

COOMBE BISSETT AND HOMINGTON

EXPRESS

Issue No 260 December 2021 / January 2022



Winner of Elm Class and Overall Winner
Of the Coombe Bissett Primary School
Christmas Card competition 2021
Sponsored by The Express
Maisie Weeks

VILLAGE DIARY

Village Cinema

16th December

20th January

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In traditional fashion our front cover for this edition reproduces the overall winner of the school Christmas card competition; as ever this was fiercely competitive and we are indebted to Elizabeth Cullis for her endeavour in rising to the challenge of judging the annual competition and also the teachers who supervised the children in their artistry. The winning class entries can be viewed on pages 16 and 17.

It is with sadness we report the death of Dr Jeffrey Easton on 30th September, a full tribute appears on pages 8 and 9.

We take great pleasure in wishing an advance Happy Birthday to Miss Ruth Dixie, a long time resident of Coombe Bissett, who will be 100 on 5 January, cards should be sent via Joe Dovey at 25 Swallowmead, Salisbury SP2 8JD.

The inserts for this month are both important for different reasons. The shop is time based as Christmas is now only 4 weeks away and ensuring you are stocked up and ready is essential. Superfast Broadband may not appear at first sight to be a priority for everyone but I would encourage you to read and consider the presentation as if sufficient numbers register there is the potential for obtaining an enhanced service at no cost to the individual.

A cry from the heart of the substitute editor (Sue was away!) please, please remember The Express is A4 portrait and margins are important especially left for stapling and the bottom for page numbers, the print is grayscale and we sincerely hope that your copy can be inserted as submitted, so I emphasise our usual exhortations below

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

Latest submission date for the next issue.....5pm 20th January 2022

Sue Dyer email cbandhexpress@outlook.com

Phone: 01722718514

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2021

Our two villages raised £2,160.49 in total this year. The Church collection with gift aid included amounted to £618.13 and the balance was from house to house collections and from the boxes in The Fox and Goose, Coombe Bissett Shop and the School.

I would like to thank all the house to house collectors, some of whom have been faithfully collecting for well over ten years, and also Keith and Sue and their team at The Fox and Goose, Charles and his helpers in the shop and the staff and children at the school for their time and generosity.

I would also like to thank everyone in the two villages who gave so generously and helped to make our local poppy appeal such a success. Not having been able to have any door to door collecting last year, it is heartening to be able to send such a good amount to the Royal British Legion once more.

Angela van der Horst. 01722718759



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



This time last year we were wondering whether we would see our families at Christmas; whether we would sing our favourite carols; whether we would be able to socialise with friends and neighbours; whether we would be able to hear the Christmas story again in our churches – and of course we were not able to do many of those. This year, although things are still uncertain, Covid Vaccinations 1, 2 and 3 are rolling out well and we are certainly beginning to feel more at ease with the normal things of life. The Christmas holidays were different last year and will probably be so again (although not like last year!) BUT the deep truth that God gave unconditional love to his world in that tiny baby we know as Jesus, is a truth that has traversed centuries and continents to reach us in this 21st century in these villages in Wiltshire and that has not and will not ever change! And this true essence of Christmas will never ever be cancelled!

I so hope you feel able to join us in church over the festive period, wear masks and sanitise your hands, but join us so together we can celebrate this eternal truth:

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

The churches and congregations of Coombe Bissett and Homington wish all of you a blessed and peaceful Christmas that will continue to bring hope to us all in 2022.

Revd Canon Jenny Taylor

Where is it? A nice easy one for the festive season.....

Your chance to win* a beautiful handpicked Christmas Wreath

kindly donated by **Coombe Bissett Blooms**



If you know exactly what this is and where it is located
send your email/postal answer by December 12th to:

cbandhexpress@outlook.com

Congratulations to Bruce Ford for the last edition's correct answer:

The Hedgehog Sign in Homington!

A big thankyou to Thorman Hunt Wine for donating the prize.

*Winners will be selected at random if we have more than one correct entry.

CHALKE VALLEY LINK SCHEME



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

For Transport Requests Phone: 718780

(Roger Brown, Anna Mynott or Debby Underhill in rotation)

For Care and Support Phone: 421270 Debby Underhill

There is no set charge, but you are invited to make a donation towards our administrative costs.

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

Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

Registered Charity No 1076335



Services in Chalke Valley Benefice - December 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. Please check your church noticeboard and weekly e-bulletin.

5 December 2nd Sunday of Advent	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Broad Chalke	Roger Leake
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Britford	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	Family Communion (CW)	Ebbesbourne Wake	Roger Leake
	11.00am	Family Communion (CW)	Coombe Bissett	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	Family Service (CW)	Odstock	Adrian Taylor
	11.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Berwick St John	Lay Led
12 December 3rd Sunday of Advent	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Bowerchalke	Catherine Blundell
	9.30am	Family Communion (CW)	Nunton	Roger Leake
	11.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Charlton All Saints	Rhoderick Voremborg
	11.00am	Family Service	Coombe Bissett	Don Morgan
	11.00am	All Age Service	Alvediston	Biddy Trahair
	3.00pm 5.00pm	Service for Advent Season Carol Service	Fifield Bavant Bishopstone	Biddy Trahair Jenny Taylor
19 December 4th Sunday of Advent	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Bowerchalke	Catherine Blundell
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Bishopstone	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Ebbesbourne Wake	Biddy Trahair
	11.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	Homington	Roger Leake
	5.00pm	Carol Service	Odstock	Roger Leake
	6.00pm 6.00pm	Carol Service Carol Service	Coombe Bissett Berwick St John	Jenny Taylor Kate Rosslyn Smith
24 December CHRISTMAS EVE	4.00pm	Carols round the Crib	Bishopstone	Jenny Taylor
	5.00pm	Carols and Communion (CW)	Broad Chalke	Catherine Blundell
	6.00pm	Carol Service	Homington	Jenny Taylor
	6.00pm	Carols and Communion (CW)	Charlton All Saints	Roger Leake
25 December CHRISTMAS DAY 	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Homington	Jenny Taylor
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Bowerchalke	Catherine Blundell
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Bishopstone	Ann Philp
	9.30am	Family Christmas Service	Broad Chalke	Janet Roe
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Britford	Roger Leake
	11.00am	Family Communion (CW)	Ebbesbourne Wake	David Blundell
	11.00am	Family Communion (CW)	Coombe Bissett	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	Family Communion (CW)	Nunton	Roger Leake
	11.00am	Family Communion (CW)	Berwick St John	Catherine Blundell
26 December 1st Sunday of Christmas	10.00am	Short Benefice Communion	Fifield Bavant	Catherine Blundell
2 January EPIPHANY	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Broad Chalke	Catherine Blundell
	11.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	Odstock	Catherine Blundell
	11.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	Ebbesbourne Wake	Kate Rosslyn Smith

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 Gobledeale 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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2 January EPIPHANY	9.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW)	Broad Chalke Odstock Ebbesbourne Wake	Catherine Blundell Catherine Blundell Kate Rosslyn Smith
9 January BAPTISM OF CHRIST	9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am 3.00pm	Parish Communion (CW) Family Communion (CW) Morning Prayer (BCP) Family Communion (CW) All Age Service Evening Prayer	Bowerchalke Nunton Charlton All Saints Coombe Bissett Alvediston Fifield Bavant	Jenny Taylor Roger Leake Rhoderick Voremberg Jenny Taylor Biddy Trahair Biddy Trahair
16 January 2nd Sunday of Epiphany	8.00am 9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Morning Prayer (BCP) Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW)	Bowerchalke Bishopstone Odstock Ebbesbourne Wake Homington Berwick St John	Catherine Blundell Jenny Taylor Roger Leake Biddy Trahair Jenny Taylor Catherine Blundell
23 January 3rd Sunday of Epiphany	9.00am 9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am 6.00pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion (CW) Family Communion (CW) Family Service Parish Communion (CW) Holy Communion (BCP) Morning Prayer (BCP) Evening Prayer (BCP)	Berwick St John Charlton All Saints Broad Chalke Nunton Bishopstone Alvediston Homington Bowerchalke	Kate Rosslyn Smith Roger Leake Catherine Blundell Adrian Taylor Jenny Taylor Catherine Blundell David Blundell Lay Led
30 January 4th Sunday of Epiphany	10.00am 10.00am	Benefice Communion (CW) Benefice Communion (CW)	Bowerchalke Nunton	Catherine Blundell Roger Leake
6 February 4th Sunday before Lent	9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am	Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Family Communion (CW) Family Communion (CW) Family Service (CW) 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

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Dr Jeffrey Easton

At the end of September after a viciously quick illness Dr Jeffrey Easton died suddenly but peacefully. Not only was he a much loved GP in Salisbury and resident of Homington for over 30 years but he was a stalwart of our Church Community and will be missed hugely.

His funeral took place in October and both the church and the marquee were full with friends and colleagues from both medical and rowing circles as well as locals from Salisbury and the Chalke Valley. We send Heather, her children Helen, Rosie and David and their families our love and condolences as they grow accustomed to a life without their dear husband and father

Jeffrey Easton - Eulogy

Jeffrey was born and brought up in Richmond. He was educated at Latymer Upper School where the two competences which were to shape the rest of his life were nurtured in him – medical science and messing about on the river.

Academically he won a place to study medicine at University College and on the water, having made his mark as a rowing cox at school, he joined the Cadet squad at Leander Club in Henley. The 1969 Leander Thames Cup Eight which he coxed went undefeated (Jeffrey was proud to say) throughout the home season, and he continued as cox of the club's Grand Eight crew the following year.

Jeffrey became absorbed in his training to become a doctor. For his elective period he travelled to Papua New Guinea - a very counter-cultural experience to that of University College Hospital, but one which when Jeffrey spoke about it, brought out the broadest of smiles. It also strengthened his understanding that being a doctor is less to do with to do with the kit you have around you than listening and seeking to understand the patient as a whole person.

Something else (or rather someone else) turned Jeffrey's head as he continued his training. Now a junior house officer, one Heather Newton came into his life. Soon it wasn't just Jeffrey – it was Jeffrey and Heather (or Heather and Jeffrey depending on who was in charge).

The newly-weds settled in Barnes – initially in a flat conveniently overlooking the river! And the family grew - first Rosie, and then Helen. Jeffrey's passion was to become a GP. He found a place with a practice in Salisbury and the family moved to Homington, still the family home 38 years on.

Their third child, David was born to complete the family – well not quite complete, because we shouldn't forget faithful Tompion, the dog.

As a GP Jeffrey was of the 'old school' - in the days when partners did overnight duty and week-ends, when GP's made house calls, when appointments did not feel quite so regimented. When face to face with a patient, Jeffrey's attention was to their whole wellbeing – not just their symptoms.

He was also the driving force behind the creation of the practice's Harcourt Medical Centre – light and airy, with views out to green space, a structure which speaks to both staff and patients of wellness not illness – ahead of its time.

In 1990 Jeffrey accepted the invitation of Sir Edward Heath to travel as a physician to Baghdad to assess the condition of British subjects being held hostage as 'human shields' during the first Gulf War. Perhaps Heather deserves the medal for letting him go, but few would have wanted to stand in his shoes.

All work and no play? Not a bit of it. Jeffrey was nothing if not organised and throughout his busy professional career, he kept up his membership of Leander Club (52 years!) and was a regular attendee at Henley Royal Regatta.

And there was time (occasionally) for Heather & Jeffrey to take a break together as a couple – a luxury transatlantic voyage to celebrate their silver wedding, and in 2016 a leisurely sea cruise to visit David & Alyssa in Singapore (boating holidays, of course).

Time too for Jeffrey to earn his Yachtmaster certificates (and Heather her Day Skipper) and to raise 'messing about in boats' to quite another level - first a part share in a cruising yacht, later the purchase of 'Running Tide' – a divinely elegant yacht and Jeffrey's pride and joy.

As with everything else that Jeffrey put his mind to Running Tide exemplified his character and his charm – a single-minded determination to get things right – for everyone - and a generosity of spirit to invite others into his world, even encouraging rank amateurs to take the helm of his extremely precious piece of kit!

A new chapter was opened in Heather & Jeffrey's lives with the arrival of grandchildren. First Anabel, then Georgia and Margot. He will be much missed.



Coombe Bissett and Homington Jubilee Celebrations.

Thank you to everyone who has got in touch with offers of help with next year's Jubilee celebrations. I would like to hold a public meeting to establish a committee to organise our village events, and to discuss what villagers would like to see planned across the weekend Thursday 2nd – Sunday 5th June 2022.

The committee will need:

- A Chairman
- A Secretary
- Lead for food/refreshments
- Lead for entertainment
- Lead for advertising
- Plus other smaller roles.

If you can help with any of these roles, or you have ideas and suggestions for events in Coombe Bissett and/or Homington, please come to the

OPEN MEETING

COOMBE BISSETT VILLAGE HALL

SUNDAY 9TH JANUARY 2022

3pm

Thank you, Abigail Bird.

abigailbird@hotmail.com



Cruella – Thursday, 16th December

A stylish and imaginative adventure detailing the transformation of young orphan, Estella, into the well-known *101 Dalmatians* villain, Cruella de Vil. Set in 1970s London, this is a wild ride full of fashion, vengeance and, yes, dalmatians, with a generous splash of Disney magic. Rated 12.

The Courier – Thursday, 20th January

The true story of a British businessman in the 60s unwittingly recruited into a tense international conflict. Forming an unlikely partnership with a Soviet officer hoping to prevent a nuclear confrontation, the two men work together to provide crucial intelligence used to defuse the Cuban Missile Crisis. Rated 12.

* Numbers will be limited so please reserve tickets in advance by email at coombebissettcinema@gmail.com and pay by either cash or card at the door.

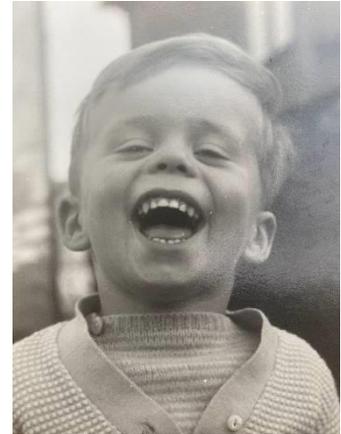
Know your Neighbours

Who Am I?

This editions resident is a Yorkshire boy, son of a woodwork teacher and was born in Leeds where he went to grammar school until the age of 18. He joined the



Army cadets at 13 as they did really “exciting things.” He completed the Duke of Edinburgh’s Gold Award Scheme and completed his A levels. He was already a focused young man that was drawn to adventure and went to Sandhurst to become an Army Officer.



After commissioning he was posted to Germany (during the Cold War) as a transport officer having gained his HGV 1 licence. In 1975, he was selected to join a logistics unit in New Zealand on an exchange programme. This was for 6 months until the travel bug hit him

again, so he applied to join the Brigade of Gurkhas, based in Brunei and then Hong Kong.

On a jungle warfare instruction course in Brunei they were practicing night ambush drills - it was pitch black. It had taken hours to set up in position with all the heavy machine guns, while being totally silent throughout,

when suddenly, to his surprise, his Gurkha partner on the gun jumped up and screamed “SARP, SARP!” and ran away.

Along comes a huge 8 foot poisonous banded krait snake, slithering towards his face, so our resident does the same but he shouts “SNAKE, SNAKE” where upon the whole platoon gets up from hiding and runs off.... ambush aborted!! Our resident learnt Nepalese soon after.



He then became a Troop Commander with 15 *Saracen Armoured Personal Carriers* each holding 12 soldiers seen here enjoying Hong Kong near the famous “Star Ferry”. He stayed for 3 years.

In 1979 he read that the Army were looking for helicopter pilots, so he applied for pilot selection at Middle Wallop and passed. After pilot training, he soon became a Flight Commander with 6 Scout helicopters and 20 personnel, based in Farnborough, Hampshire.

Give Up?

It was at this point, John Greenhalgh took an opportunity to star in a blockbuster film. In Spring 1982 Pinewood Studios were looking for helicopter pilots to help them with their film "Who Dares Wins" There was a huge scene in which Lewis Collins (The Professionals) and 3 helicopters from



the SAS make an assault on the US Embassy to rescue those being held hostage. John is the first helicopter in the scene carrying Lewis Collins, seen landing here at Pinewood Studios.

But then in April 1982 Argentina invaded the Falkland Islands and John was tasked to support 2 Para with his flight and embarked on a civilian ship in Southampton docks and headed South. It took them a month to arrive and landed in San Carlos Water on 21 May 1982 with 6 aircraft and 50 soldiers. The initial amphibious landing took 12 hours, but

then it took many days to unload all the other ships with food, fuel and ammunition to establish a logistic base ashore. Then for 3 weeks there was a huge battle, on land, at sea and in the air by day and by night in the most horrendous weather. On the 14th June John, with 2 other Scout anti-tank helicopters were on Wireless Ridge and could see an Argentine artillery battery who were shelling the Scots Guards on Mount Tumbledown. The Scouts attacked the battery from 3.2 kms firing SS11 missiles. The Argentines fled their position and the battery and its ammunition were destroyed thereby silencing the guns. This became known as the "Final Attack" because shortly afterwards there were white flags flying over Port Stanley.

John was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his services in the Falkland Islands War.

In Autumn 1982 he was stationed in Kenya supporting an infantry battalion, mainly evacuating casualties to Nairobi and generally moving people about. He was there for 2 months.

At 28 years old he was selected to attend the Army Staff College Camberley and also gained his PSI ticket (Persons of Special Importance) enabling him to fly HRH the Duke of Edinburgh and John Major, the Prime Minister, as well as many other important people.



In 1995 he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and took command of 3 Regiment Army Air Corps, at Wattisham Suffolk, with 500 soldiers and 36 aircraft. The regiment was deployed to Bosnia during the terrible Srebrenica genocide massacre.

From here John went to America for 2 years to be a British Liaison Officer in Fort Rucker, Alabama (USA equivalent to Middle Wallop). He was involved in the US end of the UK Apache programme roll out, where they were teaching the teachers, in preparation for the introduction of Apache helicopter training at Middle Wallop.

In 1999 he moved to Coombe Bissett as he was stationed in Wilton as a full Colonel, in charge of tri-service UK helicopter operations, including special forces.

In 2004 he left the Army and joined ITT Corporation in Basingstoke (a US Defence Company, manufacturing military communications, night vision and radar equipment).

During his time with the company, John lived in Saudi Arabia for 4 years running ITT's Middle East operations. In 2012 he returned to Coombe Bissett to start a business venture with his wife, Kim, called Clever Crow Marketing. They worked for Vodafone and made newspaper, radio and tv adverts. Then in 2017 after a health scare and a 3 week stay in Odstock hospital John decided to retire.

John now enjoys walking, mountain biking, running, making soup (speciality - tomato), the stock market and making silly videos, which includes Bingley, the dog and Henry, the cat.



Quick Fire Q&A

1. What was/is your nick name? *Greenie (from a child)*
2. If you could time travel, when would you go? *1970's as it would be great to be in my 20's again, especially with the knowledge I have now!! Plus the music was awesome.*
3. What is your pet hate? *People not being punctual*
4. What is your favourite TV programme? *Succession (Sky Atlantic)*
5. What do you like most about living in CB & H? *Countryside for mountain bike riding*
6. What is the silliest way you have been injured? *Water skiing and being pulled along by my little finger trapped in the rope. It was floppy by the end and still bent now.*
7. Where is your favourite place in the world? *North Yorkshire, Kenya and USA*
8. What is your favourite food/dish? *Poached egg on toast, spinach and smoked salmon*
9. What is the best piece of advice you have received? *You make your own luck*
10. Would you rather....a perpetual water balloon war or a perpetual food fight going on in Coombe Bissett and Homington? *Food fight, I love food!!*

Thanks to John Greenhalgh

Interviewed by Rachel Coombs

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

THE FOX AND GOOSE

Christmas is upon us and hopefully as normal as possible.

Do come and join us for a Christmas drink whether it be a Christmas Ale or Mulled Wine.

Due to the successful campaign, we used in previous years with our alternate Christmas Party menu we will be offering this promotion again this year.

Please see our web site for more information.

Opening and Closing times over Christmas will be as below:

Christmas Eve – Friday 24th Dec – Open all day from 12 noon till 11.00pm

Christmas Day – Saturday 25th Dec - Open from Midday till 2.30pm

Boxing Day – Sunday 26th Dec – **Closed**

Bank Holiday – Monday 27th Dec – **Closed**

Bank Holiday – Tuesday 28th – Open all day from 12 noon till 10.30 pm

New Year's Eve – Friday 31st Dec – Open from Midday till late

New Year's Day – Saturday 1st Jan 2022 – **Closed**

Events to make a note of are,

Open Music Night – Thursday 16th Dec from 7.30pm. This will be a Christmas theme.

Ferndown Brass Band- Thursday 23rd Dec from 6.30 pm. Enjoy all your favourite Christmas Carols

Christmas Raffle and Meat Draw – Friday 17th Dec from 9pm, Tickets are on sale at the Bar

New Year's Eve Party – Friday 31st Dec - Music and Dancing from 9.30 till the wee hours

Please note if you want to Dine on this evening, space is limited so booking is advised.

Our latest survey results from our Loyalty Club members

	<u>Food</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Experience</u>
This Month Ave	4.6	4.8	4.6	4.7
Last Month Ave	4.5	4.7	4.5	4.7
This Year Ave	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.7

Score are average points out of 5

Thank you for replies and feedback.

Mark Wyeth a local Salisbury knife sharpener will be in the Pub car park on Saturday 4th December between 10.00am and 12.00 so if you have any knives, scissors or garden tools that need sharpening you can get them done at very reasonable prices. This is a good time to get your knives sharpened for the roast Turkey. Mark can be contacted on 01722 504937

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Keith and Sue

Tel: 718437

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

COOMBE BISSETT PRIMARY SCHOOL

Christmas Cards

This year we are indebted to Elizabeth Cullis from Coombe Bissett for judging the class and overall winner from an extensive collection of entries which resulted in joint winners for Ash Class

The winners are as follows:

Oak Class

Danica Wolf

Elm Class

Maisie Weeks

Fir Class

Eliza Bird

Ash Class

Jessica Judd & Josiah Richter

The overall winner and therefore our front cover this year is:

Maisie Weeks



Oak Class—Danica Wolf



Fir Class – Eliza Bird



Ash Class—Jessica Judd

Ash Class—Josiah Richter

Coombe Bissett Down Nature Reserve

It's 13th July 2021 and a volunteer work day weeding the butterfly bank at Coombe Bissett Down, of the invasive 'ripgut brome' grass, which would threaten to take over from the beautifully blooming Bird's foot trefoil, Horseshoe, and Kidney vetch.

Ashley, the Southern Reserves Manager is with us and during a quiet moment asks if I would be interested in taking on a project over the summer surveying invertebrates on the butterfly bank. '*Invertebrates*' - a world I had not dared to enter through lack of knowledge and knowing I'd get stuck with whether something was a bee, fly, beetle or bug let alone the sub-species.

I'm slightly panicked but take a deep breath and said I'd give it a go. This turned out to be a decision I would not regret. I soon discovered there wasn't an accepted method of surveying a butterfly bank for invertebrates but after seeking advice devised my own method, which would use a m² quadrat (4 x bamboo canes), positioning it along the bank at various intervals, covering all points of the compass and watching for 10 minutes at a time to record what insects were already there and what flew in.....simple really (or not - with those that didn't stop moving).

My best asset turned out to be my mobile phone camera and taking numerous angled pictures of the insect, which then left me with trying to identify them via books, internet or to 'phone a friend'.

On my first day of surveying I initially felt inadequate at not being able to actually identify anything other than the red tailed, buff tailed and tree bumble bees, leaving me with many photos to research later, but then, on my last quadrat - what excitement. I noticed the fierce activity of a wasp around a Bird's foot trefoil. I started to take photos (lots). To my amazement the wasp pulled out and manhandled a common blue caterpillar, longer than itself, then continued with it to a kidney vetch and eventually flew off still grasping it - WOW - had I really just seen that?



Thanks to Steven Falk's open access Flickr site (Naturalist and bee expert), I identified it as a Mason (aka Potter) wasp - *Ancistrocerus* (likely *gazella*); a solitary wasp which build mud 'cells' in which they lay a single egg and then catch and paralyse caterpillars before sealing them up with the egg as a food source for the hatched larvae.and this was just on my first day!

Also on this first day I was introduced to the 'Swollen thigh beetle' - beautifully iridescent green, and the 'long hoverfly', which turned out to be the most consistently present insect throughout the summer.

Further surveys introduced me to the 'plasterer bee' (*Colletes*), Ichneumon wasps, slip wasp, twisted tail and marmalade hoverflies, grasshoppers, tachinid flies, drone flies, hairy shield bugs, crab spiders, sun jumper spiders and all their individual life-cycle stories. I also saw my first wasp spider, in fact a group of 7, although these were on the walk to the butterfly bank, and, I still have a gallery of photos of 'unknown' invertebrates, which perhaps one day may be named.

The next scary part was sending my identifications to County Records [Wiltshire & Swindon Biological Records Centre \(wsbr.org.uk\)](http://Wiltshire & Swindon Biological Records Centre (wsbr.org.uk)), and a great fear of being wrong. I submitted weekly email records, expressed my concerns, and received reassurance (phew).

It was noticeable that throughout the summer my spotting and identification of insects improved, so despite the initial trepidation of taking on this project it soon became a most enjoyable one, where even as a real novice I was still able to identify 58 species (more or less!), and this is only the tip of the ice-berg of what is actually now using, pollinating, foraging, and living in, on and off the butterfly bank - what a success.

Angela Bryant WWT Volunteer

Minutes of Coombe Bissett Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall

Tuesday 9th November, 2021 (unconfirmed)

Present: Councillors D. Hobson. A. Bird. C. Chelu. S. Boxall. J. McGowan (Clerk)
A. Hewlett (Temp Clerk) Members of the public Mr. G. Bundy, Mrs J. White.

Apologies: R. Clewer (Wiltshire Council) Cllr. S. Gledhill. Cllr L. Reed. Cllr. K Byatt.

Public Question Time: Mrs J White raised the concerns of a number of parishioners in Homington regarding cars speeding through the Village, particularly where the road narrows at the East End of the village towards Odstock. Several accidents and 'near misses' had been witnessed, with upsetting consequences. Some 9 years ago Homington had an active team of Community Speed Watch volunteers, and this had helped enormously, however cars tended to speed again when the volunteers were off duty. Cllr. A. Bird agreed that speeding throughout the villages was a problem and the police had also made comments that traffic slowed when they were in the villages, speeding again when they left. Mrs White suggested that flashing lights and chicanes should be considered. Cllr Chelu said this would be a matter for Wiltshire Council to determine, as it is the Highways authority and street lighting would almost certainly need to be installed before this could be done, something that Cllr Boxall said would probably not appeal to all residents and the AONB Dark Skies area. Cllr Boxall will make enquiries as to whether a new team of Community Speed Watch volunteers can be found. Cllr Chelu will ask Wiltshire Council if they will install 'narrow road' signs.

42. Minutes of last meeting: Proposed by Cllr. Boxall as correct and seconded by Cllr. Chelu, all agreed.

43. Declarations of interest: None

44. Matters arising:

a). **Neighbourhood Development Plan.** Report Cllr. Gledhill.

Wiltshire Council has now formally decided that a Strategic Environmental Assessment will be required. Given the AONB Conservation Areas and possible impact on the River Avon Special Area of Conservation – this is no real surprise. What is a surprise is the length of time it is probably going to take to complete the SEA. We had initially been told a few weeks but following the process to apply for and get a grant, tasking AECOM to complete the Assessment, then consult stakeholders etc; the best estimate for completing it is Spring 2022.

One other issue to be aware of: the current draft of the Neighbourhood Plan looks to meet a housing need of 13-15 homes out to 2036. Wiltshire Council is also working on a new Core Plan which for the first time will allocate housing targets to villages designated as "Large Villages" like Coombe Bissett. WC's draft Plan gives Coombe Bissett an allocation of 25 new properties between 2016 and 2036 of which 6 have already been completed. Wiltshire Council has told us that they expect our Neighbourhood Plan to be adjusted to meet this increased requirement. It is probably best to wait until the SEA is completed, and may well introduce several new factors, before considering how this relatively modest increase in the housing requirement should be met.

b). **Donkey Field Fence.** Cllr. Reed had reported that she was in contact with the fencing contractor and as yet no construction has started. To be included on the Agenda for January,

c). **SID/Community speed watch** – No further reports

d). **Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations:** Cllr Bird; A number of parishioners had come forward to say they would help on the day, however there had only been a limited response to anyone prepared to join a committee. In particular a Chairperson, Secretary and a member responsible for Catering would be needed, also those willing to take on various other responsibilities. Cllr Bird will organise a public meeting before Christmas, if possible.

e). **Stocksbridge Lane Repairs:** Cllr. Hobson; W.C. Highways department will need to be involved to assess the condition of the Lane. Later this month a representative from W.C. is meeting

with various parish councillors and interested parties to finalise the positioning of the Bollards for the Bridleways to deter fly tipping and this will present the opportunity for this assessment to happen. The Clerk will arrange.

a). **7th Councillor Responsibilities:** Cllr Boxall agreed to take on responsibilities for the Cemetery and also to become the third member of the Homington Planning sub-committee.

b). **Defibrillator Awareness Training:** Temp Clerk reported 35 people had expressed an interest in attending the Awareness Training session by S.W. Ambulance Service and a date has been set for 13th January 2022. Details/Reminder will be sent out at the beginning of December.

c). **Parish Clerk.** The Chairman Cllr Hobson welcomed Mrs Jay McGowan who has been appointed as Parish Clerk with immediate effect and thanked Ann Hewlett for being temporary Parish Clerk until a permanent replacement was found.

d). **Budget and Precept 2022/2023:** In the absence of a permanent Parish Clerk Cllr Gledhill had taken on the responsibility for reviewing and proposing the Budget and Precept for 2022/23 and had circulated his report to the Councillors. This had been based on

- Operating costs, covering such things as salaries, service contract costs, insurance, professional services and inspections etc.
- Asset Maintenance. Every year money is spent on asset maintenance, i.e., Playpark and general maintenance of other Parish facilities and it is sensible for the Parish Council to budget for these.
- Capital/Project costs: These being the discretionary projects that may be conducted each year. They would include such things as highway works, footpath improvements, new equipment (exercise equipment, defibrillators etc) and the Neighbourhood Development Plan. These are often paid for by a combination of PC money, Grants and Wiltshire Council.
- Planned Income: The PC's only regular source of substantial income is the Precept.
- The Parish Council also occasionally receives additional funds. Examples include CIL Section 106 Funding, (Solar Farm etc.,) Grants where applicable and Area Board Grants.
- The precept has been set at £11,000.00 since 2012 and as operating costs have slowly risen over the last few years and have now overtaken the precept, it is recommended that the Precept is increased to £12,000.00.

An increase in the parish council annual Precept to £12,000 was proposed by Cllr. Chelu, seconded by Cllr Bird and supported by all councillors.

43. Footpath No 7: Cllr Chelu had inspected the culvert at Footpath 7 on Lower Road in Homington and found it to contain debris and vegetation and has spoken to Mr G. Axtell at W.C. who will arrange for it to be cleaned. A new ditch from the culvert and repairs to the footpath adjacent had been paid for by the Parish Council and a Path Improvement Grant approximately 5 years ago and residents had agreed to keep it clear through regular maintenance by removing mud accumulating at the outfall. This has not been done. When the pipe is jetted it will clearly be more successful if the accumulation of silt at the outfall is cleared beforehand. Cllr Boxall will talk to residents to see if volunteers will do this to reduce flooding in the area.

44. Finger Post Homington: Cllr Chelu has recently inspected the wooden signpost on the triangle in Homington and it is rotten. W.C. will now only replace wooden signs with metal ones. The two

wooden signposts in Homington are among the last in the County and Cllr Boxall agreed to replace the wood. Parish Council will refund cost of materials.

42. Leg Press: Cllr Chelu – An installation date for the Leg Press has been agreed for 6th December 2021

43. Community Resilience (Power Outage): Cllr. Chelu had recently attended an online event dealing with National Power Outages. The Parish Councillors agreed that Cllr Chelu should produce a pamphlet/leaflet giving advice regarding this and it be published on the Village Website. It was also agreed that Cllr Chelu would look at the advice already on the Website, regarding Winter/ Snow /Flooding preparations and update as necessary.

44. Correspondence: Correspondence had been received from Mr Andy Downer regarding a decision on the proposed Development at Churchill Place. Cllr Chelu had been in touch with W.C. and was informed that a decision was imminent.

45. Planning received:

Application No: PL/2021/08992 -Tree work in conservation area
Proposal T1 – reduce Weeping Willow by 4 metres retain willow shape
At: Water Lane Cottage, Homington Road, Coombe Bissett SP5 4LR

Application No: PL/2021/08364 – full planning permission
Application No: PL/2021/09533 – full planning permission
Proposal: Replacement Garage Doors with single door. Demolition of low wall around oil tank and replace with log store. Recreation of single storey ext to N.E. corner of house to create office.
At: Luther's, Shutts Lane, Coombe Bissett, SP5 4LU

Application No: PL/2021/08228 – Household application
Proposal: Erect single garage, garden store. Air source heat pump. Replace existing outbuilding. Alterations to access and widening drive.
At Marazan Barbers Lane, Homington, Salisbury, SP5 4NL

Amendment to PL/2021/08228 Erection of detached single garage, garden store outbuildings, air source heat pump and replace existing outbuildings. Alterations to the access and widening drive

Planning approved:

Application No PL/2021/0856 – tree work in conservation area
Proposal: T3 Leylandii – removal of lower limbs close to trunk and pruning
At: St. Michael and All Angels Church, Coombe Bissett SP5 4LH

Planning withdrawn

Application No: PL/2021/07325 – household application
Proposal: To erect 6 ft fence panels on top of existing wall on garden boundary
At: Ebble Edge, Blandford Road, Coombe Bissett SP5 4LH

46. Representatives Report: Cllr Bird wished to place on record thanks to all those who had helped to clear fallen trees during the recent storm. Within minutes of a notice on the Community Facebook page, Heather Royle, Dave Royle and Craig Stewart had taken action to remove the tree across the main Blandford Road and cleared the road within 30 minutes, thus avoiding major disruption. Jim Webb had responded similarly to a tree causing problems at the Old Chapel and

others to trees causing problems at Pigeon Hill, Homington. Simply an amazing response without fuss or drama.

42. Finance: Cllr Boxall had been in touch with NatWest Bank regarding security of on-line accounts for small organisations (parish councils/groups) requiring 2 signatures, that would back up the system already in place by the Parish Council. He had been advised that a Pilot Scheme was in operation and all Councillors agreed this should be implemented as soon as practically possible.

Bank Accounts as at 9. 11. 21

Current Account: £13471.96

Reserve Account: £32144.13

Payments between 06.09.21 – 09.11.21

Current a/c

29 09 21 Bawdens Grass	£ 133.42
03 10 21 Office Exp September	£ 220.00
03 10 21 Office Exp September	£ 275.00
07 10 21 Caloo – Leg Press	£2982.00
13 10 21 Office Exp sundries	£ 54.96
18 10 21 ROSPA Playground inspection	£ 82.20
18 10 21 WALC 2 x PC Courses	£ 72.00
31 10 21 Radnor Estates	£ 10.00

Income received between 06.09.21 – 09.11.21

28 09 21 W.C.C. Precept	£5500.00
07 10 21 W.C.C. Grant Leg Press	£1242.00
04 10 21 Spire Memorials	£ 60.00
03 11 21 HMRC VAT	£1074.76
03 11 21 J Webb	£ 25.00

Reserve a/c

Interest Sept 26 p

Interest October 26p

The Parish Councillors noted the previously agreed monthly expenditure

43. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 11th January 2022 at 7pm.

44. The Meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.

I have been the Local Coordinator for Neighbourhood Watch for over 30 years now and it is time to find a supporter to take over this valuable role within our community. Will you volunteer?

A recent major leg fracture and my increasing age makes it very difficult for me to get around now and a fair number of new arrivals have not had a visit from me since before Covid .

As part of this introduction I offer you a Neighbourhood Watch door sticker with a picture of a policeman with a family and another warning cold callers to go away and not come back. Security advice and local knowledge comes with it ! Both items may already be present in your home where callers can see them as they approach but if not and you would like them and /or have a chat about home security I live at Two Bridges, the bungalow next to our Village Shop and Post Office. My phone number is shown above but I am usually here and an appointment is not necessary. (add me to the shopping list!)

Having a phone number for new arrivals on my list has occasionally proved very helpful in the business of rapid response to crime, accident etc. Some time ago having numbers helped me get information I passed on to the Police and from it they were able to capture an armed robber who had raided the post office. **Please** give me yours , it is safe with me. It is not an onerous duty, you make of it what you will. Please consider giving it a go.

COFFEE MORNINGS IN HOMINGTON



From January our coffee mornings in St Mary's Church will recommence on a regular basis.

They will be held on the 2nd Saturday of the month between 10.30 and 12.00

Coffee and Cake £1.50

ALL WELCOME!

Local Weather Diary 2021

Richard Allen 07768 942473

Week Ending		TEMPERATURES			RAINFALL
		Average Daily Maximum Deg C	Average Nightly Minimum Deg C	Average Mean Deg C	Total Inches
Sept	5	19.8	13.3	16.6	-
	12	22.4	14.7	18.6	0.17
	19	20.3	13.8	17.1	0.23
	26	19.6	11.1	15.4	-
Oct	3	15.7	10.1	12.9	2.87
	10	16.2	10.6	13.4	0.60
	17	15.6	8.2	11.9	-
	24	14.2	9.9	12.1	3.00
	31	14.5	<u>10.9</u>	12.7	2.01

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
July	22.9	14.8	18.9	3.97
August	20.3	13.2	16.8	1.34
September	20.1	12.8	16.5	1.52
October	15.1	9.9	12.5	<u>7.36</u>
Year to date rainfall				<u>31.65</u> inches

September

September began where August had finished with cold cloudy conditions continuing under the anticyclonic gloom. From 3rd to 8th we enjoyed a burst of summer weather which we had seen none of throughout August. Temperatures ranged from 21C to 27C from sunny skies and there was no rain. The first rainfall for eighteen days fell on 9th, albeit very little. The next three days were cloudy and dry.

Between 12th and 26th, maximum temperatures hovered around the 20C mark and the sun was a frequent visitor. Thirteen of these fifteen days were completely dry. The last four days of September were much cooler with heavy showers at times and with alternating days of sunshine and cloud.

It was the second warmest September that I have recorded. The mean temperature of 16.5C was nearly 2C above the September average of 14.6C. It was drier than normal for September with just 1.52 inches in the entire month compared with an average of 2.5 inches. My estimate for sunshine hours was 134 and that was 40 more hours than my estimate for August. We actually came very close to having a warmer September than August. August's mean temperature of 13.2C only just beat September's mean of 12.8C.

October

October began with a day of long spells of sunshine well into the evening but 2nd saw a very wet day with heavy showers and 1.5 inches of rain. This was equal to the whole of September's rainfall. The next four days saw good amounts of sunshine with temperatures on the cool side. After another 0.6 inches of rain during the night of 4th/5th, twelve completely dry days followed with plenty of autumn sunshine and temperatures around the average for October.

The wind turned southerly on 19th helping the temperature reach 18C. This tropically sourced air brought rainfall more akin to the tropics than to our latitude. Overnight on 19th/20th torrential rainfall brought us a total of 1.8 inches. This was followed by another 0.9 inches the following night. The month ended with some further very heavy downpours. During the night of 28th/29th 0.8 inches of rain fell and a further 0.9 inches fell overnight on 30th/31st. This heavy rainfall was accompanied by very strong gusts of wind in the early hours of 31st. These winds brought down trees in many places in our area and, indeed, one came down fifty yards up the road from our house, completely blocking the road. Not that it was there for long once Jim Webb and Lucy stepped in with a very big tractor and a very useful grab most expertly operated by Mr Webb!

Farewell Thank You

My sincere thanks to Christine Bridewell who retired today, leaving Fawcetts after 13 years during which she has made sense of my weather scribbles to produce this report in presentable fashion for some 70 editions of the Express. More often than not, I would be up against the clock with the editor thus making it an urgent task to be done ahead of whatever else might have been on her desk! Thank you Chris!!

Tennis Club Report

Janet Finniss 718346
geo.jan@btinternet.com

The Red Leader Competition, played over the summer months, was finally brought to a conclusion at the end of October. Congratulations to the winners Judy Evans and Mark Ryder, with Adrian Plowman and Andrea Mason runners up. Well done everyone for getting all the matches played.

The club AGM will be held on Thursday 25 November 2021, 7.30pm in the Homington Room, Coombe Bissett Village Hall. Please try to come along as this is your chance to put forward ideas and vote on club matters.

Forthcoming dates for your diary:-

Friday 24 January 2022 – Skittles and Fish & Chips at Salisbury Cycling Club TBC
Friday 6 March 2022 – Annual Dinner TBC

Club Sessions:

Wednesday	2pm	Mixed
Friday	10am	Ladies
Sunday	10am	Mixed

John Bletsoe: Derwent 4.5.81 – 4.1.82

On the morning of the 2nd of May 1981 Eileen and I attended the wedding reception of friends; then she took me to the railway station to travel to Heathrow via bus from Woking. Upon arrival for my 1700 flight with south African airways I was told the flight would be leaving from Stanstead airport as there was an air traffic controllers strike in France. There were coaches at the terminal entrance to take us to our new departure point. After a trip halfway around the north circular we arrived at the little airport and small terminal one and a half hours after leaving Heathrow. This was an hour after our scheduled flight. The terminal was packed with four to five hundred people, not enough seats, and a very hot May day! Eventually at 1800 we were allowed to board and we moved out to the runway to take off. There we stayed- a loaded aircraft with no air conditioning or ventilation for three and a half hours! I was sitting next to an elderly lady who needed a cold drink but was continually ignored by the steward. I filled a small paper cup from the drink fountain, the steward told me I must not take the water. I explained the lady really needed a drink and he followed me back to my seat to make sure I gave it to her. We finally took off at 2130. The pilot then told us we had an unscheduled stop at Las Palmas to refuel as the runway was too short to take off with a full load.....now four and a half hours behind schedule to Johannesburg.

Not too much time change, about one or two hours and people were waking at six or seven o'clock. The strange steward was running round telling people it was still night and closing shutters. It was obvious they did not have lunch on board as originally, we were to land at 0830 and it was already 1400. All they had to do was to explain the situation, people were very understanding, so why treat us like idiots! I got to transfer hall and luckily did not have to wait too long for the trip down to Cape Town. I was met by the ship's agent who told me about the Derwent which was not due for a couple of days. I spent a very pleasant two days waiting and joined her on the 4th. Gordon, the Master, whom I had met ten years previously on the Orotava, was a good friend.

The lady I travelled to Johannesburg with was very interesting. She had recently been widowed and was going to live with her daughter in South Africa. Her husband had been a bank manager and on retirement they travelled the world on cargo and container ships with passenger accommodation. This was going from ship to ship and not minding the destination. I think she had almost as much of the sea in her as I did! They travelled on ships of all nationalities, the longer the voyage, the more they enjoyed it.

On the second evening on board Gordon wanted to go ashore to Cape Town's large funfair. The crazier the ride the happier he was. I must admit I enjoyed watching him from ground level! The ship had three days in Cape Town discharging general cargo and containers. On Saturday afternoon we went ashore in Port Elizabeth to watch the FA Cup Final in a bar...Coventry -v- Spurs. A draw a full time the teams played extra time but 'that's all folks'....the SA TV stations had not allowed for this and it was normal services resumed. I think Spurs won in the end. Next East London and then Durban, the final discharge port. We then sailed back round the Cape keeping well off-shore to avoid the big waves which occur on-shore. Our first load port was Rio Grand de Sol, arriving after a very pleasant trip across the South Atlantic.

Loading mainly timber, we went to our regular ports of Buenos Aires, Montevideo, and irregular ports of Rio Grand and Porto Allegra. Final loading port was Santos much to the crew's delight, especially George our excellent stewardthis was definitely his favourite port. This was a most pleasant trip and I came home for three weeks from Dublin, flying to Bristol. The agent in Dublin had ordered a taxi to the airport (ten minutes away) for the 1415 flight, so please wait on the wharf in good time. 1345 no taxi....arrived 1355...a mad drive to the airport. We arrived five minutes after boarding closed. There were two of us late being refused boarding when three more rushed in. I suppose they could not refuse five.

At times ships do carry unusual cargoes. On one trip from Archangel in Northern Russia we loaded a cargo of coal for Swansea. On the return voyage at Dublin, we carried two huge blocks of granite, rolls of linen (printed with 'Irish Linen' (made in Brazil!?!)). I was very pleased to go to Archangel as my father had been sent there after WWI. He hated the sea and was ill for weeks. He said he didn't have a clue where he was. They boarded a train which took them to central Russia to assist the White Russians. Arriving in the spring they were guarding an airfield til autumn. Then they went back to Archangel another week of seasickness. Interesting for me the port was pretty run down and had not changed much in sixty years.

Well, here I go again, back to the tanker Elstree Grange after I recovered from a hernia operation. A last big bash with Furness was waiting for five days at a beach hotel in Curacao (Dutch Antilles) for the Elstree Grange to arrive. My last happy days with Furness. There were five of us, one being my Irish Chief Engineer friend George.

After nearly thirty years I received my redundancy notice at 2000 on New Year's Eve 1982. I was given three months' notice, as I had two months leave, I requested to be sent home in late January so I would be able to look for a new employer. No such luck I was not to be relieved until 16th April 1983. I set about looking for work registering at a dozen or so ship-manning agencies and wrote dozens of letters to shipping companies but still no joy. In mid-October I bumped into an old seafaring friend who had just been promoted to Master. He was working for Turnbull Scots, a small firm with a variety of ships. Apparently, they had just started to man ships for a Hong Kong company – Wheelock Marsden. These were intermediate bulk carriers between 60-70,000 tons. He kindly gave me their telephone number and I was in, to go for an interview the next day. As I had not had an interview for thirty years, I was rather apprehensive. I need not have worried he just checked my Master's Certificate and medical, telling me I would be flying to Japan in three days' time – the voyage six months with two months leave. The journey was a first for me flying over the North Pole refuelling at Anchorage then down to Tokyo. This was my first trip to Japan and I was due to join the Fenlock in Sapporo, northern end of Hokkaido (450 miles north of Tokyo).

The flight was fascinating, especially refuelling at Anchorage. In the terminal were stuffed animals - a polar bear, a grizzle each about eight feet tall with teeth and claws. Thirdly, a huge wolf. The flight was Japanese Airlines and 90% of fellow travellers were Japanese. Most of them made a dive for the big box freezers, stocking up on smoked salmon. We arrived in Tokyo early afternoon where I was guided to the domestic terminal. The flight to Sapporo was about two hours so by the time I got out into a pre-arranged taxi it was dark and snowing heavily. The journey to the port seemed to be all red traffic lights. Each time we stopped the driver nodded off so I had to wake him!

The Fenlock was the first foreign built vessel I had worked on, built in Japan. Walking into the accommodation I was met with a strong and unpleasant smell. The ship was manned by British officer and South Korean crew. The smell was the crew's main vegetable which was, I think, called Ginchi. In cooled handling room, there were three plastic dustbins filled with Chinese cabbage vinegar spices and a lot of garlic which were left to ferment. Surprisingly after a few days one got used to the smell! The Korean Officer was the electric officer. He was very helpful and efficient. The accommodation was an average size but sparse in furnishings. The ship, as far as the working aspects, was excellent. She had loaded a coal cargo in Australia and we were bound for Dampier in Western Australia to load manganese ore from Bremen. The seven holds had to be washed down with hoses and cleaned out from any coal residue. My two-week voyage to Dampier I thought was a tight schedule comparing her with Orotava. Asking the Korean Bosun he told me two and a half days. The difference was the construction of the bilge suction pipe in the holds. This was protected by three chambers which trapped the cargo residue from blocking the suction pipe inlet ('the elephant's foot'). The second advantage was that at the after end of each hold on deck was a telephone connection which, when the handset was plugged in, sole purpose was to connect the deck to the ship's ballast pump; so as soon as a suction was lost, we could immediately speak to the engine room hand to alert them. This was much improved from the

Orotava where all day we were up and down the engine room. We also had complete control of the ballast pumps and could start them up from our office on main deck.

Most bulk carriers have upper and lower wing tanks. On the Orotava the upper wing tanks could be emptied of ballast by opening a valve to each one or pump them through the engine room. The quickest was the first but most ports do not like (hundreds of tons of) water pouring over the quay. It did tend occasionally to fuse the electric cranes. On the Fenlock to discharge the upper wing tanks just had a down pipe to the engine room. So, every drop of ballast water had to go through the engine room.

The Bosun was right – two days sailing from Sapporo, all seven holds were clean and drying out. The Senior Deck Hand was known as a No. 1 Quartermaster. He always steered in and out of port. The South Koreans were excellent workers and very amenable. Seamanship was a different matter, I felt, they would have found life hard on a general cargo ship. Sunday inspections of accommodation always found it spotless, any problems would result in a telling off from the ‘electrician’ in their own language. They did worry me when washing down the tops of open holds with pressurised hoses. They would stand on the edge of the hold and walk along the narrow hatch, completely oblivious of the 70’ drop just inches away!

The Captain was a ‘first tripper’ with Turnbull’s having joined Fenlock two months before me. He had his wife with him the whole trip and they left a month after me. He had been all his life in Alfred Holt (Blue Funnel) mainly Glen Line – same ships, same rules. I stayed on the Fenlock for six and a half months never going ashore for social purposes. The rule in Blue Funnel was if the Master was ashore the Mate could not and vice-versa. As he had his wife with him, they were both ashore in a taxi supplied by the ships’ agent. I knew nothing about them, there were no drinks after Sunday inspections or before lunch. I cannot ever remember being offered a seat for a chat. I have completely forgotten his name and what he looked like. I know he had a son, as I believe, he was sailing in the disastrous Fastnet Boatrace where fifteen people drowned, thankfully, his son was unharmed.

Two weeks before I left the ship, we had completed loading a coal cargo for Newcastle, New South Wales and had to wait two hours for high tide – enough water to get out of harbour. We did not have any new books on board so I went to see him to ask if I could nip ashore to the Seaman’s Mission to get books. “Oh, we are just off to the Mission ourselves, we will only be twenty minutes or so.” Twenty minutes turned out to be over an hour and forty minutes! Still, that was just the way he was, he never bothered me or interfered with my running of the ship and for that I was grateful.

However, to get back to the beginning, we loaded manganese ore to as much as our draft would allow us to enter Bremen harbour. For some reason, when nearly finished, the fellow loading put most of the cargo on the portside instead of putting it in the centre of the hold. This was annoying as we were upright when commencing loading. This was worrying for me as a one-degree list on a ship of Fenlock’s size would increase our mid ship drift by almost a foot. It was a time of very high fuel prices and avoiding the Suez Canal (which pleased me). So, we went at reduced speed from Dampier at 11 knots going to Bremen and after forty-three days at sea we arrived and to my relief docked safely. On the voyage we went well clear of the Cape of Good Hope once again, avoiding too dangerous waters closer to shore. The first land we saw after Dampier was Madeira thirty-five days at sea, not very comfortable as we were heading across the Southern Ocean swell. Iron ore in the bottom acts as a pendulum, so we rolled away quite heavily until we rounded the Cape and headed north. From Bremen we went to New Orleans to load a cargo of grain for Japan, we had plenty of time for hold cleaning and loaded for Osaka, Nagasaki, and Yokohama. Once again going through the Panama Canal was sheer joy. I’m sure the Captain enjoyed New Orleans as his company never traded in the States just the Far East. After discharge we spent a couple of months (two trips) to Saikai in Japan’s inland sea, discharging coal. Then flew home from Tokyo to UK for a couple of months’ leave. The next ship was the Annalock, an almost new Danish built bulk carrier which I was due to join in Turkey (Alexandretta)

Update for the Express



COOMBE BISSETT AND HOMINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

CB&H NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN, November 2021 - Update

It is many months since we have been in a position to provide our community with any news on our Neighbourhood Plan. However, we now have some information to pass on.

A Draft Plan was submitted to Wiltshire Council who have now reviewed it and decided that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required. This will be undertaken by a specialist from AECOM which is an independent organisation authorised by the Government to carry out such assessments.

It is anticipated that undertaking the SEA (a detailed technical assessment) and providing the outcome information is unlikely to be completed until the beginning of March 2022. Once we have received the report, we shall be able to ascertain whether any changes to our Draft Plan are needed.

The following step is then to undertake a 'Reg 14' local six-week consultation with our community. This will enable everyone to make comments on the Draft Plan and for those comments to be taken into consideration when making any changes before a revised Neighbourhood Plan is submitted for a formal Examination.

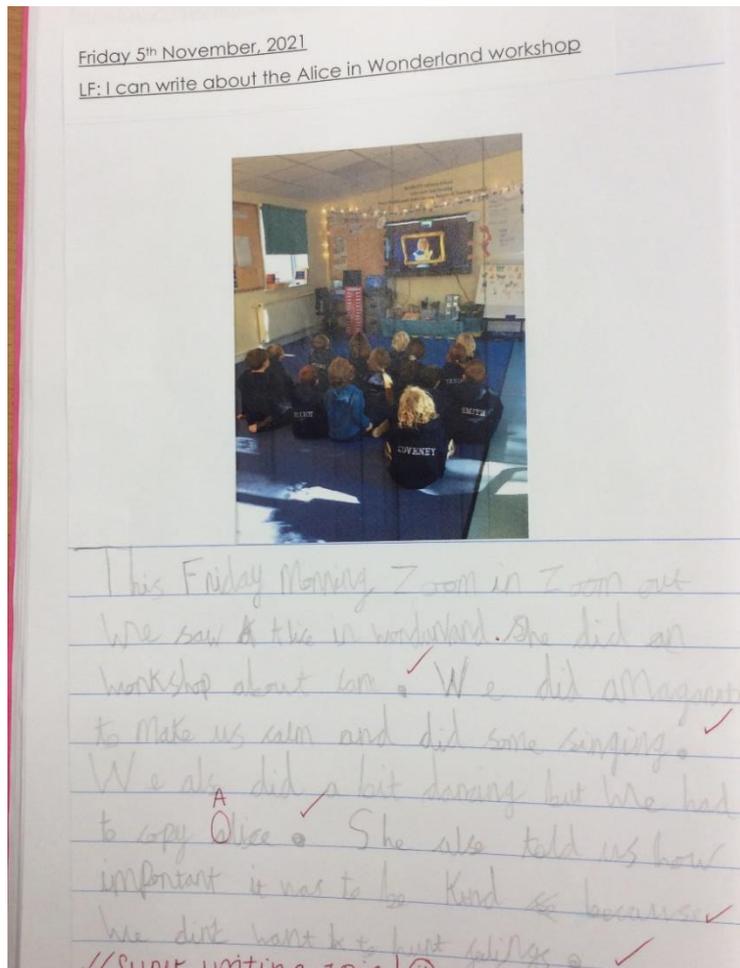
For more information or if you'd like to know how you could get involved, please contact:
cbandhnp@gmail.com

The CB&HNP steering group

Coombe Bissett Primary School

This term, we have been enjoying 'visits' from some exciting people here at Coombe Bissett Primary.

Zofia reports on a treat for Elm Class...



This Friday morning we saw Alice in Wonderland. She did a workshop about care. We did imagination to make us calm and did some singing. We also did a bit of dancing but we had to copy Alice. She also told us how important it was to be kind because we don't want to hurt feelings.

Fir and Ash were 'visited' by children's author, Guy Bass.

GUY BASS WEBINAR

Last week KS2 - in our separate classes - watched a webinar starring Guy Bass who is one of the funniest authors we have ever met. He shared with us some of his poems and we think the class's favourite poem was THAT, which was one word repeated endlessly. There were some other poems, for example 'why does this poem just not rhyme?'.

Guy showed us some baby pictures and his favourite phrase when he was younger was 'BUT WHY!': he was a bit cheeky when he was younger. He drew all over the walls about two feet high because that was all he could reach. As a consequence, he was kicked outside into the garden only to find a stick. More trouble. He smashed everything up with it - not the best thing his mum wanted to see.

He introduced us to one of his many books. We think it was his thirty-seventh book but we are not sure since we were too busy laughing! The book he read and showed us was Skeleton Keys, one of

the many books in the series. The book was about children who imagined creatures so wildly that they came to life...One of these Unimaginables, Lucky, was trying to find strange Stanley who had imagined him but was nowhere to be seen.

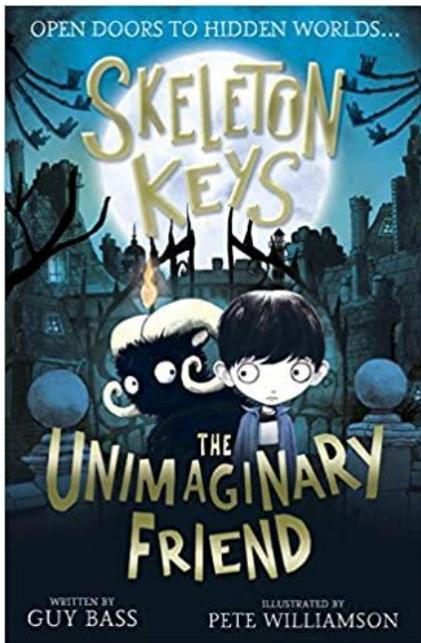
He answered some questions we wanted to know, and then told us what his name meant:

Guy=a normal bloke

Bass= a fish he likes to eat

When the webinar finished we couldn't stop laughing our socks off! But no I mean seriously!!

Reported by Amelia and Izzy



As restrictions have eased, we are also venturing beyond our lovely school environment...Oak Class visited the Cathedral and Ash made it as far as Winchester!

Ash class's visit to Winchester Science Centre

At the science museum we learned many facts such as the names of planets, what they are made of and lots of other things to do with space.

One of the activities was making a rocket: shaking it up then pouring out the liquid which left a gas which was flammable.

The adult in the room set the gas on fire and it shot across a rope; it was attached to the rope by magnets.

Planetarium.

In the planetarium we saw constellations first and got to see a whole sky full of them then we guessed what the constellations were representing and in the end - after a couple of minutes - we found out because they got outlined.

One of the constellations looked like a running horse but was actually a bear or beaver.

Reported by Jessica and William

What would you do if there was a national electrical power systems failure ?

The most likely scenario for all the electrical power to go down in the UK is a systems failure due to extreme weather, and, as we all are starting to experience, extreme weather due to climate change is already upon us.

This was the situation put to those of us who attended an on-line seminar on Community Resilience organised by Wiltshire Council. Our grid is said to be extremely resilient, but it could happen. So what would you do without electricity for, up to 2 weeks?

Could you continue to work from home when your computer and mobile phone wouldn't work? Your landline would only last a few hours as the batteries in the telephone exchange ran down, and in the future all land line phone calls will be transmitted by the internet. Could you travel to work and to get shopping when you needed fuel and the fuel pumps would not work? Could you pay with plastic in the shops when the system used electricity and the internet? Could you withdraw cash from the cash point when it requires an electrical supply?

Would your central heating continue to run? Could you cook on your electric cooker? No TV, no radio, no social media. Nothing working that needs electricity in your home, and society as a whole.

The Machine Stops.

So what would you do? There are a number of vulnerable people in our parish who would need help. Do we know who they are? How can we help them?

To a certain extent residents in Coombe Bissett and Homington already keep an eye out for each other in such circumstances, and generally know who the vulnerable people are in their area.

Who are the vulnerable people?

- the aged.
- those who need to be visited by carers.
- those who normally receive meals on wheels.
- those who are pregnant and about to have their baby in the next two weeks.

Who can help?

- All able bodied villagers who can check on their vulnerable neighbours.
- Local doctors, nurses and midwives who might help if emergency services cannot get through.
- People who could offer to loan mains generators.

Being prepared is thought to be essential.

How can I be prepared?

- Have a stock of warm clothes to wear indoors, base layers, quilted garments, outdoor coats, blankets, duvets.
- Make sure that you have enough basic dried and tinned foods in the house to last for at least 2 weeks.
- Purchase a small gas camping stove to heat up food and drinks.
- Ensure that you have a stock of candles, torch batteries, and batteries for radios. It is possible that local radio might broadcast on FM or AM using generators, and national radio on 1500m long wave as these transmitters cover the whole country. Your car radio might be useful in these circumstances.
- If you rely on regular drugs, make sure that you always have enough to last for 2 weeks or more.
- Keep your freezer closed.
- Get a lead to charge your mobile phone from your car battery, just in case mobile phone masts are operational.
- Get on the SSE vulnerable list. E-mail: customerservices@sse.com
- Keep a reasonable amount of cash in the house. Plastic won't work.

What else can I do?

If you know someone vulnerable who lives in an isolated area of the parish take a walk, cycle or drive out to see how they are.

Will you be available to help if needed?

If there was a national power outage, and it is unlikely, it would take time to get the whole system running again. You can't just turn on all the power stations at once with a big switch. They have to be run up to speed and then gradually more areas would have their electricity reinstated, but it would take time. Be prepared.

Chris Chelu: Coombe Bissett and Homington Parish Council

Happy Christmas from the Village Show Committee.....



'The Holly and the Ivy', I feel this hymn at Christmas instantly brings back all those wonderful memories of Christmas past, but why are these plants associated with Christmas traditions and where did they come from? Holly, a native evergreen with its bright red berries, brought colour to an otherwise grey time of year. The tree has long been associated with continuing life and the red berries symbolising blood. The wood of tree in folklore was used to protect the household, which is why many trees were planted near the entrance. Ivy is nature's tree feller, symbol of rebirth, and has berries that only birds can eat. Another evergreen, it brings life to the winter landscape. Ivy was the sign for a tavern and ivy ale, a potent drink, is still brewed at Trinity College! I wouldn't recommend trying it as it is said to have mind altering properties! Another Christmas time plant is Mistletoe, long known as the plant of peace, perhaps because of its white berries. Before Christianity, the cutting of the Mistletoe just before Winter Solstice was so important that all warfare would cease and became a time of peace and goodwill. Not to mention of kissing underneath it!



Thank you lovely *Coombe Bissett Blooms* for the interesting insight.



And what will we all be doing? We share some of our family traditions.....



Christmas Eve long walk, Midnight Mass, morning stockings, bubbles for breakfast, lunch, Queens speech, card and board games, cold supper, more card and board games*Alison*

When I was young we would open the windows Christmas morning to hear the bells of Winchester Cathedral*Kim*

Croissants, smoked salmon and prosecco for breakfast. Presents after lunch!*Abi*

Christmas Eve the stockings are hung over the inglenook, whiskey and mince pie set out by the fire and 'Twas the night before Christmas' always read before bed.....*Caroline*

Reading 'The Night before Christmas' at bedtime on Christmas eve in the lounge before setting out food and drink for Santa, making brandy butter in the same Christmas tree dish every year and fighting about licking the spoon!*Sally*

80 years ago on Christmas Eve Don Hewlett's (slightly inebriated) father and his good friend Bob Smith (same condition) went home to Green Gables (now Pheasant Cottage) in Homington and Bob pushed a coin into the new baby's hand for good luck. On Christmas morning this year Don, his children and grandchildren will visit Bett Smith (Bob's Widow) and her family; as is our much-loved family tradition. (Bett and family lived in Coombe Bissett and many will remember her from her days working in Coombe Bissett Stores)....*Ann*

And as for me...my husband and I decided we would BBQ on Christmas day and have done so for 36 years...in rain, snow, cold but always in fun!.....Sharon

So, whatever way you do Christmas in your families we all hope that this year is a very happy one to you all!

And finally....don't forget to add all things 'garden-y' to your Christmas list so you are well prepared for the Show.....after all it is only eight months away exactly as I write this!

CB & H Village Show 17th July 2020





BISHOPSTONE VILLAGE HALL



Events during December 2021 & January 2022

LATEST COVID ADVICE:

As we enter the winter season we ask all to adhere to current advice to wear face coverings while moving about in the Hall, to use hand gel regularly and to sign in with the QR code if possible to help the NHS test and trace system.

There will be extra ventilation to reduce risks so do dress warmly. We shall endeavour to keep the Hall at a comfortable temperature during cold weather but will ventilate areas well beforehand and during any intervals.

We would also remind you not to come to the Hall if you are at all unwell and would recommend taking a lateral flow test before mixing with others if you have been in contact with someone who has or may be carrying Covid, even if you are fully vaccinated.

CHRISTMAS FAIR - Friday 3rd December at 6pm

We are looking forward to welcoming a good selection of independent craft stallholders along with:

Tombola: run by Francis Taylor, 14 The Croft 01722 780316.

Cakes and preserves: run by Margaret Barter, Vella House 01722 780471.

Donations gratefully received by Francis or Margaret or can be collected.

Come along and start your Christmas shopping!

Coffee/teas, mince pies and cider will be available.

(NOTE: NO bric-a-brac or bookstalls this year.)

The annual Village Christmas Card will be available at the Fair, with profits from this and 50% of Fair takings being donated to The Wiltshire Air Ambulance, who will be sending a speaker to our Community Lunch on January 5th, when they will be presented with a cheque.

BISHOPSTONE COMMUNITY LUNCHES

Times as usual: 12.00 noon for 12.30 pm.

The Christmas lunch will be on **Wednesday 1st December.**

Wednesday 5th January 2022 – Guest speaker from the Wiltshire Air Ambulance

Wednesday 2nd February 2022 – The guest speaker will be Sheila Crone talking about Victorian Inventions.

Advance booking is essential. Please telephone Caroline Ash on (01722) 781044 and advise her of any dietary requirements. The cost is £7.50 for a two-course lunch and a drink.

MOVIOLA at Bishopstone

Friday 28th January - "The Courier". *The true story of a British businessman unwittingly recruited into one of the greatest international conflicts in history. Forming an unlikely partnership with a Soviet officer hoping to prevent a nuclear confrontation, the two men work together to provide the crucial intelligence used to defuse the Cuban Missile Crisis. Starring Benedict Cumberbatch and Rachel Brosnahan*

Doors open at 7pm with the film commencing at 7.30pm

Advance booking is essential. Tickets are **£6.00** and are available from Caroline Ash on (01722) 781044.

A cash bar with snacks and ices will be available.

HALL BOOKINGS FOR SOCIAL EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS

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

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

BISHOPSTONE PLAYGROUP

(Formerly known as the Baby & Toddler Playgroup)

For general information about the Bishopstone Playgroup, find their Facebook page *Bishopstone Playgroup*, or contact Kate Pendlenton on 01722 780655 or email: kmpendlenton@hotmail.com.

“EXTEND” EXERCISE CLASSES

For information about these exercise classes contact Jenny on 01722 780863, email: 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.

SARUM SPINNERS AND WEAVERS

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



What's On at Coombe Bissett & Homington Village Hall?

Regular Activities

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

Contact Claudine on 07788 587937

BADMINTON CLUB – Each Wednesday at 8.00pm

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

ART CLASSES

Contact Graham Oliver on 01722 718646

FILM NIGHT – Third Thursday of each month

See separate flyer and notice board for details

Many other private meetings, parties and activities are also held in the Village Hall. Further information is available via our web site at coombebissettandhomingtonvillagehall.weebly.com. Our Booking Secretary can be contacted by e mail on cbvhbookings@gmail.com if you are interested in booking your own event in the Hall.

Don Morgan – Chair of the Village Hall Management Committee