

# COOMBE BISSETT AND HOMINGTON

# EXPRESS

Issue No 258 August/September 2021



Thanks to Ann and Abi

Photos from The Coombe Bissett and Homington Show Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July



Where is it? See entry details on page 3 & black & white copy

## Village Diary

CB&H Cricket Club Jazz evening	14th August
Badminton Club re-starts	1st September
CRESS Open garden	11th /12th September
Village Cinema	16th September

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Following on from a dreary spring we are now in the middle of a heatwave with severe weather warnings in place. The gardens are awash with flowers and the bees and butterflies are having a fine time in my garden. After a slow start in the vegetable garden it seems to have picked up and I am picking broad beans and salad leaves in abundance with plenty of potatoes to dig as needed.

Looking back at last year’s editorial we are in an improved place thanks to the successful work of all those involved with the vaccine programme. We have surpassed expectations of many and are in sight of the double dose finishing line. Now we are involved in the ‘Ping-demic!’ And what lies ahead will hold uncertainty and concern for some, so it’s still important to take care and stay safe, Covid has not gone away, and we are just learning to live with some new ways of day to day life. ‘Freedom Day’, as some have called it, has come and most things have opened up. Although masks are no longer mandatory it’s all about how safe people feel and respect is needed for those who still wish, or need, to take precautions.

There are a few events planned in the next couple of months. The CB&H Cricket Club is holding a Jazz evening on the 14th of August, the Village Cinema is back at the hall on the 16th of September and Badminton starts again at the village hall on the 1st of September. Full details can be found later in this edition.

Apologies to the Village Hall for incorrectly printing their email address in the last edition. I do hope it has not caused any inconvenience. The correct address is: [cbvhbookings@gmail.com](mailto:cbvhbookings@gmail.com). Some of the keen eyed amongst you may notice some presentational differences in the articles you have submitted. This time I have had to take production of the copy to, ‘plan B’, after the HP computer that I use for the Express died on me!!

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

**Latest submission date for the next issue.....5pm 20th September 2021**  
 Sue Dyer      email [cbandhexpress@outlook.com](mailto:cbandhexpress@outlook.com)      Phone: 01722718514

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**Where is it?**



Pod & Pip Florist!  
 Your chance to win\* a beautiful candle selection from  
 If you know exactly what this is and where it is located  
 send your email/postal answer to:

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

the Congratulations to Susan Brealey for the correct answer from  
 last edition:

The Homington Tree Seat

A big thank you to The Fox & Goose for donating the prize.  
 (and randomly drawing the winner!)



# 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

August is here and we are coming to terms with the easing of restrictions. In our churches we are opening up very cautiously because we want everyone to feel safe and comfortable when they join us. We are singing again but fairly gently! Masks are not mandatory but everyone is encouraged to keep others safe and comfortable. There will be hand sanitiser available and you will be invited to give your names or zap the QR code.

During Communion services there will be no shaking hands at the Peace – waving is fine! We will not yet be sharing the common cup and we will maintain social distancing as far as we are able. We have come this far and we do not want to spoil everybody's hard work and carefulness! Once case numbers start to drop the Clergy Team will look again at easing restrictions further.

As I write this we are simply sweltering in a July heatwave – let's hope the weather holds and that your holidays prove as restful and refreshing as holidays should be! The coolest places in a heatwave are our churches! So why not pause awhile and visit them giving yourselves the time and space you need by visiting them and drinking in the peace and serenity that these wonderful buildings contain in their very walls. You might enjoy reading these words from Psalm 46 as you rest in these holy places:

**Be still, and know that I am God.**

**I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.**

**Be still, and know that I am God.**

Revd Canon Jenny Taylor



.....And so on to HARVEST!!!



This year we WILL be celebrating Harvest in both our Churches:

Homington – 6.00 pm on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September and  
Coombe Bissett – 11.00 am on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October

Please put these dates in your diaries so we can have wonderful celebratory services in both our churches this year! And we want to provide a BUMPER Harvest for The Trussell Trust and Alabare so please get all those tins and packets ready!!

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### **CRESS Open Garden fundraising event**

The CRESS Garden Open is being held this year over the weekend of 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> September, each afternoon between 2.00-5.00pm at Knighton Manor, Broad Chalke.

Visitors pay a voluntary contribution to enjoy afternoon tea in the beautiful setting of Knighton Manor, including the opportunity to walk around the cutting flower gardens and the chance to browse various local craft stalls including art, painting, wood crafts, glassware, handmade jewellery, etc.

All donations made will raise valuable funds to support the work that CRESS does to improve the health and wellbeing of the South Sudanese refugees living in northern Uganda.

This year CRESS is specifically looking to raise funds towards the purchase of a 4x4 vehicle, costing ca £20,000, so that CRESS health support workers and fully trained Children's Accelerated Trauma Training (CATT) counsellors can provide the range of clinical services to refugees living in the different refugee camps across northern Uganda. Without a 4x4 vehicle it is impossible to travel on the uneven and often deeply rutted roads to deliver necessary medicines and supplies to those in need. For example, CRESS supplies antenatal classes and Mama Kits to improve the birth outcomes for pregnant mothers.

To find out more about how Cress supports the South Sudanese refugees to become more self-sufficient, please visit our website: <https://cressuk.org/>

We would love you to come along and join us at the Open Garden in September.



## Services in Chalke Valley Benefice - August 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>1 August 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b>	9.30am Parish Communion (CW) 9.30am Parish Communion (CW) 11.00am Family Communion (CW) 11.00am Family Communion (CW) 11.00am Morning Service (CW) 11.00am Morning Prayer (BCP)	Broad Chalke Britford Ebbesbourne Wake Coombe Bissett Odstock Berwick St John	Catherine Blundell Jenny Taylor Catherine Blundell Jenny Taylor Adrian Taylor Lay Led
<b>8 August 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b>	9.30am Parish Communion (CW) 9.30am Family Communion (CW) 11.00am Morning Prayer (BCP) 11.00am Family Service 11.00am All Age Service 3.00pm Evening Prayer (BCP)	Bowerchalke Nunton Charlton All Saints Coombe Bissett Alvediston Fifield Bavant	Catherine Blundell Roger Leake Rhoderick Voremborg Jenny Taylor Biddy Trahair Biddy Trahair
<b>15 August 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b>	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Parish Communion (CW) 9.30am Parish Communion (CW) 11.00am Morning Prayer (BCP) 11.00am Parish Communion (CW) 11.00am Parish Communion (CW)	Bowerchalke Bishopstone Odstock Ebbesbourne Wake Homington Berwick St John	Roger Leake Catherine Blundell Ann Philp Pen Milburn Catherine Blundell Roger Leake
<b>22 August 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b>	9.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Family Communion (CW) 11.00am Parish Communion (CW) 11.00am Family Service 11.00am Parish Communion (CW) 11.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 6.00pm Evening Prayer (BCP) 6.00pm Evening Prayer (BCP)	Berwick St John Broad Chalke Charlton All Saints Nunton Bishopstone Alvediston Bowerchalke Homington	Kate Rosslyn Smith Catherine Blundell Anthony Hawley Adrian Taylor Ann Philp Catherine Blundell Lay Led Roger Leake
<b>29 August 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b>	10.00am Benefice Communion (BCP) 10.00am Benefice Communion (CW)	Alvediston Coombe Bissett	Catherine Blundell Roger Leake
<b>5 September 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b>	9.30am Parish Communion (CW) 9.30am Parish Communion (CW) 11.00am Family Communion (CW) 11.00am Family Communion (CW) 11.00am Morning Service (CW) 11.00am Morning Prayer (BCP)	Broad Chalke Britford Ebbesbourne Wake Coombe Bissett Odstock Berwick St John	Tony Monds Catherine Blundell Tony Monds Catherine Blundell Adrian Taylor Lay Led

#### Ministry Team:

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

#### Assisting Ministers:

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



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Please check your church noticeboard and weekly e-bulletin.

<b>5 September 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b>	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Broad Chalke	Tony Monds
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Britford	Catherine Blundell
	11.00am	Family Communion (CW)	Ebbsbourne Wake	Tony Monds
	11.00am	Family Communion (CW)	Coombe Bissett	Catherine Blundell
	11.00am	Morning Service (CW)	Odstock	Adrian Taylor
	11.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Berwick St John	Lay Led
<b>12 September 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b>	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Bowerchalke	Catherine Blundell
	9.30am	Family Communion (CW)	Nunton	Anthony Hawley
	11.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Charlton All Saints	Rhoderick Voreberg
	11.00am	Family Service	Coombe Bissett	Catherine Blundell
	11.00am	All Age Service	Alvediston	Biddy Trahair
	3.00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)	Fifield Bavant	Biddy Trahair
<b>19 September 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday 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	Roger Leake
	11.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Ebbsbourne Wake	Biddy Trahair
	11.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	Homington	Roger Leake
	11.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	Berwick St John	Catherine Blundell
	6.00pm	'Songs and Sausages'	Britford	Jenny Taylor
<b>26 September 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b>	9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Berwick St John	Roger Leake
	9.30am	Harvest Festival PC (CW)	Broad Chalke	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	Harvest Festival PC (CW)	Charlton All Saints	Ann Philp
	11.00am	Harvest Festival	Nunton	Adrian Taylor
	11.00am	Harvest Festival PC (CW)	Bishopstone	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Alvediston	Roger Leake
	6.00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)	Bowerchalke	Lay Led
	6.00pm	Harvest Festival	Homington	Jenny Taylor
<b>3 October 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b>	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Broad Chalke	Roger Leake
	9.30am	Harvest Festival PC (CW)	Britford	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	Harvest Festival FC (CW)	Ebbsbourne Wake	Roger Leake
	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

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

HOORAY, HOORAY WE ARE FULLY OPEN AGAIN!!!

From Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July all Covid restrictions were lifted and you can now order drinks at the bar, sit at the bar and do not have to sign in on the NHS QR codes (codes are still available for those who wish to use them). Although we do still have some guidelines in place as requested by the Government, it is good to be open and welcoming back customers and seeing regular faces once again.

Although the hot and sunny weather we have had has boosted sales, we are still way behind the numbers we need to be profitable. The first two weeks trading were probably better than we had anticipated, however, we are still currently trading about 40% down on this time last year. On the plus side, we are at open and hopefully with a few good weeks of sunshine for the summer holidays things will pick up.

We are sad to say goodbye to Jean Foyle who has decided to retire after many, many, many years at the Fox, we shall miss her acerbic wit from behind the bar.

We wish her a relaxing, peaceful retirement, although in typically “Jean form”, many of you will still see her regularly pottering around the pub garden pulling up weeds and chatting to everyone.

We are hoping to resume our popular “Music Nights” as soon as possible, and will keep everyone informed regarding dates via our website, Facebook and posters at the village shop.

Mark Wyeth, the knife sharpening man, has had knee surgery recently, and subsequently will be out of action for a while. We are hoping he will be back again in September or October. Once again updates via the website, Facebook and village shop.

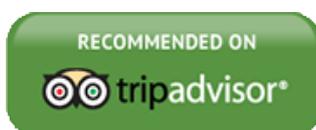
Once again, we would like to thank everyone who supported us during the lockdown and your continued support in the future to keep the pub open will be greatly appreciated.

Very best regards  
Keith and Sue

Email : [foxandgoose@coombebissett.com](mailto:foxandgoose@coombebissett.com)  
[www.foxandgoose-coombebissett.co.uk](http://www.foxandgoose-coombebissett.co.uk)



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





COOMBE BISSETT



HOMINGTON  
CRICKET CLUB



WHEN:	14 <sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2021
TIME:	18:00-23:00
WHERE:	COOMBE VILLAGE HALL + CRICKET FIELD
DRESS CODE:	1920S DANCE WEAR
BAR, BUFFET CURRY, QUIZ, LIVE 1920S JAZZ BAND (SUITE JAZZ), DANCING	
TICKETS (£15) AVAILABLE IN COOMBE STORES OR AT CRICKET MATCHES	
CONTACT LOUIS BOURGEOIS, CLUB SECRETARY FOR FURTHER INFO LOUIS@1788@HOTMAIL.CO.UK	



1920S



JAZZ EVENING

Week Ending	TEMPERATURES			RAINFALL	
	Average Daily Maximum	Average Nightly Minimum	Average Mean	Total Inches	
	Deg C	Deg C	Deg C		
May	2	12.5	2.0	7.3	0.55
	9	13.3	5.1	9.2	1.06
	16	14.8	8.6	11.7	1.13
	23	14.6	7.9	11.3	1.05
	30	17.8	8.0	12.9	0.67
June	6	21.7	10.4	16.1	-
	13	22.8	12.8	17.8	-
	20	20.7	13.5	17.1	0.95
	27	18.8	10.7	14.8	1.19
July	4	21.2	14.9	18.1	2.13

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	0.87
May		15.2	7.2	11.2	3.92
June		20.9	12.2	16.6	3.92
Year to date rainfall					17.46 inches

## May

May was cold. The mean temperature was 11.2C which is significantly below the average for May of 12.7C. It was the coldest May since 1996 and the third coldest May in my records [1987]. This followed the coldest April in that period. By deduction, Spring 2021 (March, April and May) must have been one of the coldest of Springs. Indeed, it was. The mean temperature for Spring 2021 was 8.6C and this is 1.1C colder than the Spring average since at least 1987. There have only been four colder Springs than this. Three of them were only slightly colder and occurred in 1994 (8.5C), 2013 (8.5C) and 1995 (8.3C). A long way in the lead as far as cold Springs is concerned was that of 1996 when the mean temperature was only 6.9C, nearly 3C below the average.

It was not until 17 May that my diary notes mention the word “warmer” but even that was relative to a cool first half of the month. Nor was it a start to better things as I did not use the “warm” word again until 27th May. It took until the last five days for a cool unsettled month to relent and allow us a dry, sunny and warm end to the month. In the first 26 days, maximum temperatures reached 16C (61F) only four times whereas for the last 5 days of the month maximum temperatures averaged 20C (68F) with a top temperature for the month occurring on 31st with 22C (72F). Night time temperatures were cool throughout the month and there were six ground frosts in the first seven days. May was wet with 3.92 inches in total and this is 80% above the normal. There were 19 rain days in the month. My sunshine estimate of 132 hours is some 50 hours below my estimated average for May.

## **June**

Hopefully, we won't look back at summer 2021 only remembering the fine weather that began towards the end of May and lasted until the middle of June. There was absolute drought during the three weeks from 27th May to 16th June. Temperatures ranged from 19C to 25C and 14 of the 21 days were either completely sunny or predominantly so. It was the only period this summer so far, where we have eaten outdoors on a consistent basis. Sadly, just as the solstice approached with the longest evening of the year, so the sun disappeared.

The summer solstice occurs on 21 June and we did not see the sun at all for six days from 17th to 22nd. The lack of sun was due to thick rain bearing cloud which brought the drought to an abrupt end with 1.8 inches of rain in those six days. There was a short spell of four sunny and warm days before more unsettled weather returned. Torrential rainfall overnight on 27th/28th gave us a total of 1.75 inches.

June's rainfall total of 3.92 inches, coincidentally identical to May's total, was 80% above normal. There have only been 4 wetter June's. My sunshine estimate of 163 hours was some 20 hours below my estimated average for June. The mean temperature for June was 16.6C and this is 1C above normal. It was the 6th warmest June in my records. It is noteworthy that four of those five warmer Junes have occurred in the last eight years.

At the time of writing, 11th July, the Met Office is forecasting a return to summer with high pressure approaching from the Azores. Let us hope that the fine weather lasts throughout the rest of July and well into August to give the farmers a good harvest.

We have been making collections for the Trussell Trust foodbank as well as Alabare and the Salisbury Homeless, initially on a weekly basis but recently monthly, for nearly 18 months. Very many thanks to all of you who have helped or made donations they have been very gratefully received by all the places we have taken them to.

With the slight lifting of COVID restrictions, my merry band of helpers and I managed to meet in our garden and talk about the way forward with these collections. We have done a little research about the need locally, which we felt would be good to pass onto all of you. We may well feel, that we live in relative affluence in a lovely leafy area of the UK. If we look at local statistics of deprivation, defined as:- lacking any kind of resource, not just income, we can see that a number of areas in Salisbury itself, fall into areas of relatively high deprivation. The Trussell Trust aims to provide emergency food and support to people locked in poverty, and campaign for change to end the need for food banks in the UK.

When we asked the Trussell Trust about the need for food, the response was:- Furlough is about to end and also people can be evicted from their tenancy so people have started to receive eviction notices ( During the pandemic they could not be evicted). An example was given of a 65 year old woman who was recently evicted with her 95 year old mother. They were moved into council accommodation but that does not include any 'white goods 'such as washing machine, fridge freezer, cooker etc. Another case was of a hotel manager who was made redundant and had to go to the food bank. Citizen Advice is also expecting a rise in demand with debt advice. The pandemic has meant that a lot of people have lost their jobs. The hospitality sector has been hardest hit. The average rent in Salisbury is now £825 for a 2 bed house a month. The Salisbury Trussell Trust latest statistics show that In 2019 5,100 families received a 3 day emergency food supply. This included 1,900 children. They have seen a 30% increase since 2018. They don't have more current statistics but the manager indicated that there has been even more of an increase over the last year, as we would expect.

During the pandemic the Government stepped in with furlough and church groups helped out by handing out food and the council delivered food. But this help is coming to an end, hence the rise in expectation of need.

We, as organisers of our local collection, feel that there is a definite need for us to continue collecting and will be continuing in the current format. On the first Wednesday of each month there will be a box under the lychgate of Coombe Bissett Church where you can place your, non perishable, in date goods. If you prefer you can place an order with Charles at the shop and he will normally offer 10% off normal prices and will buy appropriate goods on your behalf. We keep an eye on the Trussell Trust website where they post what their current needs are. At the moment they need toiletries including tooth paste, shaving gel and women's deodorant and food needs are sponge pudding, jam, mash potato, chocolate, uht milk, dried milk, long life fruit juice, coffee in particular but this can change.

We will be continuing to donate the collection to Trussell Trust, Alabare and Salisbury homeless society and look forward to receiving your donations.

Thank you to everyone.

Judy Evans

# Know your Neighbours

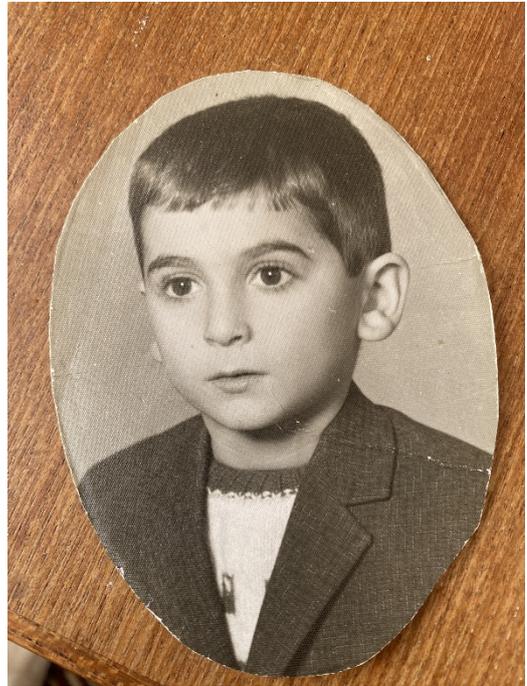
Summer is here. We can see village activity is coming back to normal. We are lucky living in Coombe Bissett and Homington but it is the people that make the villages so full of life. It is filled with wonderful colourful characters....

## Who Am I?

Our resident was born in Lebanon, in 1961, on the coast in a small village. It was blatantly obvious he was interested in science from a very early age and went to study Science at university in Iraq as it was deemed safer there due to the Civil War in Lebanon.

After a year, the war between Iran and Iraq had broke out but our resident persevered and finished his degree obtaining a 1<sup>st</sup> before returning to Lebanon

There was a Lebanese businessman offering sponsorships in France and since French was their second language our resident accepted and was all set to go. At the very last minute, sponsorships became available in the UK. Our resident, reasons to this day are still unknown, changed his mind and decided he wanted to do his PhD in the UK instead.



In January 1985, not being able to speak a word of English, our resident headed to Nottinghamshire to study English in preparation for his PhD at Queen Elizabeth College (QEC), London. He studied a toxin called Staphylococcal enterotoxin, type A. Imagine that when you have only been speaking English for 5 months!!!



**Skiing in Lebanon**

# Give Up?

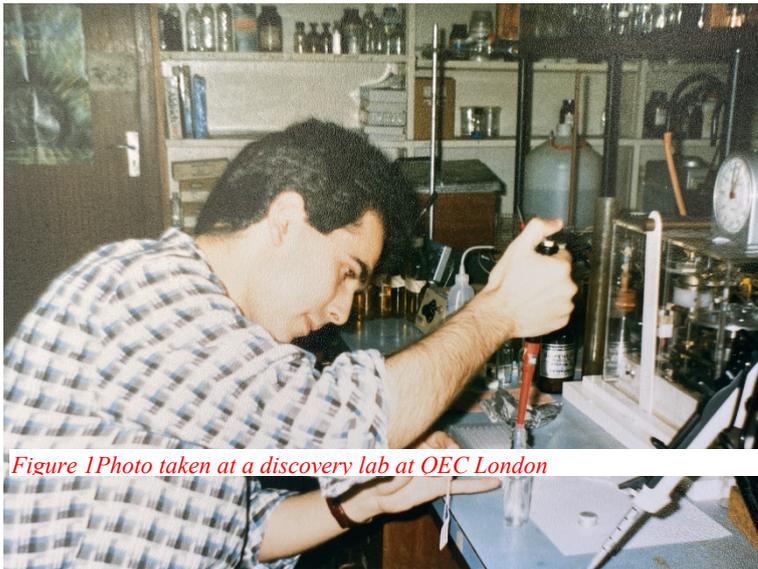
While Bassam Hallis was studying English in Nottinghamshire, he met a young lady called Sharon and “she fell in love with me”

(“that’s not true!” Sharon cries from the side-lines)

Their relationship grew from friends to “going out” and they got married in St John’s Wood, London in 1989 as Sharon was teaching there at the time.

Hammersmith and Queen Mary’s hospitals made Bassam job offers following on from his research on the toxin during his PhD.

A scientist role at Porton Down, near Salisbury then came up, working in the laboratory which he accepted.



*Figure 1 Photo taken at a discovery lab at OEC London*

They initially bought a house in Salisbury and later moved to Coombe Bissett in 1997.

Porton Down is perceived as being steeped in secrecy and historic controversy, but this can’t be more further from reality where research is widely published.

It is home to two British government facilities. One is the Ministry of Defence’s Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (DSTL) and another run by Public Health England (PHE) where Bassam works.

Their highly trained scientists, with strict Safety and Quality measures in place, handle some of the most dangerous known bacteria and viruses like Ebola, tuberculosis, meningitis and Anthrax. Staff have also turned their skills to tackling coronavirus lately.

Due to Bassam’s role, the information he can provide is commercially sensitive which is annoying (I guess it might be similar to the lines “if he tells me he would have to kill me?”) but over the years he’s worked on various toxins, testing and detecting them in different environments.

He has worked on anthrax vaccines, influenza vaccines, including the child’s nasal vaccine. He has been involved in the research in whooping cough and if vaccination during pregnancy would offer protection.

During COVID, before the vaccines were licensed, clinical trial samples were tested at PHE and all the data helped to down-select vaccines for licensure. Bassam and colleagues have also been studying the effects of viral variants. All work at PHE Porton is translational research (where scientific discoveries are moved along a path from the laboratory into real-world practice, leading to improved human health)

Bassam has been in lab management for the last 10 years and he explains there is a magnificent team spirit in PHE Porton, the staff are very passionate about public health in the UK and beyond. They work globally with large and small companies and organisations including CEPI, WHO, BMGF

among others. The staff are very supportive and caring for their fellow colleagues. If you meet Bassam you can see why.

## Quick Fire Q&A

1. What was/is your nick name? *Bas (pronounced Baz)*
2. If you could time travel, when would you go? *Lebanon with Sharon and Duncan (our son) before the Civil War*
3. What is your pet hate? *People who ruin food e.g. flavoured houmous, chocolate baklava etc*
4. What is your favourite TV programme? *People Just Do Nothing (on BBC Three and Netflix)*
5. What do you like most about living in CB & H? *Village as it is, the friends, pub and shop*
6. What is the silliest way you have been injured? *I fell down 13 stairs on my bottom. It was very funny for Sharon, not so funny for me (still very funny for Sharon as she could not stop laughing when he was telling me)*
7. Where is your favourite place in the world? *Italy*
8. What is your favourite food/dish? *Spaghetti vongoli (with clams)*
9. What is the best piece of advice you have received? *Choose your battles*
10. Would you rather... live in a world with no disease or live in a world where there is income equality? *Income equality as you could then help with the disease problems*



Thanks to Bassam Hallis

Interviewed by Rachel Coombs

# Coombe Bissett and Homington



# SHOW

We did it!

The Show went ahead, against the odds, but what a Show it was! We had record entry numbers exhibited by over 40 exhibitors. The sights, smells and colours were an absolute delight and the weather was wall to wall sunshine allowing a wonderful social occasion. The tea and cakes on the field were hugely popular and we have some new names to engrave on some of our cups. The Hall looked beautiful thanks to an army of volunteers and helpers – special thanks to the Parish Council who paid for the amazing bespoke bunting which brought the hall to life.

To everyone who helped, entered, judged, stewarded, made cakes to sell and came to the Show, I want to say thank you – this year more than ever.

Abigail Bird

[abigailbird@hotmail.com](mailto:abigailbird@hotmail.com) 718645

# Coombe Bissett & Homington Show – Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2021

## Winners

### Section A: Flower Arranging (Gullick Cup)

1 <sup>st</sup> Sally Butterworth	10 points
2 <sup>nd</sup> Abigail Bird	7 points
3 <sup>rd</sup> Judy Evans	6 points

### Section B: Vegetables (Landale Cup)

1 <sup>st</sup> Mary Ford	61 points
2 <sup>nd</sup> Hugh Bond	19 points
3 <sup>rd</sup> Heather Royle	13 points

### The Longest Radish (Mary Ford Cup)

1 <sup>st</sup> Caroline Welfare	
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### Section C: Fruit

1 <sup>st</sup> Mary Ford	18 points
2 <sup>nd</sup> Don Morgan	14 points
3 <sup>rd</sup> Judy Evans	9 points

### Section D: Flowers and Pot Plants

1 <sup>st</sup> Caroline Welfare	29 points
2 <sup>nd</sup> Mary Ford	21 points
3 <sup>rd</sup> Margaret Waters	13 points

### Parry Cup for Roses

Margaret Waters	
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### Section E: Preserves

1 <sup>st</sup> Sally Butterworth	25 points
2 <sup>nd</sup> Judy Evans	15 points
3 <sup>rd</sup> Kate Shin	9 points

### Section F: Cookery

Joint 1 <sup>st</sup> Judy Evans & Kate Pendleton	14 points
2 <sup>nd</sup> Janet Finniss	13 points
3 <sup>rd</sup> Nick Bird	12 points

**Banana Bread (Westley Cole Cup)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Janet Finnis
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Ruth Morgan
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Judy Evans

**Ladies Cake (Silver Salver)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Amy Morgan
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Kirsten Webster
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Belinda Vohra

**Mens Cake (Silver Salver)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Steve James
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Joff Evans
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Don Morgan

**Eggs: (Chris Baughan Trophy)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Nicki Bond
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Heather Royle
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Hugh Bond

**Section G: Drinks (Drinks Trophy)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Heather Royle
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Abigail Bird
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Hugh Bond

**Section I: Photography**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Kate Pendlenton
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sharon Hallis
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Keiron Yeo

**Section H: Children Under 7 years**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Ecaterina Czul
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Bobbie Pillans
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Leo Pugh
- Highly commended Sol Coggins

**Children 8 – 11 years**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Ted Pendlenton
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Alice Welfare
- Joint 3<sup>rd</sup> Tilly Patterson  
and Florence Patterson

**MACAULAY CUP:** Isobel Scutt

# Chalke Mobile

## Bringing mobile communications to Homington

*The Parish Council would like to bring this e-mail to our readers attention.*

*More information is available here. <https://www.coombebissett.com/>*

I wanted to contact you regarding Chalke Mobile CiC and the government sponsored work it is undertaking to bring 4G and 5G mobile phone coverage to the Chalke Valley (Odstock to Shaftesbury) and the Woodford Valley. The attached brochure provides more details but in short, the Chalke Valley is the worst mobile 'Not-Spot' in England where there is either no coverage or single Mobile Network Operator (MNO) - Vodafone, O2, EE and 3 - coverage in the valley. This clearly presents issues for residents and those transiting through the valley. Chalke Mobile was set up to work alongside Telet Research (founded in Bowerchalke) to be part of a consortium which bid to DCMS as part of their Rural Connected Communities Project and was awarded £2.5m to put in place mobile coverage across Chalke Valley and the Woodford Valley. The Chalke Mobile network allows any person to roam onto the network regardless of which MNO they are contracted with. This means good voice and data in homes, outdoors and when travelling through Chalke Valley or Woodford Valley. There is no 'sign-up' to Chalke Mobile nor a need to buy or receive additional sim cards. Once the network is in place, phones will naturally roam onto Chalke Mobile once the signal strength weakens from an MNO and will roam back again once the signal from the MNO strengthens. The concept is exactly the same as when a person travels abroad; the phone naturally roams onto the nearest strongest signal without breaking a call. The Chalke Mobile network, administered by Telet Research (the 5th UK MNO), is interconnected with the other UK MNOs.

The main four UK MNOs, although have an obligation to OfCom to provide rural connectivity (rural connectivity was part of both major political party's manifesto at the last General Election), struggle to provide the requisite coverage as it does not meet their normal business model of requiring high number of users roaming onto their networks. Secondly, large mobile masts on hill tops are expensive and blight the AONB and often cast a 'coverage shadow' into the valleys where the rural villages are located. Chalke Mobile concept is to identify properties in key locations, within the Chalke Valley/Woodford

Valley, near where Openreach have laid fibre which can then be run to the premises (FTTP not FTTC is not sufficient). Whilst there is no Openreach fibre laid in Coombe Bissett we have mapped that we can provide coverage via Stratford Tony and Homington. Chalke Mobile will pay for the installation of fibre to the property and the ongoing monthly charges for 1Gbps of fibre for 18 months and beyond. In return for the free fibre (c£900 per annum), we ask a property owner to host a small radio cell - 30cm x 30 cm - and antenna. By installing a small number of radio cells through the Chalke Valley/Woodford Valley villages we can provide continuous 4G mobile phone coverage and also 5G.

We have commenced the installation of fibre into properties in Broad Chalke and are beginning to knock on the doors of people in ideal locations in other parts of the Chalke Valley and Woodford Valley to host a cell to see if they would be part of a community scheme to bring good quality voice and data into the villages in which they live.

I would be very happy to answer any further questions you or the Parish Council might have.

Ed Gairdner

Chalke Mobile 07746326154

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## **Tennis Club Report**

**Janet Finniss 718346**

The Red Leader competition is well underway with many matches already played. Unfortunately the weather was not kind to us on the day we arranged to hold the mixed doubles day tournament followed by a BBQ. We managed to play the early rounds before the rain came. A week later we planned to hold the semi-finals and final but again the rain arrived late morning – semi-finals played but not the final. The final was eventually played on a lovely sunny evening. The winners were Adrian Plowman & Andrea Mason, runners up Jonathan Green & Judy Evans. Congratulations to all players, it was a very close match.

We have two more tournaments to play (details will be emailed to members)

Ladies Doubles                      Friday 20 August  
Men's Doubles                        Saturday 4 September

### **Club Sessions:**

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



## Coombe Bissett & Homington Village Hall

### *Fully Open for Business Again! (under our new logo!)*

The recent announcement by the UK government has finally removed all the restrictions which hitherto have constrained the activities that could be carried out in the Village Hall. We are therefore “fully open for business” again. Government is still advising us all to act carefully and remain cautious but this responsibility now lies with the individual, for example, to get tested if we have symptoms, minimizing social contacts and wearing masks in crowded areas.

Bookings at the Hall for a variety of events are now steadily increasing again. We are delighted once more to host the Village Cinema on 16<sup>th</sup> September – see the adjoining announcement box.

If you would like to arrange an event in the hall such as a wedding reception, private party, a talk or meeting please contact Rose Hawkins, our Bookings Secretary, via: **cbvhbookings@gmail.com** (Unfortunately there was an error in the address given in the last edition of the Express). Further information about our facilities is available on our web site: **coombebissettandhomingtonvillagehall.weebly.com**

The Committee has recently reviewed our charges in comparison with other halls in the area having not altered our rates for very many years. We discovered that all other similar local facilities now charge considerably more than we do in Coombe Bissett. We wish to continue to give a strong preference to local people and organisations but from 1<sup>st</sup> September the hourly rates for use of the hall will be slightly increased. For details see the website.

Don Morgan Chair of the Village Hall Management Committee.

# Village Cinema is back!

Thursday 16th September - **Dream Horse**

Based on a true story, Dream Horse is an unlikely race horse bred by a Welsh bartender. With no experience, Jan convinces her neighbours to chip in to help raise Dream in the hopes that he can compete with the racing elites. Starring Toni Collette and Damian Lewis. PG Running time 1hr 53mins

*"This inspiring true story shows us all what it's like to a part of something bigger than yourself" Emily Clark*

*"It takes a Welsh village to breed a winning sprinter in this feel good comedy" The Guardian*

**Please reserve your tickets by emailing [coombebissettcinema@gmail.com](mailto:coombebissettcinema@gmail.com)**

**You will then be able to pay for them on the door using our new card machine or cash if you prefer.**

**Doors and bar open at 6.45pm, film starts at 7.30pm.  
Tickets £6.00**

**For your safety we have decided to limit numbers in the Hall. With our cafe style seating everyone will have plenty of room to keep apart.**

# Coombe Bissett Down project in numbers



**95 Metres<sup>1</sup>** of chalk butterfly bank created

**600** horseshoe vetch and birds foot trefoil plugs planted

**15.86ha** of arable land re-seeded and managed to become chalk grassland

**1 Cattle barn** constructed

**204kg** of chalk<sup>1</sup> grassland wildflower seed sown (including kidney vetch, horseshoe vetch and birds foot trefoil)

**13.16ha** cleared of scattered scrub

**111** calves and **550** lambs born at Coombe Bissett Down to help with conservation grazing across Wiltshire nature reserves

**42** species of bird, **26** species of butterfly and **20** new species of bee for the site recorded

**34** AQA certificates awarded

**1103** participant sessions to help children to learn about Coombe Bissett

**Approx. 2345** people trained

**11** events out in the local community

**1099** participants from the Friary Estate, Salisbury<sup>2</sup>

**85** people volunteered **1310** hours

**7999** people enjoying Coombe Bissett virtually during the pandemic

**18** new livestock lookers help to care for sheep and cattle

**39** sessions for children and young people

**300m** of hedgerow planted

**1515** trees and shrubs planted including disease-resistant elm



**1** endangered and protected plant **field cow wheat** introduced.

<sup>1</sup>Including larval food plants of three priority butterflies: small blue, Adonis blue and dingy skipper

<sup>2</sup>Participants took part in nature inspired learning opportunities and received resources that supported them in exploring their local natural heritage independently

<sup>3</sup>At high risk of extinction in the county, and only known from a few remaining sites in the UK.

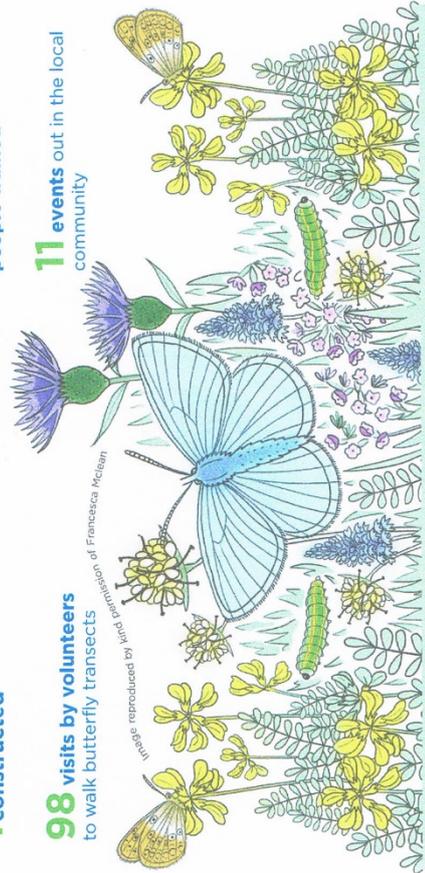


Illustration reproduced by permission of Francesca McIlroy



**MINUTES OF COOMBE BISSETT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL  
(HOMINGTON ROOM) ON TUESDAY 13 July 2021 (unconfirmed)**

**Present:** Councillors: D Hobson, A Bird, C Chelu, S Gledhill, K Byatt, L Reed. Wiltshire Cllr. R Clewer.  
N Heron (Clerk). Members of the public: G Bundy

- 17 Apologies for absence – none.
- 18 Public Question Time – G Bundy enquired about which Cllr was now responsible for the Cemetery and gave the Clerk a grave marker.
- 19 Minutes of the last meeting – the minutes were proposed by L Reed, seconded by C Chelu and accepted by all as a true record.
- 20 Declaration of interest – C Chelu declared an interest in Planning Application No. PL/2021/03966/ful. A discussion concerning Wiltshire Council's new planning portal arose and it was agreed that the lead Cllr for the Planning Sub Committees should keep a copy of any comments sent to WC and forward these to the Clerk for the records.
- 21 **Matters arising:**

**Neighbourhood Development Plan:** S Gledhill advised that the person at WC dealing with the submitted draft of the plan is no longer working for WC so we are still awaiting the results of the strategic environmental assessment. The clerk will follow up with Richard Clewer. D Hobson expressed gratitude on behalf of the Parish Council to C Cooper for all her hard work.

**Bollards across bridleway:** The Clerk has repeatedly chased Wiltshire Council for an installation date – R Clewer agreed to contact the Officer on our behalf for the latest information.

**Donkey Field:** The contractor has contacted BT regarding the location of any underground wires and there will be a charge for this. L Reed will liaise with the contractor and hopefully the work will be completed before September.

**Speed indicator device:** The latest SID report is on the website. L Reed volunteered for Speedwatch and will get in touch with A Turnbull. K Byatt will draft an application to Wiltshire Council's CATG grant fund to potentially erect a white gate on the road from Homington to Coombe Bissett.

**Playground repairs:** A Bird will order the wood chippings and will liaise with L Reed regarding use of a JCB to shift the pallets and with C Chelu to seek CHAV volunteers to spread the chippings.

**White railings opposite Fox and Goose:** The Chair thanked C Chelu for his enormous effort to successfully apply to Wiltshire Council to replace the white railings along the river Ebble in Coombe Bissett. WC has ordered and will install the longest centre section of the railings from the bridge to opposite the Fox and Goose. The other smaller end sections will have to wait until next year. Thanks were also expressed to G Bundy and Wiltshire Council. There is still a highways issue following the recent roadworks which is causing flooding by the pub, C Chelu will follow up with Wiltshire Council.

**Replacement Bench in CB Cemetery:** G Bundy and J Hopkins have put together the new bench purchased by the Parish Council and installed it with fixings at Pennings Drove burial ground. The Chair expressed gratitude to them for their efforts. The Clerk has informed the family who are delighted.

**Defibrillators:** A four-year contract has commenced with South West Ambulance Service for three new defibrillators located at the village shop, the village hall and the Homington bus shelter. An electrician will install the wired in cabinets at the shop and the hall at a cost of approximately £100 on 19 July 2021 which was proposed by A Bird and seconded by L Reed and agreed by all. S Gledhill will install the cabinet at the bus shelter which is not wired in. A Bird proposed and L Reed seconded that the balance of the CIL/106 money is used towards the cost of the defibrillators. Following a suggestion by L Reed, S Gledhill proposed that the old defibrillator purchased by the Parish Council, and which is no longer required, be sold to the RDA in Wilton for a nominal sum, A Bird seconded and all were in agreement.

**CBPC Bank Account:** The Clerk reported that online banking is now up and running after 10 months of problems with NatWest. S Gledhill will explore the possibility of changing banks and this will be discussed at the next meeting.

**Councillor Training and Induction Pack:** A Bird suggested that all Cllrs should attend the very useful course that she, L Reed and K Byatt have recently completed. The Clerk will make enquiries about future course dates

and D Hobson expressed an interest in attending. A Bird, L Reed and K Byatt will adapt the generic Cllrs Induction Pack to make it relevant for Coombe Bissett and Homington.

**Co-Option of 7<sup>th</sup> Councillor:** C Chelu will write a job description for this role for the website and The Express. A Bird will announce the vacancy on the village Facebook page, and the Clerk will put a notice on the boards.

**Annual Community Meeting:** All were in agreement that a community annual meeting should take place. A Bird, supported by L Reed and K Byatt, will organise and follow through with ideas and plans for this event.

**Bonfires:** The Parish Council has received several complaints about bonfires in the villages and request that we all be considerate to our neighbours about the lighting of bonfires. C Chelu noted that there is an article on the website about bonfire etiquette. Wiltshire Council Environmental Health deals with complaints about bonfires.

**Road condition at Stratford Tony:** L Reed will report the bad condition of the road on the My Wiltshire app/website.

**Gardens at Chalk Pit cottages:** L Reed will follow up on the state of the roadside garden with the residents to seek a volunteer to maintain them.

**Replacement tree sign for the 'Thorne' tree on recreation field:** A Bird reported that the cost agreed at the March meeting has now increased as it did not allow for engraving or postage costs. L Reed proposed, K Byatt seconded, and all were in agreement that the sign should be purchased.

**Social Media Policy:** A Bird has drafted a Social Media Policy and it was agreed that in the first instance a "transmission only" Facebook page will be trialled between now and the next Parish Council Meeting.

**Grass Cutting:** The Parish Council are open to receive bids for the cutting of PC owned areas of grass in Coombe Bissett and Homington. All tenders need to be submitted by 01 September 2021 and public liability insurance will be required. A Bird will advertise this on Social Media and C Chelu will populate the website.

**22 Parking on Recreation Field:**

- 17 JULY – FLOWER SHOW
- 18 JULY – CRICKET CLUB
- 21 JULY – ZOE SHAW CELEBRATION
- 23 JULY – ALISON MACJALAY LEAVING PARTY
- 01 AUGUST – CRICKET CLUB
- 07 AUGUST – PHILLIPS WEDDING
- 08 AUGUST – CRICKET CLUB
- 15 AUGUST – CRICKET CLUB
- 22 AUGUST – CRICKET CLUB
- 28 AUGUST – LAAKKONEN WEDDING
- 29 AUGUST – CRICKET CLUB
- 04 SEPTEMBER – SALISBURY MALAYALEE ASSOCIATION
- 05 SEPTEMBER – CRICKET CLUB

**Parking on Donkey Field:** no requests

**Notices on Donkey Field/beech tree:** FLOWER SHOW (BOTH)

**23 Correspondence received:**

1. Email from Adrian Turnbull re strimming along A354 between his house and Coombe Bissett House – C Chelu arranged for WC to sort this out.
2. Email from Helena Daniels thanking PC for arranging new bench with her parents' original placard at Pennings Drove burial ground.
3. Letter from Sue Richards about cutting the weeds under the White Railings opposite the Fox and Goose

**24 Planning**

**Planning received:**

**Application No: PL/2021/03966/ful**

**Proposal:** En-suite bedroom to the south side of the property constructed in timber frame and clad in weather boarding. Proposal back porch with flat roof.

**At:** Bounds End, Shepherds Close, Coombe Bissett, SP54LX

**Application No. PL/2021/04156**

**Proposal:** Erection of a tree house in the garden

**At:** Newlands, Stratford Tony Road, Coombe Bissett, SP54JZ

**Application No. PL/2021/06281**

**Proposal:** Tree work – reduce Copper Beech by 2m

**At:** The River House, Shepherds Close, Coombe Bissett SP5 4LX

**Application No:** PL/2021/05576

**Proposal:** Extension to kitchen and utility room, raising of roof in link building, addition of 3 dormer windows.

**At:** Caberfeidh, Willowmead Close, Coombe Bissett, Salisbury, SP5 4LG

**Planning approved:**

**Appeal Ref No:** APP/Y3940/D/21/3268787 – Approved with conditions

**Proposal:** Single storey extension to the rear of the property.

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

**Application No. 2021/04105/ful**

**Proposal:** Construction of single storey lobby area to existing school building, erection of fencing along site boundary, new tarmac paving to join 2 existing paths.

**At:** Coombe Bissett School, Shutts Lane, SP5 4LU

## 25 Reports from representatives:

Finance – The Clerk reported the following expenditure/income:

### CBPC current bank account – Balance at 12 July 2021 £12,207.82

#### Payments Out 01 April to 12 July 2021

26.04.21	BHIB	Council's Insurance	£715.03
10.05.21	WALC	Cllrs course x 2	£72.00
10.05.21	WALC	Cllrs course x 1	£36.00
20.05.21	ICO	Data Protection	£40.00
09.06.21	J Hopkins	Cemetery bins annual	£100.00
09.06.21	D James	Audit check	£60.00
09.06.21	SWASFT	Defibrillators x 3	£4,560.00
09.06.21	WALC	Annual Subs WALC/NALC	£300.84
30.06.21	J Hopkins	Bench Anchor Kit RI	£34.99
30.06.21	Office Expenses	April	£355.87
30.06.21	Office Expenses	May	£316.39
02.07.21	Bawden	Grass April	£133.42
02.07.21	Bawden	Grass May	£133.42

#### Payments in 01 April to 12 July 2021

22.04.21	Wiltshire Council	Precept	£5,500.00
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### CBPC reserve bank account – Balance at 12 July 2021 £32,143.07

30.04.21	£0.26
30.05.21	£0.25
30.06.21	£0.29

All Cllrs noted the agreed expenditure.

There were no reports from other representatives.

**26 Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 14 September 2021 at 7pm.

**27 The meeting closed at:** 2120

Nicola Heron – Parish Clerk

## BATS

We have 18 species of Bats in the UK. 17 are known to breed here and 13 have been identified in this area. The bat population at large has declined considerably over the last century and they are still at risk. Bats are a indicator species because changes to the population reflect changes in aspects of biodiversity. They suffer when there are problems with insect populations or when habitats are destroyed or poorly managed.

Bats are most active from April/May till September/October and you are most likely to see them after sunset or sunrise in warm dry weather. They are nocturnal and have adapted to life in darkness partly to avoid predation. You will see them if you walk down the track to Stratford Tony about 1/2 an hour after sunset. These will mainly be pipistrelles. They are tiny and have an erratic flight pattern round the trees and bushes. They use echolocation to navigate and hunt. On one night's hunt, one bat can eat as much as 3000 insects! They have one baby a year and can live up to 30 years.

Every year the National Bat Monitoring Programme organise surveys to find out how our bats are doing. Anyone can take part from beginners like myself to experts. In July Heather Royle and myself will do 2 surveys walking over the downs and across the Blandford Road into the Reserve and along Gypsy Lane. We will be looking for Pipistrelles and the larger Serotine and Noctule bats. In August I will be doing a water survey along the River Ebbles looking for the Daubenton bat.

It was through a Bat Walk organised by Wiltshire Wildlife that I became fascinated by bats. I bought a basic Heterodyne bat detector to listen to the echolocation of the bats flying around our garden. Different bats echolocate at a different frequency which helps identification. The most common we found were the Soprano Pipistrelle and the Common Pipistrelle and along the river the small Daubenton bat which flies low over the water catching insects with its feet. There is so much to learn about these unique flying mammals and it is fascinating. I am now off to have ago at making a bat box!

Louise Hartgill



## *Smoke is getting in our Eyes and Lungs!*

Some villagers are again concerned about the smoke from bonfires. This is a plea to all villagers who love a good bonfire; and how not to make a lot of smoke.

Keep your bonfire material for at least four months, until it is bone dry

Choose an evening at dusk in the winter months when windows are closed, when there is either no wind, or a breeze that will take the smoke away from the nearby houses.

Since the material will be so dry it burns very quickly and very hot so that there is little smoke, and what smoke there is rises vertically straight up on the hot convection currents.

Please don't light up on a warm sunny day when people have a line full of washing, or on a balmy summer evening when all the windows of the nearby houses and conservatories are open.

Please don't try to burn a small amount of freshly cut green material as it smokes, no flames to be seen, and spreads to all the surrounding houses. Much green material can be composted, or use the council's Green Bin service.

So a plea from the Parish Council to our bonfire burning villagers ...make your bonfire like a supernova.....burning brightly.... hot..... and rarely.

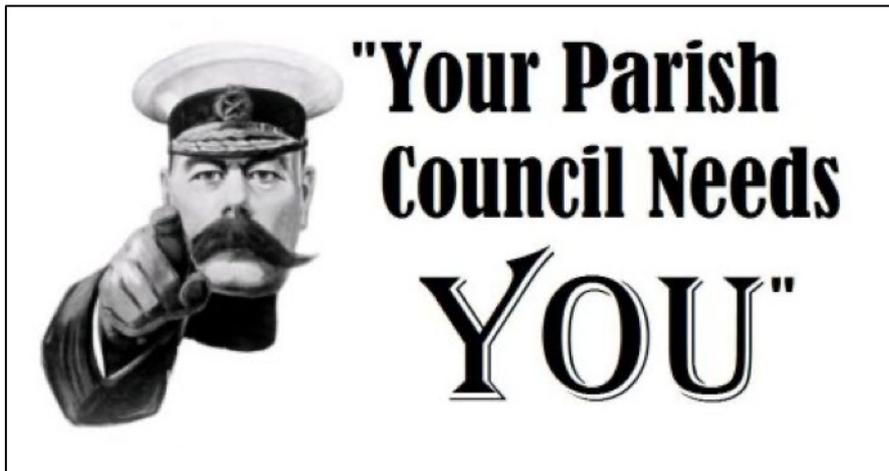
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### **Coombe Bissett & Homington Badminton Club.**

The new season for our club begins Wednesday September 1st 2021  
the evening opens at 8pm 'til 10pm at the CB & H Village hall which has good parking.  
Shutts lane SP5 4LU.

The club nights run from September through to May, we have one court the games are run on a fair system; just come along for an evening if you feel you would like to play badminton, experienced or new to the game you will be most welcome; spare rackets are available.

Our present club members are eager to return to badminton, it is friendly and fun.  
For more information please ring :-01722 718485 / 01722 718670



Following nominations for Parish Council for the election on the 6th May 2021 there were not enough to have an election. Our Parish Council should have seven members but at present they are running on the six members who were nominated. The Parish Council are seeking to co-opt a seventh member to help them with their work. If you would like to serve your parish as a councillor, please apply to the clerk, Nicola Heron, at

**[parishclerkcoombebissett@gmail.com](mailto:parishclerkcoombebissett@gmail.com)**

Full training can be given by Wiltshire Council at no expense to yourself. You will find the work interesting and rewarding in being involved with the decisions that the council make within the parish.

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***Publishes on behalf of Karen Linaker, Community engagement Manager***  
***[karen.linaker@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:karen.linaker@wiltshire.gov.uk) 01722 434697***

Wiltshire Council is consulting on its draft Climate Strategy from 1 September for six weeks, as it aims to meet its pledge to be carbon neutral by 2030. The consultation is your chance to help shape the future of Wiltshire in its journey to becoming carbon neutral county and more resilient to climate impacts. The council will be asking for your views on how you think residents, communities and businesses in the county can all play their part to achieve this.

There will be a chance to attend engagement events to ask questions and share your views during the six weeks of the consultation period, along with an online survey, so please do get involved and help to spread the word. The full consultation documents and information will be available at [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/green-economy](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/green-economy) from 1 September.

***We all have a responsibility to do what we can to tackle this global problem, and your support on a local level will be vital, so please do get involved!***

CB&H Village Cinema partnering with Filmflixs

INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR

# Dream Horse



Toni Collette and Damian Lewis play two underdogs in Wales who invest in a race horse in this charming comedy-drama.



*Coombe  
Bissett and  
Homington  
Village Hall*

Doors and bar  
open at 6.45pm

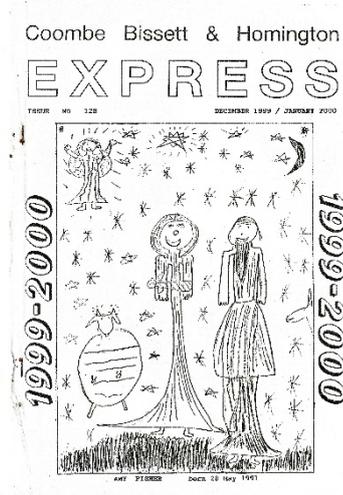
Main feature  
at 7.30pm

**£6/ticket**

reserve by  
email and pay  
on the door\*

\* Numbers will be limited so please reserve tickets in advance by email at [coombebissettcinema@gmail.com](mailto:coombebissettcinema@gmail.com)  
Payment will be taken by card at the door on the day.

**Thursday,  
16<sup>th</sup> September**



## This is the Year.....2000!

Well, who could have predicted, twenty-one years ago, the events which have taken place in the last eighteen months? Back then we thought the 'millennium bug' was the greatest threat to humanity! Thanks to our wonderful archive collection we can have a glimpse into village life as it was.....

The new century kicked off with a party...something CB & H do very well! Supper, dancing.....free champagne at midnight and £1000 fireworks for the Salisbury Festival of Fire!

The panto was Robinson Crusoe, there were midsummer celebrations aplenty and January

weather was mild with little rainfall.



It was a very special year for Doreen and Reg Moore who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 8 July 2000. Parents of Karen Dale (the picture is taken in the front garden of Edgehill) Reg and Doreen are the two 'silver surfers' in the centre. They lived in Edgehill from 1975 until 2008 when Karen and Ian moved in. Shown also are daughters Katy and Laura Dale, along with Karen's brother and his family. Thank you for a lovely photo of 'family continuity' in CB.



## Marathon April 2000 Judy Maycock

A keen sports person but not a runner, I attended a Phoenix meeting in CB Village Hall - a talk by Chris Moon who I knew from our days as fellow 'Young Farmers'. Chris had been in the forces but following his career in the army, he missed the challenge of military life and joined the mine-clearing programme: The HALO Trust. Stationed in Cambodia, he was kidnapped by the Khmer Rouge, and faced execution. He was subsequently sent to supervise mine clearance in Mozambique and whilst on duty a mine explosion resulted in the loss of his lower right leg and right arm. Chris, having already completed several Marathons, threw out a challenge for someone in the audience to join him running the 2000 Marathon raising money for landmine victims. Inspired by his story, meaning more as I knew him as a friend, and never one to say no to a challenge before I knew it, I was signed up to run!! It was amazing, tough though it was, and the village support was outstanding. It certainly boosted me on the 26.2 miles. With fantastic support of many locals, I raised just under £3,000 for the HALO Trust - something I am still very proud of to this day!



Hope you have enjoyed this little trip down Memory Lane.

Our next focus will be **2009** when we were voted **Village of the Year**

Please send in your **thoughts and memories** of **any** CB & H event, place or people

That make our villages the best for **you**. And if you have a photo.....all the better!

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

## **EDENMORE**

I am afraid that I have to take you back three years or so to an incident that occurred in Newport South Wales, 3 weeks before joining her in Cardiff. The Edenmore like most ships had two bars, one in the officers smoke room, the other in the ratings recreational room, known as the, Smoke room and the Rec, respectively. Both bars were run by the reps of their bars. Both bars reps had agreed to donate their profits to hold a party for underprivileged children organised by the excellent, British Steel agent, in Newport. This event was due to take place the following afternoon.

My two friends, Mick the second engineer had his wife, Dot, arriving for a short stay in the port. Ian, the Chief engineer, a Scot from Eyemouth had returned that day from leave. The Chief Engineer who had completed the voyage, had offered to move out of the cabin and move a deck upward to the pilots cabin next door to the Masters cabin on the boat deck. Colin the returning Chief engineer, said, stay where you are, I will sleep in the Pilots cabin, (Pilots cabin was the only spare cabin on the ship and is provided for the rare occasion a pilot has to sleep aboard).

With the various handovers completed the ship settled down for the night. The Captain a very cheerful Geordi closed his door, sat in an armchair in his dayroom to read his book and fell asleep. Colin was also sleeping soundly in the pilots cabin. Early in the night the fire alarms sounded waking Dot and Mick who were able to get out of their accommodation safely, on to the main deck. The Captain awakened and was greeted by a mass of smoke and flames, luckily there was a door across the alleyway, two steps away and open, leading to the boat deck. The accommodation was well alight. The ships crew and family visitors evacuated the ship and the Newport Fire Service dealt with the fire. A crew muster found that two men were unaccounted for. The chief engineer, Colin, and the young Radio Officer whose cabin was on the Bridge deck.

When the fire was extinguished Colin had died in the pilots cabin and the radio officer had managed to get from his bunk to halfway across his cabin before collapsing and dying from smoke inhalation. The Fire Brigade thought the fire had been started deliberately, so the Police were involved.

On opening up the foc'stle head door, they found another fire had been started there, but had burnt itself out. This would mean that the blaze was arson as the foc'stle doors were locked. However there were two passage ways running port and starboard side beneath the main deck. This enabled the crew to get to the foc'stle stores safely during bad weather, as especially when loaded, most of the main deck and hatches were awash.

Unfortunately the Police were unable to find the culprits but had two possible suspects. All they could do was to record events, if a similar occurrence occurred on another ship with either of the suspect arsonists on board they would be able to take action.

This turned out to be a very unhappy trip from start to finish for me, which happened from time to time. The Edenmore had moved from Newport to Cardiff for repairs. The main fire had been started in the main deck smoke room and a broom cupboard alongside the foc'stle. All the furniture in this room had to be replaced and a new bar built. This was very smart and comfortable as the ship was ten years old or so, and previously the backs of the settees were ripped open by the ships cat, a Siamese called 'mouser'. She had been aboard since the first year of the ships life, purchased by the first Master. Her life was very varied according as to whether the crew did or did not like cats.

We sailed from Cardiff with a new crew to Sagunto in Spain to load a cargo of manganese ore for Genoa. We had a problem with the National Guard in Sagunto as they accused a couple of our young officers of climbing up a flag pole and stealing a Spanish flag with a special emblem on it. Whether that was so or not, the three young men found themselves in jail with very little food or drink supplied. Each day our worried Captain took sandwiches and water to them. Six Police came to search the ship but found nothing. They were finally released after three days in the nick and just before we sailed.

On the voyage to Genoa a young able seaman violently attacked a sixteen year old galley boy who was sunbathing on our no. 5 hatch cover. I had never seen such violence in a person before or since. It took four of us to drag him off the poor lad who was badly battered and bewildered. He would not calm down so we had to take him to our hospital room and spread-eagle him, cuffing his wrists and ankles to the metal bed frame and leaving him not cool down. Eventually we released all but one of the cuffs and so he remained until the Italian Police came on board on arrival in Genoa. They took him to the airport and flew him to the U.K. We never found out why this horrendous event took place. I was actually on the bridge at the time, he jumped up on the hatch and grabbed the young fellow by his hair, off the hatch and onto the deck, and commenced the beating. As far as I know there was no charge brought against him on his arrival in the U.K.

### **WESTBURY 18.11.77 - 24.2.78**

The Westbury was a conventional cargo ship with 3 holds forward of the accommodation and two aft. My second visit to this ship, the first being to New Zealand in 1975. This time a new master, an ex tanker man who I will call David. He was pleasant enough but did not socialise with the officers; senior or junior. He had spent very little time on cargo ships, so let me get on with my job, which suited me fine. It was not his choice that he had been sent to a general cargo vessel. He said he was here as a punishment. The story he told, that one peaceful sunny evening he was on the wing of the bridge, early evening chatting to the chief officer. They were mediterranean bound on a course from Cape St. Vincent in Southern Portugal to Cape Trafalgar in Southern Spain. The vessel ran aground on a shoal very close to where Nelson had his final battle. The shoal was clearly charted but the second mate, (the navigational officer), had laid the course right over the shoal. The ship was in ballast so they got off after a couple of hours shifting ballast water around the ship. Luckily there was no leakage of dirty ballast into the sea but he had to report it to the company. So he was with us on the Westbury; first port of call Rio De Janeiro.

One morning in the middle of the South Atlantic he spotted a sparrow had perched on the yard arm of the main mast. He asked the steward for a pillow case; climbed up to where the bird was perched and gently passed the pillow over the bird, climbed down and took it into his cabin. The poor bird was obviously on his last legs. For a few days he fed it raw steak until it had regained its strength. As we neared the island of Fernando Poo, he took it from his bath, where it had been living, out to the boat deck and let it go.

This was a man who said he shot birds with an air rifle but had never managed shoot a magpie. They are too crafty he assured me. I did think at the time, 'good for them'. I think the rest of the voyage was quite normal. He stayed away and let me get on with the discharge and loading. With just one voyage on the Westbury I was payed off on arrival at Liverpool and went home on leave. After a week or so I received a letter and a rail voucher to report to the Head of Personnel at 14.00hrs the next afternoon. I duly arrived as asked and was informed that the Captain of the Westbury had complained about my excessive bar bill. Quite confused, as I have always enjoyed a drink but, only occasionally to excess, and certainly not on board a ship. The personnel Captain went through my bar bill case by case, (of beer). These he knew I was entitled to for entertaining visiting shore people, stevedores, surveyors and other visitors. A couple of beers as a hand out

would work wonders as he well knew. He showed me the Captains bar bill which was almost zero apart from entertaining allowances. I remembered, I was on deck in Liverpool the day we sailed when the ship chandler and his mate turned up carrying a case of whisky each. I asked them if it was the chief steward they wanted and not the Captain. They replied no, it was for the Captain; private sale. So he bought 24 bottles of whiskey privately so his account was nearly all for entertaining. It was not a nice thing for him to do. I told him what had happened in Liverpool and the superintendent told me to push off home and enjoy my leave, and that was the end of that. My next voyage was to be back on the Ocean Transport again, with the strange drunk from my trip to New Zealand three years ago, when he had brought his wife and daughter with him. This time he was by himself.

## **OCEAN TRANSPORT 5.4.78 - 22.4.78**

Happy days, to be back on the Ocean Transport again. Not happy with the Company's choice of Master for the trip. I tried to be as social as possible with him and was very aware when he wore sunglasses on his way down to breakfast! Unlike the Westbury this ship had all the cargo hold forward of the accommodation block. In holds no. 2 and 4 there were liquid cargo tanks. The liquid tight lids fitted the tanks flush with the tween deck. Both ships were sold in the 70's and scrapped at Gadani Beach in 1985. So to get back to the voyage. On the voyage south to Rio De Janeiro we pass, 10 miles to the west, of the Cape Verde Islands. When abeam of the the most westerly island there was a small alteration of our course, at the most 10 degrees. Every ship's Master has a "night order book", allowing the Master to give his orders to the watch officers to carry out the masters wishes throughout the night; e.g. standing orders, which all three sign. Alterations of course, adverse weather, making landfall. This time he wished to be called just before the alteration. This was during my watch. Five minutes before the alteration I phoned him from the wheelhouse, no reply. I used the voice pipe, (blow down), to a whistle in the Master bed, 6 inches from his ear, no reply. I then sent the lookout down to call him. I had altered course ten minutes before the very angry Captain appeared on the bridge. He accused me of not using the telephone or the voice tube. So we had a flaming row on the bridge at 5 o'clock in the morning. He was calling me a liar, which I certainly was not. However bad it is for moral when the captain and his mate argue, I really did have to stand my ground. He never admitted he was wrong, accusing me of not obeying the night orders in the book. I was not going to win the argument, so I told him to take such action as he saw fit. The whole thing was so trivial. The vessel was in no danger and he obviously been drinking the night before. I did not tell him that the lookout had been keeping a lookout in the wheelhouse and had witnessed my efforts to wake our drunken Captain up.

The voyage went on ok and we eventually got to the crews favourite port, Santos. We had a lot of cargo to discharge there. The ships agent was always very helpful. He was an African, from I think, Zanzibar, a Portuguese Colony. He took the Captain off for the day and left me to it. Before sailing from Santos we had to have our two deep tanks in No's. 2 and 4 holds filled to alleviate structural stresses. Both tanks were full of palletised bags of chemicals. The pallets had a floor of dunnage, low grade wood, laid on top of each layer of pallets to prevent crushing. No. 2 hold was due to be finished at 02.00 hrs the following morning. A big problem, as it was the deck hands favourite port for shore entertainment. I put this problem to the bosun, who was fully aware and enjoyed the local entertainment himself. He told me not to worry, he would see they all returned to the ship not time. The Captain returned at 17.00 hrs, changed and left with the agent at 17.10 hrs. No time to talk to him, not that he seemed interested. In both No. 2 and 4 deep tanks, fork lift trucks were employed when there was space to work on the bottom of the holds. The deck was called the tank top although it was the bottom of the deep tank. This was so called as it was the upper deck across the double bottom tank beneath!! Is that clear? The fork lifts did a fair bit of damaged to the bagged chemicals, and completely ruined the dunnage for the home cargo use.

Just after 02.00 hrs cargo was completely discharged from No. 2 hold. A barge came alongside to take all the soiled timber and chemical residues away. The crew were excellent, they all returned on time and by 05.00 hrs the tank was cleanly swept, the tank line in place, so ballasting began. The barge moved down to No. 4 hold to await stevedores restarting at 08.00 hrs.

I was up at 02.00 hrs when cleaning began and to see that the crew had all returned I had no idea where or when the Captain returned. Having finished my 08.00 hrs breakfast I was retuning to my cabin and meeting the Captain half way on his way down. He was wearing his sunglasses; Whoops!! He said, "Do you think I am the milkman!" I replied, "I don't know what you mean." Well he stared to accuse, rant and rave; "who gave you permission to order a barge alongside for I certainly did not." I replied; "You were not here Captain." He asked if I was selling all of the dunnage! I told him I was not, and that the dunnage was useless for our homeward cargo, and the agent had said he would organise a barge to take it away.

I returned to my cabin, when a couple of minutes later our young third mate, very worriedly came the door and told me that the Captain had ordered him to let go of the two mooring ropes setting the barge adrift. "You didn't do it did you?" I asked; the response was "Yes, he is the Captain."

All the berths in Santos were river berths and we were moored round the bend at the 1st berth in the port. I rushed out on deck to try to get a heaving line to the barge but they were too far out, with two barge hands screaming at us and pointing to another coming round the bend, entering the port. The incoming vessel just managed to miss the barge, and a port workboat, came made fast to the barge and brought her back alongside.

The cleaning of No. 4 deep tank continued, but before completion two cars pulled up one full of Police, the other Port Officers and our Company's agent. The agent told me to give them 15 minutes with the Captain and then go up to his cabin.

On entering the cabin, there was a very worried looking Captain. It looked to me the cops were just about to cuff him. They asked me to explain everything that had happened the previous day and throughout the night, and that all my efforts had been for the ship and the Company and no way was I attempting to sell the dunnage. I asked for an apology from the Captain and if not forthcoming I would demand to be payed off and repatriated to the U.K. Also if he mis-behaves like this again with his bullying drunkenness I will inform the Company of all events occurring unbecoming of a ships Master. He eventually apologised and the Police said they would take no further action. All's not well that ends well....

Our first home port of call was Manchester. We just managed to get through the entrance lock at Ellesmere Port, and tie up to the starboard side, 200ft inside the canal. We had a Company preferred pilot on board who was well known to enjoy his pint and all the nearby pubs to the various moorings along the canal. He and the Captain disappeared over the fields. We left a sailor on watch to keep an eye on the moorings. No problems as it was at least eight hours before any shipping went by and the locks gates opened. I went to bed but was awoken by the Captain hammering on the door and telling me there was no watchman on the gangway. As there was no possibility of any movement in the canal, the watchman was possibly having a cup of tea in the mess too,. After calling me a few unpleasant names, he cleared off to bed. I had no further contact with him as later in the day we both went on leave. Shortly after the redundancies started and he was one of the first to go. Good Riddance to a bad tempered drunken bully!



## CRICKET CLUB

**Don Hewlett 741354**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

As our school year comes to a close, we have time to reflect on all that has been accomplished in the year 2020-2021. This is a particularly special year for me as this is my last year at Coombe Bissett Primary School, and I would like to take this opportunity to use this edition to reflect on the special relationship that our school has within the community it sits and thank you all for making my time at the school such a positive experience. I have enjoyed each and every day that I have served the school, and part of this positive experience has been the people I have met and places I have taken the children to within this wonderful community.

Most recently I had the honour of helping with the prize giving at the Coombe Bissett and Homington Show. An afternoon of meeting and talking to so many of you and the chance for our parents to be part of the event as well. All our families very much enjoyed the afternoon, especially the children who submitted entries for Mr Potato Head or a Miniature Garden and the parents who themselves had entries or who won raffle prizes. The school has supported this event for as long as I can remember and I hope the Macaulay Star for Effort - handcrafted by Chris Baughan - will be given in many years to come. At the lunch I met Dr Ian Smith, who himself had 2 boys who had attended the school back in the 1980's. He had been responsible then for overseeing a project led by his students at the Salisbury College of Fine Arts, to redesign the then Coombe Bissett uniform badge and was very pleased to find out that the children were still wearing the design today. The badge is a shield shape, a Christian symbol, a wavy line down the middle to represent the River Ebble, blue one side for water and green the other side for land, with the initials C and B on the badge. Dr Smith has now sent us some photographs of the children, then sporting the new logo, and we hope to add these to a school archive in the future. It would be lovely to pool the few old photos we have with any others in the village. There are so many opportunities for school and community to work together to provide the children with primary historical evidence. Recently a very kind family donated a cross stitch sampler to our school that was found in the belongings of somebody who used to live in the Village. Her name was Ethel Wagg, aged 13 years and attended Coombe Bissett School in 1923..... a little before my time. Through the Facebook community group I have started to find out a little more about Ethel and would now love to know if anyone else has any more information. This again would make a lovely historical project for the present children in school.

The local places I have taken our children during the past years have enriched their curriculum and we have provided our children with so many different experiences and the opportunities to meet so many different people. Visits have included the Church, the Village Shop, the Coombe Bissett Nature Reserve, Coombe Bissett farm, tennis courts, the play park, walks to see snowdrops, walks to the River Ebble to play PooH sticks, walks to study materials used to build houses, old and new, traffic surveys, a visit to the Old School House, the old watercress beds, to name just a few. The people we have met along the way have allowed our children to build respectful relationships with our neighbours in all of these places. Revd Canon Jenny Taylor, her team and the Church wardens who continue to try and organise all 120 of us when in church, the neighbours we deliver our Harvest Boxes to each year, the people who have been involved with our older children on Remembrance Day, Charles and the patient shop staff who have always embraced a whole class of children wanting to post their letters or buy ice creams and always give us a wave as we walk past.

Farmer Lucy and Jim at the farm who have not only provided the children with opportunities to see farm animals up close but also have provided the tractor trailer rides that challenge any school risk assessment, the WWT staff who lead lessons at the Reserve, Keith and Sue for providing amazing staff training lunches and who were kind enough not to make Mr Wyatt and I wash up after a staff leaving function when we had forgotten the cheque and unable to pay on the night! It was all settled the next day. A special mention to Mr and Mrs Bundy for your continued unfailing support during the past years. Without such kind neighbours we would not have been able to complete the 4 major extensions which have been completed during my time at the school and the use of your field has been invaluable to do this. You have been so very kind to the school and your continued support is very much appreciated. The continued use of the Village Hall for productions and providing our learning spaces for 2 full terms during the Covid lockdown. The Drama Club for use of scenery and lighting for Nativity plays, without which would not have been as special for the children. Thank you to all the people who continue to volunteer at the school, either to hear the children read, tell the children about their jobs, run Eco groups, gardening groups, join our 100 club each year or who support the Governance of the school. Thank you to all the people who continue to make donations to the school, they are always most welcome and provide our children with both resources and opportunities they would not have had.

A last special thank you to Susan Brealey, who was my amazing Teaching Assistant for far too long and Abi Bird and Brian Childs for appointing me all those years ago.

I will take away so many happy memories of my teaching years at Coombe Bissett Primary School and I thank you all, many not mentioned, for making that time so very special.

Alison Macaulay

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## **CHALKE VALLEY LINK SCHEME**

The CVLS provides good neighbour support with transport and practical help for residents.

For Transport Requests Phone: 718780  
(Roger Brown, Anna Mynott or Debby Underhill in rotation)

For Care and Support Phone: 421270 Debby Underhill  
There is no set charge, but you are invited to make a donation towards our administrative costs.

Our co-ordinators and drivers are all volunteers and there may be times when you will be asked to leave a message which will be answered as soon as possible. Please give our co-ordinators as much notice as you can.

Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

Registered Charity No 1076335