona Virus restrictions the 6 meetings were all held virtually. Your Representatives also dealt with 24 planning applications.

The Neighbourhood Development Plan continued its preparation and over the past 12 months has made significant progress thanks to the efforts of the Steering Group under the leadership of Christine Cooper. Currently we are waiting for the Strategic Environment Assessment to be confirmed which will be in approximately two months' time.

There is one Capital Project outstanding, namely the Donkey Field fencing which has been delayed due to the wet conditions on the field. It is hoped to make a start during the next few weeks.

The Financial Accounts continue to be in a strong position which has again enabled the Parish Precept to be kept at just a 1.3% increase from the previous year.

The CHAVS continued their excellent work in carrying out various small maintenance and improvement schemes which have been much appreciated by all the community.

During the past year we have seen the Parish Clerk Debbie James, Councillors Philippa Crosthwaite and Gerald Bundy all stand down from the Council after giving excellent service over many years.

This will be my last Chairman's Report as I shall not be standing in the May 2021 Council Elections. Over the 22 years as a Parish Councillor, I have been fortunate to have worked with so many dedicated people and it has been a privilege to have been a part of your group. A special thankyou to Nicola Heron who took over the duties of Parish Clerk during August last year and has slotted into the role so well. Thankyou also to Richard Clewer our Wiltshire Council Representative whose attendance at our meetings and valuable advice have proved so beneficial to our community.

**Annual Report from Representatives**

**Police Report - D Rattue:**

After 8 years as Police and Crime Commissioner Angus Macpherson will leave his role after the May 2021 elections. Chief Constable Keir has had his contract extended to November 2023 following exceptional performance during major incidents in Wiltshire. Over the past two years Wiltshire Police have been able to increase its front line staff through additional finance from local tax and Central Government. In 2018/2019 Wiltshire had 934 Police Officers and 131 PCSOs. In 2019/2020 an additional 41 Police Officers were made available. The number of Police Officers in 2020/2021 will increase further to 1050 whilst maintaining the number of PCSOs at its present level. Wiltshire continues to be one of the safest counties to live and work in and Wiltshire Police is one of only four forces to see a reduction in overall crime. Knife crime continues to be a major concern for the public, though in Wiltshire knife crime

has shown an 18% reduction since 2017. In the Salisbury area over the period March 2020 to February 2021 the following crimes were recorded

	<i>Number</i>	<i>% of Total</i>
Anti-Social Behaviour	1706	28.7%
Bicycle Theft	67	1.1%
Burglary	268	4.5%
Criminal damage/arson	621	10.4%
Drugs	183	3.1%
Other Theft	327	5.5%
Possession of weapons	56	0.9%
Public order	405	6.8%
Robbery	23	0.4%
Shoplifting	218	3.7%
Theft from person	30	0.5%
Vehicle crime	232	3.9%
Violence & sexual offence	1706	28.7%
Other crime	104	1.7%

The four main priorities in 2021 for Policing in Wiltshire are confirmed as:

1. Prevent crime and keep people safe.
2. Protect the most vulnerable people in society.
3. Put victims, witnesses and communities at the heart of everything we do.
4. Secure a quality police force that is trusted and efficient.

#### **Coombe Bissett CE Primary School – Cllr C Chelu:**

There is much information about school activities available bi-monthly in the Express and on the school website, where details of Ofsted inspections can be accessed.

Ash Class (Year 5 & 6) - 13 boys & 19 girls = 32

Fir Class (Year 3 & 4) - 18 boys & 12 girls = 30

Elm Class (Year 1 & 2) - 17 boys & 10 girls = 27

Oak Class (Reception & Year 1) - 12 boys & 10 girls = 22

The school are delighted to have welcomed several young families who have moved into our catchment area over the last couple of years bringing the number of children within catchment to 28 with 3 local families choosing the school for their children this September.

#### **Village Hall – Cllr C Chelu:**

The Village Hall has been largely unused since the 1st lock down last year with a brief use during the summer by Pilates and Parkinson Bowls. A grant was obtained to enable Covid precautions to be set up in the hall and sanitising and cleaning equipment was purchased, together with suitable signage and QR code. The hall is all prepared for hiring when the regulations are relaxed subject to hirers carrying out the advice provided by the government. The hall website gives details of the requirements. The running of the hall depends upon the hard work of a number of volunteers on the management committee for which we thank them.

#### **Highways & Street Scene – Cllr C Chelu:**

The major works to highways locally have been recently carried out by Wiltshire Council. The road has been resurfaced and re-white lined from the 40mph limit on the Salisbury Road to the 30mph limit on the Blandford Road. This has resulted in the repair of many areas which had been patched up over the years. These faults had been repeatedly reported over the 8 years that I have held this role. The road is now smoother and quieter, but may result in some speed increases. Adrian Turnbull has been moving the speed indicator device around the Parish on a regular basis during lockdown with the help of his wife and the data is available on the Parish website. We thank him for his continued enthusiasm for the SID and running Community Speed watch which has recently restarted. The Donkey Field has been very wet this winter prompting Wessex Water to suspect a leak and dig up an area close to the churchyard. No leak was found but the digging seems to have uncovered a spring which was seen pouring onto the field. Now it has dried out mowing has been able to be carried out and it is hoped that the planned low rustic fence can be installed soon.

#### **Snow Warden – Cllr C Chelu:**

The snow experienced this year was again very short lived, and our thanks go to the volunteers who cleared and salted the main footway within the village. The Parish still has ample supplies of salt ready for next winter and more can be requested although we may have to collect it ourselves. The Parish snow advice was put up on the website to give information during this period and is still available.

#### **Coombe Bissett Planning - Cllr C Chelu (vice Pippa Crosthwaite):**

During the last year there have been 17 planning applications and 7 tree applications. The most concerning application was for a development in the chalk pit which resulted in over 50 objections from local residents. This application is yet to be determined. The Wiltshire Council planning website has recently been updated and this should make it easier to directly send in comments.

#### **Playground and Recreation Field – Cllr A Bird:**

Use of the playground and recreation field were severely restricted in 2020 as a result of the pandemic. Only a very limited number of cricket matches were able to be played, and social distancing rules were implemented. The 2021 season has begun, still with some restrictions in place, but hopefully these will be lifted soon.

The playpark had to be closed to the public for several months during 2020 to comply with covid restrictions. It was re-opened in line with Government advice and following a risk assessment. The annual RoSPA inspection on the park only highlighted some minor issues, including increasing the levels of the bark surface. This work is planned for summer 2021 when covid restrictions allow for volunteers to help.

The field continues to be maintained to an extremely high standard by the Cricket Club. The Parish Council was able to purchase a hedge trimmer, which the cricket club groundsman (Ian) uses to keep the hedgerows neat and tidy. A massive vote of thanks goes to Ian for the amount of time and effort he puts into keeping the field looking immaculate.

#### **Homington Report – Cllr S Gledhill**

**Planning Applications** - Two Planning Applications have been considered over the past year. These have involved a residential property extension and agricultural buildings demolition. This was a relatively small number of applications – five to nine is a more usual figure. Neither of the applications were controversial and as a result it was not necessary for the Parish Council to ask our Wiltshire Councillor to 'call in' an application for consideration by the Southern Area Planning Committee.

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

**Traffic** - A Homington Community Speed-Watch is not currently in operation. However, the Parish Speed Indicator Device (SID) is on rotation deployed on the C12 through the village and on occasions supported by the Coombe Bissett Community Speed Watch. If any villagers are interested in re-opening Speed-Watch they are asked to contact one of the village's Parish Councillors.

#### **Councillor Vacancy:**

Cllr S Gledhill briefed the meeting that the Parish Council should have seven Councillors. At the recent election six candidates stood and were 'elected'. There is a vacancy on the Council which can be filled through a volunteer being co-opted onto the Council. If anyone would be interested in joining the Parish Council they should speak to the Clerk or a current Councillor. The vacancy will also be publicised on Noticeboards, in the Express, on the Parish Website and Facebook Group.

#### **Parishioner's Questions:**

Derrick Rattue thanked past and present Councillors for their work and for the support they provided to him during his time as Chairman of the Parish Council. He also expressed his thanks to our Wiltshire Councillor Richard Clewer for the support he has provided to the Parish Council.

Date of the next Annual Parish Meeting: Tuesday 10th May 2022.

**The meeting closed at 6.58pm.**

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL COOMBE BISSETT  
AT 7.00 PM ON THURSDAY 20<sup>th</sup> MAY 2021 (unconfirmed).**

**Present:** Councillors: S Gledhill, C Chelu, A Bird, K Byatt and L Reed. Cllr D Hobson joined the meeting via Zoom.

**Apologies:** Mrs Nicola Heron (Clerk) due to illness.

**In Attendance:** Wiltshire Cllr. R Clewer and two members of the public (one via Zoom).

Cllr S Gledhill (Acting Chairman) welcomed all Councillors to the first meeting of the Parish Council since the Election and particularly welcomed Cllrs Byatt and Reed who were new to the Council.

**ITEM 1 Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman:** Cllr A Bird proposed and Cllr K Byatt seconded Cllr D Hobson as Chair. Cllr S Gledhill proposed and Cllr L Reed seconded Cllr A Bird as Vice Chair. All voted in favour.

**ITEM 2 Election of Officers:** Following discussion the following appointments were unanimously agreed:

Playground and Recreation Field	Cllr A Bird
Village School	Cllr S Gledhill
Highways & Street Scene	Cllr C Chelu
Snow Warden	Cllr C Chelu
Planning (Coombe Bissett)	Cllr C Chelu (Lead), Cllr A Bird and Cllr L Reed
Planning (Homington)	Cllr S Gledhill (Lead), Cllr D Hobson and Cllr C Chelu
Rights of Way	Cllr K Byatt
Flooding	Cllr A Bird & Cllr L Reed
Homington	Cllr S Gledhill

**ITEM 3 Public Question Time:** No questions were raised by members of the public.

**ITEM 4 Minutes of the Last Meeting:** The minutes were proposed by Cllr C Chelu, seconded by Cllr A Bird and agreed by all as a correct record.

**ITEM 5 Declarations of interest:** There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

**ITEM 6 Matters arising:**

**Neighbourhood Development Plan:** Cllr S Gledhill reported that the 1<sup>st</sup> draft of the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) has now been sent by the NP Steering Group to Wiltshire Council for them to decide whether a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required. It is understood that Wiltshire Council are currently consulting other stakeholders such as the Environment Agency and Historic England, before a decision on the need for a SEA is taken. If one is required it usually takes 2 to 3 months to complete. If necessary, the draft NP will then be amended with the next step being a Regulation 14 Consultation, where the community and all other interested parties will have opportunity to comment on the draft.

**Bridleway Bollards in Coombe Bissett:** The Bollards have now been delivered to Wiltshire Council and we are awaiting details of an installation date. Mr G Bundy was able to confirm that details on the sites for the bollards had been passed to Wiltshire Council.

**Donkey Field Fence:** Cllr Chelu has now taken the lead on this project. A low chestnut fence around the Donkey Field is planned. A contractor has been tasked although there has recently been some difficulty in contacting him. Cllr Reed offered to help in contacting the contractor.

**Recreation Field Grass Cutting:** Following a request from the Cricket Club for a £50 per annum increase in the fee it receives for mowing the recreation field grass, the Council has reviewed the terms of the arrangement. Following discussion, it unanimously decided that in terms of cost and quality the current agreement represented best value for money. It therefore agreed the £50 annual increase in the fee paid to the Cricket Club.

**Speed Indicator Device (SID) and Community Speedwatch:** This is operational throughout the Parish and SID Reports are posted on the Website. The initiative is led by Adrian Turnbull

and the Parish Council is grateful for his efforts. However, there are challenges in finding sufficient volunteers. Cllr Byatt agreed to write an article for the Express on her experience of Speedwatch to encourage more volunteers to come forward.

**Playground Repairs:** Cllr Bird reported that the extra wood-chippings have now been ordered and as soon as Covid restrictions allow they will be delivered. Volunteers will be needed to help laying them on the Playground.

**White Railings opposite the Fox and Goose:** The Parish Council and a number of members of the community have been concerned for some time about the poor state of repair of the white railing on the A354 opposite the Fox and Goose. Following discussion, it was decided that in the first instance Cllr Chelu would contact Wiltshire Council who are responsible for the railings to see if they can be repaired and painted as part of the Council's routine structures maintenance programme. Alternatively it could be a task for the Wiltshire Council Parish Steward. If this is not successful the Parish Council will seek alternative solutions to the issue.

**ITEM 7 Code of Conduct and Standing Orders:** Cllr C Chelu proposed and Cllr A Bird seconded that the Council:

- 1) Adopt the NALC Model Standing Orders 2018 (incorporating the Amendment also issued in 2018).
- 2) Note the NALC Legal Topic Note LTN 80 dated 21 June 2012 concerning Members' conduct and the registration and disclosure of their interests (England).
- 3) Adopt the Wiltshire Council Code of Conduct as applicable within the context of Coombe Bissett Parish Council.

This was unanimously agreed.

**ITEM 8 Annual Audit:** The annual statement of accounts for FY 20/21 have been prepared by the Clerk and circulated prior to the meeting. The Parish Council are grateful to Mr David Parsons for carrying out an internal audit of the accounts. He has reported all is in order. The Accounting Statements and Audit were unanimously approved by resolution of the Council and will be forwarded to the external auditor. The summary and analysis of the Parish Council accounts will be posted on the village web site. Any interested person may inspect the Parish Council accounts remotely for the year ending 31-03-2021, from 15-06-2021 to 24-07-2021 by contacting the Clerk. In confirmation of approval Cllr S Gledhill and the Clerk Mrs Nicola Heron signed and dated the documents.

**ITEM 9 Annual Governance Statement 2020/21:** The Annual Governance Statement was considered and approved by all Councillors. In confirmation of approval Cllr S Gledhill and the Clerk Mrs Nicola Heron signed and dated the document.

**ITEM 10 Parking on Recreation Field:** The following requests have been received:

Cricket Club    May 20<sup>th</sup>  
                      June 6<sup>th</sup>  
                      June 13<sup>th</sup>  
                      June 20<sup>th</sup>  
                      July 4<sup>th</sup>

Laverstock and Salisbury Beaver Group -June 26<sup>th</sup>

**ITEM 11 Parking on Donkey Field:** No requests received.

**ITEM 12 Notices on Donkey Field/Beech Tree:** No requests received.

**ITEM 13 Correspondence Received:**

Letter from Mr John Spiers on 15 Mar 21 concerning recognition of the work of the Village Stores and staff over the past year. The Parish Clerk was asked to respond to Mr Spiers stating that he was welcome to take forward the initiative with the support of the Parish Council.

Email received on 30 Mar 21 from Roland Hughes concerning liaison with the Cranborne Chase AONB Landscape Partnership Scheme. Following discussion Cllr K Byatt agreed to contact Mr Hughes on behalf of the Parish Council.

A letter received on 01 May 21 from Cohanin Architecture concerning the 'Churchill Place' planning application was noted.

## **ITEM 14 Planning:**

### **Planning Received:**

Application Ref: PL/2021/03906 - Circular 14/90 - Electricity Overhead Lines notification

Proposal: The replacement of three wooden electricity poles on the Homington (HOMI) E1L5 and Shaftesbury (SHAF) E2L5 11kV circuits respectively during the 21/22 financial year

At: Homington and Shaftesbury Circuits

### **Planning under Consultation:**

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

### **Planning Refused:**

Application Ref: 21/00684/FUL

Proposal: - Proposed redevelopment of outbuilding to residential dwelling with 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

## **ITEM 15 Reports from Representatives:**

Representatives drew attention to the Reports they had submitted to the Parish Annual Meeting. Cllr Chelu added that recent flooding on the A354 close to the Fox and Goose has been reported to Wiltshire Council.

**ITEM 16 Finance:** Cllr S Gledhill reminded the Meeting that usually under this Item the Clerk reports all expenditure made and income received since the last meeting. However due to her illness and current issues with her internet banking access she is not able to do this. However, she has reported that as at 01 Apr 21 the balance on accounts was:

Current Account: £13,565.78

Reserve Account: £32,142.27

The only payment made since this time has been the Council's Insurance bill of £715.

Cllr S Gledhill also asked that the Council's Information Commissioner registration fee of £40 be paid by cheque. This was agreed and the cheque signed by Cllrs C Chelu and A Bird.

**Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at the Village Hall

**The Meeting closed at 8.28 pm.**