

COOMBE BISSETT AND HOMINGTON

# EXPRESS

Issue No 261 February / March 2022



**Where is it?**

See page 5, for more details of this editions competition

## VILLAGE DIARY

Village Cinema	17 <sup>th</sup> February
F&G Music Night	17 <sup>th</sup> February / 17 <sup>th</sup> March
F&G Bingo	25 <sup>th</sup> February
Village Quiz	26 <sup>th</sup> March

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Christmas and the New Year celebrations have long finished and we are waking up to some lovely bright and frosty mornings. Blue Monday has passed and January is nearly behind us, and fingers crossed we are looking forward to a gradual lifting of the Covid restrictions. It seems impossible to think that they have been in place in one form or another since March 2020.

Our thoughts are turning to spring and as I write this, I can see my resident kingfisher, sitting in the sun on the bank of the stream watching for an easy catch, such beautiful birds. The early show of snowdrops is starting to emerge at the Spinney in Homington, and the daffodils on the verges around our villages are starting to show buds. Easter eggs and hot cross buns are in the shops and planning is afoot for our village's celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Events are opening up and the music nights are back at the Fox & Goose, the Village Cinema returns as does the annual Village Hall Quiz night, full details can be found within the following pages.

Planning is afoot for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend celebrations so, Save the Dates, see page 9 for initial information.

**Ultrafast Broadband update** - This edition includes a second insert about the project to bring Ultrafast (note the change from Superfast) Broadband to our 2 villages. The purpose is to provide us with data speeds between 100Mb/s and 1Gb/s. The project team has made really good progress over the past 2 months with 152 households registering their interest. However, that still leaves over 100 who have not yet done so and many of these may be needed to make the project financially viable. The project is funded by a Government grant for every household/business that registers. Please read the insert and also visit the website following the link provided. The cut-off date to join the project and gain all the benefits is Friday 11th February.

**Front Cover Competition** – As part of the Jubilee celebrations we are giving you the opportunity to design our front cover for the May / June issue. This will be run as a competition and prizes will be awarded.

The theme is the **Queen's Platinum Jubilee**.

The competition is open to all ages and entries can be an individual, group or family basis. Full details will be in the next edition. So get your thinking caps on!

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

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

Sue Dyer

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

Phone: 01722718514



# Chalke Valley Benefice



Parish of Coombe Bissett with Homington

## Team Rector

Revd Catherine Blundell – 780134

## Team Vicar

The Revd Canon Jenny Taylor – 503081

## Churchwarden

Mollie Lampard - 718517

## Lay Pastoral Assistant

Ruth Morgan - 718557

We are NEARLY back to normal!! Prayers continue to be said for all those suffering Covid-19 and for all those awaiting appointments and operations that have been pushed back because of the pandemic BUT we are beginning to see signs of hope – the omicron cases are beginning to drop, the days are definitely lengthening, there are discernible buds on daffodils and snowdrops and Easter is on the horizon!

Before Easter, of course, there is Lent which this year, begins on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, Ash Wednesday (join us at 7.00pm in St Michael and All Angels!). It is a time to reflect and refresh and dare I suggest, to reset our energies? We have become so used to **not** making that extra effort to go out and meet people, to **not** go out and help each other, to just **not** go out that, maybe we all need to help each other to get going again – a bit like when you need that extra push to restart exercise, a class, a hobby. Lent is the ideal time to do this – as well as perhaps, beginning or beginning again to deepen our understanding of the Christian faith. We might even begin to understand where God is working in our lives – if we give ourselves time and give God that little bit of attention!

The 2022 Chalke Valley Churches Lent project is in aid of the Women's Refuge in Salisbury – such a worthy cause so please keep a sharp lookout for posters and messages about village events at which you can donate to them and so change some lives for the better.

Our pattern of services (see below) has also changed with a **NEW SERVICE** coming our way so again keep an eye out for some exciting news on that front!

A prayer to get us on our way!

Dear God, I pray for energy today.  
I pray for everything I need so I can live out this day according to your will.  
In Jesus' name Amen.

## Service Pattern Changes

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday: Coombe Bissett Parish Communion 11.00**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday: Coombe Bissett Parish Communion 11.00**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday: Homington Parish Communion 11.00**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Homington Morning Prayer 11.00 (Evening Prayer in summer)**

**And a NEW informal Lay led Alternative Service in Coombe Bissett  
on the following Sundays at 10.00 am:**

**24<sup>th</sup> April, 26<sup>th</sup> June, 25<sup>th</sup> September, 27<sup>th</sup> November**

I hope that each village will support the services in both churches.

We are ONE Parish – so looking forward to seeing you there!!

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### **Where is it?**



By the way... Here is Matilda reading at the last mystery location!



(Published with permission)



## Services in Chalke Valley Benefice – February 2022

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



### Pattern of services during Covid 19 restrictions.

Please follow all the safety rules in church. If the situation changes, services may be cancelled at short notice. Please check your church noticeboard and weekly e-bulletin.

<b>6 February 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday before Lent</b>	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Broad Chalke ( <i>tbc</i> )	Catherine Blundell ( <i>tbc</i> )
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Britford	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	Family Communion (CW)	Ebbesbourne Wake	Catherine Blundell
	11.00am	Family Communion (CW)	Coombe Bissett	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	Family Service (CW)	Odstock	Adrian Taylor
	11.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Berwick St John	Lay Led
<b>13 February 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Lent</b>	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 Voremberg
	11.00am	Family Communion (CW)	Coombe Bissett	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	All Age Service	Alvediston	Biddy Trahair
	3.00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)	Fifield Bavant	Biddy Trahair
<b>20 February 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent</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)	Ebbesbourne Wake	Biddy Trahair
	11.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	Homington	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	Berwick St John	Catherine Blundell
<b>27 February Sunday next before Lent</b>	9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Berwick St John	Kate Rosslyn Smith
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Charlton All Saints	Roger Leake
	9.30am	Family Communion (CW)	Broad Chalke	Bishop of Ramsbury
	11.00am	Family Service	Nunton	Adrian Taylor
	11.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	Bishopstone	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Alvediston	Catherine Blundell
	11.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Homington	Roger Leake
	6.00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)	Bowerchalke	Lay Led
<b>2 March ASH WEDNESDAY</b>	12.15pm	Communion with Ashing (CW)	Broad Chalke	Catherine Blundell
	7.00pm	Communion with Ashing (CW)	Coombe Bissett	Jenny Taylor
<b>6 March 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Broad Chalke	Catherine Blundell
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#### 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 Voremberg: 07785 304142, James Wardroper: 01722 718152



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<b>6 March 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Broad Chalke	Catherine Blundell
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<b>27 March MOTHERING SUNDAY</b>  <i>BST Begins Clocks go forward 1 hour</i>	9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Berwick St John	Kate Rosslyn Smith
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Charlton All Saints	Roger Leake
	9.30am	Family Communion (CW)	Broad Chalke	Catherine Blundell
	11.00am	Family Service	Nunton	Adrian Taylor
	11.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	Bishopstone	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Alvediston	Catherine Blundell
	11.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Homington	Roger Leake
	6.00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)	Bowerchalke	Lay Led
<b>3 April 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Broad Chalke	Catherine Blundell
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Britford	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	Family Communion (CW)	Ebbesbourne Wake	Catherine Blundell
	11.00am	Family Communion (CW)	Coombe Bissett	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	Family Service (CW)	Odstock	Adrian Taylor
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INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR

# The Courier

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. **Benedict Cumberbatch, Jessie Buckley and Rachel Brosnahan** star.



*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)  
Pay by cash or card at the door on the day.

**Thursday,  
17<sup>th</sup> February**



**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June – Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

Amidst all the  
Tree Planting,



Royal Pageants, Parades,  
Pudding Making.....

Why not join us in Coombe Bissett and Homington for our celebrations  
including

The BIG Jubilee Picnic on Sunday      Crown and Tiara Competition

The Cricket Match      Coffee Morning

Glamorous Picnic Competition      Pop-up Pub...and more!

So – save the dates.....more information to follow.....

See CB&HE [www.coombebisett.com](http://www.coombebisett.com)  coombebisettcommunity



# 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

## CRESS Update

CRESS would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas Appeal and sent our Christmas cards - it means so much to know that you care.

We ran a few different appeals, for Toys and Christmas Meals, Agricultural Vehicle, Clinic and general work. The total raised was £5190.

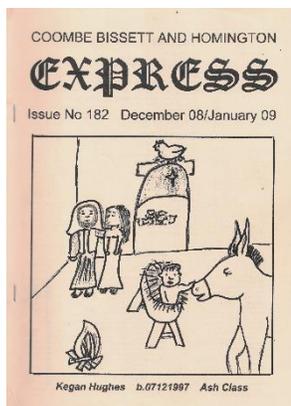
The money that has been raised for the toys is being sent out shortly. The toys are going to traumatised refugee children as they receive their Children's Accelerated Trauma Therapy (CATT). CRESS has trained nine refugee CATT counsellors who between them have helped over 600 children in 2021. You can read more <https://cressuk.org/catt-update>

We are also delighted that we are able to have our first UK visitor to Uganda since the COVID pandemic broke out. Wendy Fry, a Chartered accountant and CMS mission associate, will visit the CRESS/DOL and clinic accounts departments in person, and work with the local teams for two full weeks. She will be helping support them with the accounts software and training them in good financial management.

CRESS  
UK Office Manager

[cressuk.org](https://cressuk.org)

## This is the Year.....2009



What a bumper year! Issue 182 sported the Christmas Card Winner: Kegan Hughes (now 24!) it was the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the competition; more than ninety drawings were submitted and judged by Lady Laura Phillips of Homington. She commented that Kegan's art was 'most skilfully drawn! The baby Jesus touching the nose of the donkey is charming.' I especially love the happy looking chicken atop the stable door. Other winners were Jonathan Shaw, Rosa herring and Alice Sherwood but like this month's competition I am sure ALL entries are highly cherished by everyone. On a greater level, it is still wonderful to see the strong bond between village, school, church and our communities continues to this day.....and long may it continue to do so.

Throughout the six editions so much happened....and culminated in the announcement that Coombe Bissett had been awarded Village of the Year! (Calor: Wiltshire County Winners). I asked a few of our current 'locals' why they thought our villages are the best.....

*A great village has a fantastic school, well stocked and run village shop. Sports facilities and clubs with many other hobby activities and associations available, and of course a great traditional village pub. What else could anyone want? It's a wonder we don't win Best Village every year! (btw F & G became a Freehouse in 2009) ..... **Keith & Sue, our fab landlord and landlady at the Fox and Goose***

*I simply love being the Vicar for Coombe Bissett with Homington! The villages are full of a grand mix of age groups, talents and characters and it is wonderful the way the communities look out for each other. I am biased but after the churches and their congregations, the best thing for me is our lovely, happy and friendly Primary School. .... **The Reverend Jenny Taylor***

*Complete community: CB&H boast a pub, school, Church, village hall, nature reserve, active Parish council, Post Office and shop and all are well supported in their different ways. Friendly and welcoming community, both here and in neighbouring villages (Bishopstone and Stratford Tony especially); and a variety of local events: drama club, cricket team, music nights, flower show, sheepdog trials (at Throop) to mention a few. The 'also ran': a network of well-maintained footpaths and a Racecourse (just outside the village boundary). .... **Charles May: Manager Coombe Bissett Stores** who also, btw, was a part of the Balkan Aid Relief Foundation in this year, riding his motorcycle on a 3000-mile round trip delivering to schools, women's refuges and many more needy causes as detailed in the spring edition.*

Also, Debbie Cockrean was appointed new head and Ron Shorland won the RHS Banksian Medal!

As I look through the archives it is of note that (almost) not an edition goes by without some report of amazing fundraising achievements ...CB & H raised £5000 (of the total £10,000!) for the Valerie Taylor Trust Bangladesh Rehabilitation Centre. No wonder our villages are the best!

The magazine archives are a treasure trove of our local community history; if you would like any information about a particular year, please do not hesitate to contact me.

[slhallis@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:slhallis@yahoo.co.uk)



....then  
&  
now.....



## Homington Village Residents!

We are in desperate need of more volunteers to help clean our village church, St Mary's. The church is at the centre of the village and our community. It is used for worship as well as community gatherings.

If there are enough volunteers, you could expect only 3 duties each year. A team of 2 is recommended for speed, but not obligatory and I will happily pair people up. Cleaning equipment is supplied. A few more on the rota could reduce the number of duties.

Please contact me if you'd like to join our merry team, we really would love to hear from you!



Thank you and wishing you Happy New Year!  
Susan Majury  
[susan.majury@yahoo.com](mailto:susan.majury@yahoo.com) Tel - 718715

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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
Nov	7	10.5	4.3	7.4	-
	14	12.7	8.2	10.5	0.20
	21	11.1	7.2	9.2	-
	28	6.6	1.4	4.0	0.18
Dec	4	7.5	3.1	5.3	0.54
	11	9.0	4.3	6.7	1.02
	18	10.2	8.9	9.6	0.06
	25	8.2	4.7	6.5	1.01
Jan	2	12.5	9.4	11.0	1.63

**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	7.36
November	10.1	5.0	7.6	0.38
December	9.4	6.1	7.8	<u>4.04</u>

Year to date rainfall 36.07 inches

**Weather notes November / December 2021**

**Driest November since local records began**

Measurable rainfall occurred on only four days in the month and totalled just 0.38 inches. After looking through my records since 1987 and Don Thorne's Bishopstone records since 1950 it was the driest November in all that time. We expect to receive, on average, 4 inches of rainfall in November. The previous record holders were 1956 (Bishopstone) when the total was 0.65 inches and 2001 (Coombe Bissett) when the total was 1.0 inch.

Temperature wise, it was a typical November with an average daily mean of 7.5C.

November was notable for the dominance of high pressure from 4<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> leading to quiet settled conditions which kept Atlantic weather fronts at bay, little by way of wind and a good number of clear sunny days.

The first week produced an abundance of sunshine after overnight frosts and no rain. The second week saw more cloud covered days, warmer nights and warmer days with a little rain. During the next ten days, temperatures by day and by night fell back and there was a return of

good amounts of sunshine. There was a notable spell of cold frosty and sunny weather between 21<sup>st</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.

On 26<sup>th</sup> the blocking area of high pressure which had dominated November’s weather thus far finally yielded to low pressure from the Atlantic and this ushered in the first named storm of the autumn, Arwen. This produced strong winds but very little rainfall. There were three consecutive very cold days between 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> when the temperature failed to reach 5C 41F.

**December gloom delivers an “unseasonal “ Christmas**

December’s weather splits into three. Low pressure in the first third brought unsettled conditions with rainfall on most days but also with plenty of sunshine in between weather systems. Temperatures were about average.

The middle third saw a blocking area of high pressure develop which initially brought us mild temperatures from the south but then, as the centre of the high shifted, much colder temperatures came in from the east between 19<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. High pressure systems always quieten the weather down. Some bring lots of sunshine but this one brought day after day of anticyclonic gloom as high cloud circled around it and the sun too feeble to dissipate it. I noticed practically no sunshine from 11<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>.

The all important last third brought a return to low pressure and weather from the Atlantic to disappoint most of us with an unseasonal mild and wet Christmas and New Year. Mild temperatures over Christmas became almost “warm” over New Year. Air from the subtropics reached us on 29<sup>th</sup> and lasted four days. The temperature on New Year’s Eve reached 14C and overnight 29/30 it did not drop below 13C. To accompany the mild weather we had rainfall on each of the last 9 days of the year and only two visits from the sun. At least, one of those was on Boxing day afternoon, ideal for a walk in shorts and T shirt!

December was the third warmest I have recorded. The mean temperature of 7.8C was 2.3C above normal. As warm as this was, it was nothing compared with December 2015 when the mean was an incredible 11.8C!! My rough estimates of sunshine hours produced a total of 46, making it the 4<sup>th</sup> dullest. Rainfall was close to normal at 4.04 inches.

**2021 Weather Stats**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>1987 to 2021 average</b>	<b>2021 Ranking (35 years)</b>
Max day time temp	14.5C	14.2C	20 <sup>th</sup> warmest
Min night time temp	7.7C	7.3C	16 <sup>th</sup> warmest
Mean 24 hr temp	11.0C	10.8C	17 <sup>th</sup> warmest
Rainfall – inches	36.1 inches	36.1 inches	17 <sup>th</sup> wettest
Sunshine – hours (estimates)	1302 hours	1623 hours	1 <sup>st</sup> dullest

**2021 Highlights**

**January**

Coldest January since 2017  
Dullest since 1996

## **February**

A rare “freezing” day on 8<sup>th</sup>. For six consecutive days, Max no more than 2C

## **March/April**

Only 2 days of measurable rainfall in 45 days from 14 March onwards.

## **April**

Coldest April in my records (since 1981). April’s mean of 6.9C was colder than March (7.6C) and 2.4C below the 35 year average.

Spring flowers, hedgerows and blossoms put on hold until 20<sup>th</sup> when the sunshine and temperatures recovered.

## **May**

Coldest May since 1996. Mean temperature of 11.2C was 1.5C below average.

Fifth coldest spring with a mean temperature of 8.6C which is 1.1C below average.

Rainfall 80% above normal.

## **June**

Absolute drought from 27<sup>th</sup> May to 16<sup>th</sup> June.

No sun for six days across the summer solstice (17<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>)

Rainfall 80% above normal. Fifth wettest June.

## **July**

8<sup>th</sup> warmest July due entirely to the warmth overnight. No July has produced a warmer overnight temperature.

Fifth wettest July.

## **August**

Complete absence of warm continental weather.

Maximum August temperature a very modest 23C

Only 94 hours (estimated) of sunshine. Only the occasional glimpse of the sun in the 7 days across the Bank Holiday from 27<sup>th</sup> August to 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

## **September**

Second warmest September. Mean of 16.5C nearly 2C above normal.

40 hours more sun than August produced.

## **October**

A very wet month. Second wettest October. Rainfall total of 7.36 inches compares with an average of 4.27 inches.

## **November**

Driest November in Coombe Bissett since at least 1987 and locally (incorporating Bishopstone rainfall records) since at least 1950.

## **December**

Another gloomy, mild and rainy “unseasonal” Christmas/New Year period.

Temperature overnight on New Years Eve did not drop below 13C.



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

### Regular Activities

**PILATES** – Each Tuesday at 9.30am, 3pm and 6pm  
Low impact exercises which safely strengthen the body and improve flexibility.

Contact Claudine on 07788 587937

**UPHOLSTERY** – Tuesdays  
Contact Melanie Robson on 07757 330251

**BADMINTON CLUB** – Each Wednesday at 8.00pm  
Contact Jane White on 01722 718485 or Mary Ford on 01722 718670

**ART CLASSES**  
For all abilities and media

Contact Graham Oliver on 01722 718646

**FILM NIGHT** – Third Thursday of each month  
See separate flyer and notice board for details

**PARKINSON'S SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB** – Each Friday at 10.am  
Especially for sufferers of Parkinson's disease  
Contact Irene Clayton on 01722 239088

**DRAMA CLUB**  
The Drama Club aims to do a Spring production and a pantomime each year. The Club needs support backstage with scenery, costumes etc. scene shifting, refreshments, lighting, parking and as well as actors.  
Contact Lynn Mills 01722718438; Tina Chelu 01722718351 or Kirstie Finton 07519002582

## **THE QUIZ NIGHT RETURNS AFTER COVID HIBERNATION!!**

### **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March**

One of our biggest events of the year including a two course meal with pay bar available!!! All for just £12 each. Questions posed by John Chalk. Teams of 4+.  
SEE SEPARATE FLYER

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](http://coombebissettandhomingtonvillagehall.weebly.com). Our Booking Secretary can be contacted by e mail on [cbvhbookings@gmail.com](mailto:cbvhbookings@gmail.com) if you are interested in booking your own event in the Hall.

**Don Morgan – Chair of the Village Hall Management Committee**

Coombe Bissett and Homington  
Village Hall

*have great pleasure in inviting you  
to their annual*

teams-of-four

# *Quiz Night*

*With Quizmaster Jon Chalk!*

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March  
at 7:00 pm

Doors/Bar open 6.30 pm

Tickets £12.00 (including supper)

from Coombe Bissett Stores

*All proceeds to the village hall maintenance fund*

*Prior Lat Flow testing requested*

From the Village Show Committee....



### ***“Thank you, Heather!”***

One of our committees has decided to retire this year following several years of dedication and support for the CB&H Show. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Heather Scutt for her work and commitment to the Show since the new committee was formed in 2017. Heather has been such an important part of the Show, both organising refreshments as well as entering many categories of the Show itself. On behalf of myself, personally, and the rest of the committee we thank Heather and hope she will continue to enter the Show (especially her lovely preserves!) *Abigail Bird: Chair*

### **Spring is Sprung**

Have you a hankering for growing this year or maybe this year you want to start off different varieties you have always wanted to try. For me the start of the year is nothing short of BRILLIANT! I like to sort my stock; each season I keep seed heads of larkspur, cornflowers, sweet peas, nigella, helichrysum, asters, ammi, panicum grasses and many others. I adore searching through seed catalogues, buying some old favourites and or trying new ones. This year on my radar: Craspedia (billy buttons), Gomphrena and Helipterum, all fabulous for fresh and dried flowers. Looking for some inspiration? Here are my top tips for a successful growing season.....

1. Getting started can be the most difficult part, but **now** is the time to sow anything with HARDY on the label. Half-hardy can wait for March - they can't tolerate cold. Sow thinly, don't sow too many in a tray as it will be difficult to separate them later. Don't over water, I get the compost soaked at the start and then just keep slightly damp.
2. Temperature is key to success, generally seeds need warmth to germinate (18-20C) is good but, after establishing, hardy varieties prefer a cooler place.
3. Potting on or planting out? Good roots are the key healthy plants, no question about it. I'll be honest, I rarely pot on unless the plants are precious or few in number. Using the seasons, cloches and covers help me get past the last frost, normally April/May without too many losses.

So go on, pop down the garden centre or look on-line for those little packs of summer promise!

*Caroline Welfare: Coombe Bissett Blooms*

### **The Show for 2022 is planned for: Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September**

**So, start buying your seeds.....more information in the next Express.** *Abigail*

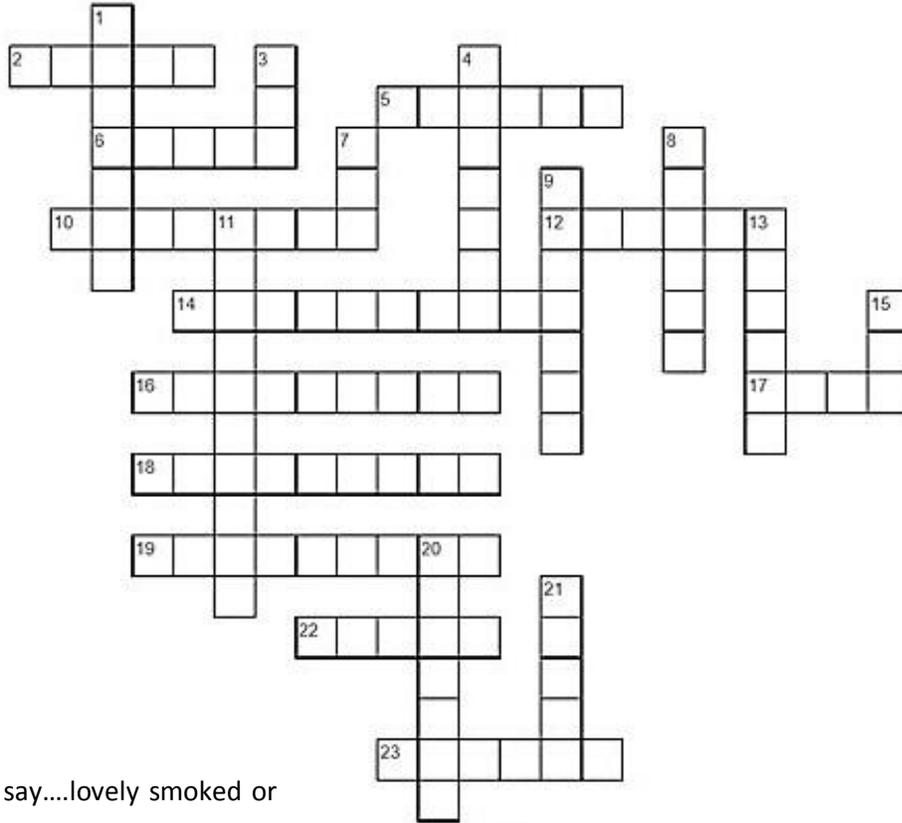
*Bird 718645*

***And if you need incentive and encouragement to join us this year....look how much fun it is!***





**A quick crossword on just some of the lovely things from our brilliant Coombe Bissett Stores!**



**Across**

- 2. Agile fish...so they say....lovely smoked or pate
- 5. Postman bangs his foot in anger
- 6. Nice to top off your scones
- 10. A strongman of a cleaner
- 12. Lots of currants in this northern town's namesake cake
- 14. Delicious and green and comes from our own River Chalke
- 16. Drizzle a hot one to fire up the pizza
- 17. Indian flatbread
- 18. How bees keep their hair tidy?
- 19. Sunny flowers helping you wash up
- 22. Don't mess up this sweet treat
- 23. Delight in this condiment on your burger

**Down**

- 1. Noisy cinema treat
- 3. Ho! Ho! Ho!...and a bottle?
- 4. Love it or hate it?
- 7. Charles stocks the real thing!
- 8. It looks like a little nutty brain!
- 9. How to keep the hive well-polished
- 11. Pens, paper, envelopes and all things 'lettery'...you know what I mean
- 13. How long IS a piece, really?
- 15. Used to be 'mother's ruin'
- 20. Treat our doggy friends too
- 21. Best on toast

**Minutes of Coombe Bissett Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall  
Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022 (Unconfirmed)**

**Present:** Councillors D Hobson, A Bird, C Chelu, S Boxall, K Byatt, L Reed

**Also present;** J McGowan (Clerk), Wiltshire Cllr Clewer, 2 members of the public: G.Bundy, J White.

**Public Session**

J White's concern about speeding through Homington was raised again. Cars are speeding through the east end of the village towards Odstock causing several accidents and near misses. *As this is an agenda item, it will be discussed in item: 62*

G.Bundy thanked Wiltshire Council for installing the new railings on the A354 through Coombe Bissett, and asked if it would be possible to regularly cut back the vegetation at the foot of the railings. **Resolved:** Cllrs agreed to request this on the Parish Steward worksheet.

**Agenda**

**55. To receive and consider acceptance of apologies:** Cllr S Gledhill

**56. Vacancies in Parish Council Office.** None

**57. Declaration of Interest:** Councillors to disclose their interests in matters to be discussed and to decide requests for dispensation. None

**58. To consider any urgent matters raised in the public session, and any other urgent matters or items from Councillors.** (For discussion only, no decisions can be taken) Cllr Chelu advised that the new leg press had not been installed on the recreation field due to bad weather conditions. A new date will be advised.

**59. To agree any items on the agenda that are to be dealt with following the exclusions of the press & public.** None

**60. Adoption of Minutes of meeting held 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021.**

Proposed amendment to 9<sup>th</sup> November Minutes of Coombe Bissett Parish Council, item 44. i) Budget and Precept 2022/2023: "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"

**To be amended to:** "The adoption of the FY2022-23 Parish Council Budget including an increase in the annual Precept to £12,000 was proposed by Cllr Chelu, seconded by Cllr Bird and unanimously agreed".

**Resolved:** All Councillors agreed to the amendment and confirmed they were an accurate and true record. Cllr D Hobson signed.

**61. Coombe Bissett & Homington War Memorial** – It has been noted the Memorial is need of some cleaning. To consider the permissions required and costs for cleaning, the memorial was last cleaned in 2014.

**Resolved:** As The Council would like further information regarding refurbishment it was agreed to invite Mr Van der Horst to the next meeting to ascertain all the required costs and information for the memorial cleaning.

**62. Pinch Point, Homington** – To consider the effectiveness and cost of installing signs. Cllr Boxall advised that a Homington Community Speedwatch would be re-starting on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022, hopefully this will slow drivers down to the current speed limit. **Resolved:** Cllrs considered the cost of installing a ‘Road Narrow’ sign and it was proposed by Cllr Hobson and agreed by all attending Councillors to seek funding from Wiltshire Council Highways to install the signs. **Action:** Clerk to contact Mr Shaddock at Wiltshire Council with regards to funding from CATG. Cllr Chelu will attend CATG meeting to request this. It was also noted that the 30mph roundels painted on the C12 road through Homington are worn and need to be re-painted. **Action:** Cllr Chelu to contact Mr G Axtell at Highways to ask for repainting.

**63. Matters Arising:**

**a) Bollards, Shutts Lane** – Additional bollard has been ordered and waiting for a fitting date. **Action:** Clerk will contact Mr Howson at Wiltshire Council for a date to fit the posts.

**b) Stockbridge Lane** Wiltshire Council Rights of Way team has advised the Parish Council that Stocksbridge Lane is fit for purpose as a public footpath and therefore will not need any works. **Resolved:** As Wiltshire Council has legal responsibility for maintaining the public footpath it was decided no further action will be taken at this time.

**c) Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Celebrations** - To receive an update and consider covering the cost of hall hire for Jubilee Celebrations Committee. A meeting was held on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> January for all parishioners and a sub-committee will be meeting on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022 to organise events. It was agreed the Big Lunch will be held on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022. **Resolved:** The Parish Council agreed to contribute to the event. Cllr Hobson proposed to underwrite the event up to £1500, all attending councillors in agreement to this. **Action:** Cllr Bird to advise further of updates regarding the plans for the celebration.

**d) Tennis Club Hedge** – to resolve the issue of hedge cutting. After reviewing the contract, the top of the hedge should have been cut by the contractors. **Resolved:** The Parish Council will contact Bawdens to ask them to return and cut the top of the hedge. **Action:** Cllr Boxall will contact Bawdens.

**e) Donkey Field:** Cllr Reed still waiting on a further update for installing the fence.

**f) Neighbourhood Plan:** Cllr Gledhill provided a report for the meeting:

**Neighbourhood Plan Update 10 Jan 22**

In Oct 21 Wiltshire Council decided that due to the potentially sensitive nature of development within the Parish, the draft Neighbourhood Plan (NP) should be subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). There were a number of reasons for this including: potential impact on the AONB, Conservation Areas and listed buildings; and possible impact on the River Avon Special Area of Conservation.

On the basis of this, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NP SG) was able to apply for Government funding from Locality to cover the technical costs of conducting a SEA. This funding was agreed in Nov 21. The NP SG was then able to ask AECOM to conduct the SEA. AECOM is the consultancy company which has previously done work in support of the NP including the Housing Requirement Assessment and the Design Guide.

AECOM has now completed the first stage of the SEA which is a scoping exercise. A draft of the Scoping document was received just before Christmas, and comments/amendments have been submitted to AECOM. On current timings it is expected that the SEA will be completed by the end of Mar 22. Once it has been completed, its finding will need to be considered by the NP SG and PC and amendments as necessary made to the draft of the NP. Hopefully if this goes smoothly, we should be in a position to move to the Regulation 14 Consultation in the early summer.

An update on work on the NP was included in the latest edition of the CB&H Express.

The Parish Council would like to thank Christine Cooper and Councillor Gledhill for all their time and hard work in preparing the Neighbourhood Plan.

**64. Parish Steward Visits:** Next visit is 18 & 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022. Blocked Gully, Homington Road has been noted on the worksheet. **Resolved:** Cllr Chelu will continue to submit the worksheets to Wiltshire Council.

**65. Lighting at School:** The school has had new security lights installed which are very bright and reflecting at neighbouring properties. A number of neighbours have complained to the Parish Council. The lights stay on until late at night, which is not necessary as the school is closed then. **Resolved:** The Parish Council agreed the lights should not be on at this time of night and should be switched off after school hours. It was suggested a timer be used so the lights would switch off automatically. This bright lighting is also in conflict with the Cranborne Chase AONB Dark Skies Policy. **Action:** [The Parish Council will write to the school asking them to switch the lights off when the school is not in use.](#)

**66. Planning:**

**a) To consider any new planning applications received.**

PL/2021/11829 – The Glebe, Homington Road, Coombe Bissett, SP5 4LR: Notification Of proposed works to trees in a conservation area. **Resolved:** No Comment

**b) To consider any new planning applications received between publication of agenda and meeting.** None

**c) To confirm any planning application responses determined by email for applications received since last meeting:**

PL/2021/10941 – Fletcher, Salisbury Road, Coombe Bissett, SP5 4LF – *No objection.*

PL/2021/11070 – Churchill Place, Old Blandford Road, Coombe Bissett – *New Outline Application Withdrawn. (Previous planning application is still active).*

PL/2021/11320 – Fernhill, Homington Road, Coombe Bissett - *No objection.*

PL/2021/11458 – Mead’s Cottage, Shepherd’s Close, Coombe Bissett, SP5 4LX - *Object.* PL/2021/10711 – Orchard House, Rockbourne Road, Coombe Bissett, SP5 4LP – *Comment.*

**d) To note any planning application decisions made by Wiltshire Council.**

PL/2021/09533 –

Luther’s, Shutts Lane, Coombe Bissett, SP5 4LU – *Approved with conditions* PL/2021/08364 – Luther’s, Shutts Lane, Coombe Bissett, SP5 4LU – *Approved with conditions*

PL/2021/08228 – Marazan, Barbers Lane, Homington, SP5 4NL – *Approved with conditions*

**e) The Old Vicarage Proposal** – Proposed Redevelopment of the Old Vicarage Site. No further information received at this point.

**f) To consider and adopt policy to Delegate Planning Applications Consultations.** **Resolved:** The Council agreed to adopt the new policy. Signed by Cllr Hobson and Clerk.

**67. Finance:**

**a) Banking**

To receive an update of signatories on the account. The Council are still waiting for these to be updated.

To Note the bank accounts:

Bank Accounts as at 10.01.22

Current Account: £11,407.12

Savings Account: £31,144.68

To confirm and authorise pay invoices/payments received since agenda was published.

Bawden Invoice – 25564: £172.51

Coombe Bissett & Homington Village Hall, Invoice 463: £35.00

Payments authorised by two councillors, payments to be raised.

#### Outgoings between 10.11.21 – 31.12.21

Date	Payee	Description	Amount
15/11/21	C Chelu	Refund for Key Cutting	£ 10.52
	Bawden	Grass Cutting	£172.51
	CB Cricket Club	Grass Cutting of field	£525.00
22/11/21	A Hewlett	Payment for Clerk Cover	£546.51
05/12/21	Bawden: INV – 25455	Maintenance – Grass	£172.51
07/12/21	J McGowan	Reimbursement for Folding Post	£ 39.95
12/12/21	J McGowan	Salary: Nov 21	£210.73
20/12/21	HMRC	Income Tax for Clerk Salary: Nov 21	£ 51.80
30/12/21	J McGowan	Salary: Dec 21	£ 335.33
<b>Total</b>			<b>£2,064.86</b>

#### Income received between 10.11.21 – 31.12.21

Date	Received From	Amount
08/11/21	James Webb	£25.00
30/11/21	NatWest Interest	£ .28
31/12/21	Natwest Interest	£ .27
<b>Total</b>		<b>£25.55</b>

**b) To consider the cost of 1 years SLCC subscription for clerk.** Based on the Clerk's joint salary of Britford and Coombe Bissett Parish Councils the fee would be £10 joining fee and £ 134.00 subscription rate. Resolved: The Council agreed membership would be beneficial to the Clerk and agreed to the membership for 1 year, split equally between Britford and Coombe Bissett Parish Councils.

#### 68. Correspondence

a) Letter received about moles in the Donkey Field and requesting removal of them. **Resolved:** The Council agreed not to kill the moles as the moles will move on when the water table rises.

b) Notification that the Wiltshire Classic Road Cyclo Sportive will take place on Saturday, 12th March 2022, passing through the parish

c) The Defibrillator Training scheduled for 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022 has been postponed due to Omicron, the Clerk will be notified when it is rescheduled.

#### 69. Any Other Business

a) Clerk attended Southern Area Board Parish Council Event on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021: The need for better communication between Wiltshire Council and Parish Councils was highlighted. **Resolved:** The Council agreed to subscribing to Community Matters would help with better communicates between Parish Councils and Wiltshire Council. **Action:** Clerk will subscribe to the newsletter.

b) Gel sacs 'sandbags' have been stored with Mr Parson along with the pumps.

c) Coombe Bissett United Charites: Cllr Bird and Mr Bundy to be formally re-nominated in office as Representative Trustees. Resolved: Cllr Hobson proposed Cllr Bird and Mr Bundy to be re-nominated as Representative Trustees. All attending Councillors in agreement.

#### 70. Date of next meeting:

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022 – Annual Parish Meeting will be held at 6.30pm before the ordinary meeting.

#### 71. Meeting closed 8.20pm

## **FROM APPRENTICE TO CAPTAIN: A MARINERS STORY     John Bletsoe**

Annalock: 16.8.84 – 4.3.85

I was told to fly out to Iskenderun in Turkey, prior to meeting another crew member at Heathrow airport, he was quite a character. He was a Cornishman, 2nd Engineer, and really very uncomfortable at the thought of flying to Turkey. However, he soon settled down once we got into the air. He quite openly told me his life story. After serving a heavy engineering apprenticeship ashore. He joined the MN as a junior engineer. After a few years he went to college to gain a second engineer certificate. After quite a few years at sea, he married and left to take over a small hotel in Cornwall. This had a lounge bar open to the public and became the local for a few members of the local police force. One, he thought, became too friendly with his wife and this started to worry him. One afternoon on returning from an errand, he inquired about the whereabouts of his wife. He was told she was upstairs in the bedroom. Being somewhat suspicious, he grabbed a loaded shotgun from a locked cupboard and rushed upstairs to his bedroom. There he found his wife with the policeman, and promptly shot off both barrels! Fortunately, missed completely, and he was tried in Exeter, served 14 months in jail and divorced during that time. On his release he returned to sea, minus the shotgun! He turned out to be a very mild-mannered man and a good shipmate. With many an amusing tale to tell. He had remarried a retired GP and they were very happy together.

We had to change planes at Istanbul then fly on to Adana. Then go by road to Iskenderun. The flight to Adana was about an hour. The plane had four seats, two each side of the gangway. We were sat across from each other. It was raining really hard and we were only 10 minutes away from landing and the plane was losing height quite dramatically. Suddenly all the lights went out and the plane started to climb quite quickly. With this, the young Turkish lady sitting next to me was getting very distressed. The engineer not looking too great either. Suddenly we were on the runway and going really fast. We left the plane and bussed to the terminal. The nose was about 50 or 60 feet to the runway's end. At the terminal, a driver was holding a placard showing 'Annalok'. It would be good to relax on the 90-mile drive to the ship. No such luck. It was during the Iran-Iran War and the road was very busy with lorry traffic. Our driver was not very careful (the road-a single lane each way) on approaching a lorry he would not overtake it if there was no oncoming traffic; but he would wait for an oncoming lorry, as some kind of sport. At the last moment he would pull out into the path of the oncoming lorry, and then nip in front of the overtaken lorry, flashing lights and horns from both. It was a great relief to arrive at the hotel. We were due to join the ship in the morning.

The hotel was a disappointment. With previously slept in sheets and lots of black mould in the toilets and shower. In the morning, just bread and jam for breakfast. Also staying there was a coachload of very smartly dressed Jordanians who were enmasse complaining to the manager. Eventually a car came to take us to the ship. The general scenery there is beautiful with a 3200-foot mountain in the background. On the summit there are several tracking stations manned, I believe, during the Cold War. I might be repeating myself, but during the Cold War, a 'left-inclined' Furness Withy Apprentice climbed the mountain, avoiding Turkish patrols, and on reaching one of the stations knocked on the door and asked for a glass of water in Russian. Immediately he was arrested. He was not returned to his ship, but the police found some very left-wing literature in his cabin!

The Annalock turned out to be very well built, a 65,000 dead weight bulk-carrier. Built in Denmark, she was about 10 months into her working life. Unfortunately, the first six months of her working life were spent on weekly trips loading in Emden and discharging in Redcar on the River Tees. At Emden the loading port was fine but the operators in Redcar were manic. They were so careless and uncaring in the use of the discharging grabs. Frequently hitting the hatch whilst carrying the watertight bulk heads between the holds and the tank tops. At the end of Charter survey, the stevedore company in Redcar had to pay to the ships owners three hundred thousand pounds for future repairs and wear and tear. Apparently, most of the damage was caused in the afternoon when one of the crane drivers returned from his lunch time visit to the pub. Several times, the Chief Officer managed to get a careless driver sacked, but alas, they were often rehired the following day.

The accommodation, which is very important to seafarers, was excellent. The Master's cabin quite spacious with a large dayroom, a door through to the bedroom and another to the shower and toilet, which made the latter quite private. Next door to the Master's Day room and only entered from the alleyway, was a large office. A table, filing-cabinets and six chairs. This prevented shore officers from using the Master's Day room for ships' business which, after all, was his home. Immediately aft of the above was the Chief Officer's cabin, which had the same facilities but scaled down.

After a few days discharge was complete and we were on our way to Richards Bay in South West Africa to load coal for Kalum Borg in Denmark. As in the previous ship, we had another South Korean crew. I was quite happy with that; excellent unless any seamanship was involved. So, onto Richards Bay. Here we took about 30 hours to load 65,000 tonnes of coal. On completion, the coal company's surveyor and I agreed the weight of coal loaded. So off we went.

Six months before in Richards Bay a friend, a Master on a bulk carrier, a sister ship to the Annalock, was due to load about 65,000 tonnes. He was told they only had 62,000 tonnes available. This should not have been a problem as a shipping company can claim dead freight for being 3000 tonnes short of the contract agreement. All my friend needed to do was to ask the shipping companies agent in Richards Bay to claim dead freight at 30% per tonne of shortfall about 9000 pounds. He did not do this and was sacked. We sailed from Richards Bay, giving the Cape of Good Hope a wide berth, then up to the South Atlantic to the Bay of Biscay. On approaching the Bay, I received a phone call from Turnbull-Scott's office in London asking me if I would takeover command of the Annalock upon arrival at the discharge port. Would I? O boy! It had taken me 31 years to prepare myself. Of course, I would!

However, because when I put the phone down, the Captain thought I had not accepted the chance to relieve him as I did not jump for joy. It was the very best moment of my life. All I had ever wanted to do regarding my profession. The takeover took very little time, as most of it had been completed whilst at sea. The previous Master was soon on his way and I settled myself into the new accommodation. The new Chief Officer had been recently made redundant from Alfred Holt, with Blue Funnel. So, I was to have no worries there. Our next voyage was to Baton Rouge, about 40 miles above New Orleans, on the Mississippi. I think the cargo was called Diolamide Sulphur. A fine, powdery fertiliser. It was a light cargo with low weight and fairly large cubic capacity per tonne. Towards the end of loading, they ran out of stored cargo, so the last couple of 100 tonnes or so came straight from production into the ship. This was ok at the time but was to cause problems later in the voyage. I was presented with the Charter documents with all the 'do's and don'ts'. And who was responsible for what? And so on? The first important action was as soon as he was allowed to transmit, the sailing message should be sent to the Charterers with time of departure, port of loading, amount loaded fore and aft, draft's time and date of first port or transits, and name, time and place of discharge port. This was to be Ningbo in China, just south of Shanghai. So off we went down the Mississippi to the Panama Canal. As far as I can remember, we had four pilots, one in command on each bridge wing and one forward on the fo'c'sle.

After the transit we turned north and headed up the coast to San Pedro to take on fuel. A very enjoyable section with good weather. We always anchored in San Pedro harbour. Bunkering usually took about six hours, so there was usually time for a few crewmembers to go ashore to visit some of the excellent restaurants and bars in the port. Towards the end of November, we had a very good crossing of the Pacific, arriving off the Chinese coast about the 8th of December. We were given an anchorage position near some small islands surrounding the port of Ningbo. The next morning, a local pilot boarded to take us to an inner anchorage, very tidal, and in my opinion, the anchorage was not safe. The seabed was sand and mud over rock. Each time that I turned, we swung round 180 degrees, dragging our anchor and had to use the engine to settle the ship down. After a couple of days, they took us alongside to settle the ship down. Following that, they took us alongside to discharge. A pier was at right angles from the shore with two berthing peers parallel to the shore. We berthed on the outer side of the outer pier and a medium-sized Chinese cargo ship was birthed inside the inner pier. On the quay was the brand-new bagging plant. The system was to grab our cargo from our holes and drop the cargo into a hopper, which fed a belt system connected to the bagging plant. The

loaded bags were then fed into the cargo ship by a conveyor, and then stowed in the holds by Stevedores. Our problems started immediately. On opening our hatches, the lids and coamings were dripping with condensation. The cargo had not cooled down and two weeks at anchor with drizzle we were unable to ventilate the cargo. In all the holds, the top of the cargo was dripping wet. This was grabbed out shortly after arrival at the bagging plant which clogged it to a standstill. Their brand-new plant!

No work for 24 hours. Then the agent, port officers and everyone and his friend piled into the ship's office. They said they are organising gangs to bag up the wet cargo. Using three gangs of 15 working 16 hours a day they would bag up the discharge in three days. Yes: that is a very good. The ship must pay for bagging: not so good! The Charter Party agreement is that *we* deliver - *you* pay for discharge. I told them, nicely, that I delivered the cargo you sent us to anchor in drizzly weather, just above freezing for nearly two weeks and not able to ventilate. I'm afraid we could not prevent the condensation and I am sorry for that, but you must pay for the bagging up. So, as I could not contact my ship manager in Hong Kong - no telephone, no telex, I asked if I could go into Ningbo to the only telex machine at a hotel. Ningbo had a population of around 150,000. The taxi ride took just over an hour and several telexes and two hours later I was on my way back to the ship none the wiser. The agent told me that it was up to Beijing to make a decision. The following day they said we had to go out to anchor as there was another vessel coming in to be discharged. I asked if we could go to the first outer anchorage as it was safer, not possible.

So, we dragged our anchor up and down the river for the next six days. Also, at this time the domestic boiler waterfeed pump had packed up so the ship was getting really cold. We got very little sympathy from ashore as they had no heating either. Heating was only for cooking. The agent came on board. And I gave him the details of the pump and asked him to get in touch with Turnbull-Scott's in Farnborough to send us a new one. On Christmas Day we came back alongside and fitted a telephone in the ship's office. Hong Kong had asked me how much it would cost to bag up, but Beijing still had not come across with a price. On the third idle day alongside, the agent brought the new water pump and the bagging up cost us \$200. I managed to get through to Hong Kong on the telephone but had difficulty understanding the ship manager's answers. She kept telling me to speak up. By this time, I was shouting. Eventually, she said she agreed to pay \$200. All this mess was about saving face as before, 3 gangs of 15 men working 16 hours a day, it took them five days. As soon as the wet cargo was discharged, the jobs returned to normality. By way of apology, the Ningbo Port Authority invited twelve of us to an evening meal in the harbour offices. They gave us a wonderful meal, plenty of rice with a revolving table and loads of different food to go with it. Being well fed and plenty of wine to drink, we were asked in turn to sing a song. I had to go first. I thought I would sing Old MacDonald. Most of the Chinese did not speak English. I often wondered if they thought I was nuts.

We sailed, on completion of discharge, down to Australia to load coal in Newcastle, NSW, for Sakaide on Shikoku Island on the inland sea in Japan. This was an area of heavy restrictions on ships to prevent pollution. The waters produced hundreds of tonnes of fish bred in pens all along the shores. Discharging coal, it is very difficult not to drop in a few knobs from the grabs into the water. It took about five days to discharge. Then we were on our way down to Wollongong, about 30 miles South of Sydney. We had to anchor for a few days to await a free berth. The ship's agent was allowed on board, so I was able to give him the telephone number of Michael, my captain friend from Bournemouth, who (when he retired) moved to New Zealand with his New Zealand wife. They turned up a few hours after we arrived. Also, on board a new Captain. I had completed my six-month stint and was due to fly home the following day. Unfortunately, his wife died. This was his second wife. I kept in touch with him over the years with phone calls and at Christmas. The Christmas before last I did not receive a card and could not contact him by phone. He had a companion, Margaret, who wrote to say that Michael had died from cancer on October 11th, 2019, at the age of 93.

I flew home from Sydney with a stop of a couple of hours at Adelaide. Another friend, an ex-Bishop Wordsworth's pupil, married and went to sea. He left Blue Funnel and went to work for an Australian shipping company. I was able to get through to him and had a long chat. I was happy to be able to do that as two weeks later on his ship in Port Headland, NW Territory, he died in the Mess room of his ship. On leaving Adelaide, my

travelling companion on the aircraft was a South Australian state senator going to attend a Commonwealth Conference in London. This was the first time he had ever been outside of Australia. I think he was in his mid-50s. It was a British Airways flight and on landing at Heathrow the pilot announced it was a completely automatic landing. And all hands off! Amazing!

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## Tennis Club Report

**Janet Finniss 718346**

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

Despite the weather, stoic members have still been on court, but looking forward to warmer weather. The recent AGM was well attended by 22 members. The club plans to hold all the usual competitions and tournaments during the year, Covid19 permitting. The Annual Dinner will be held at Salisbury & South Wilts Golf Club on Friday 18 March 2022.

### Club Sessions:

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

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## Cricket Club

Don Hewlett 01722 741354 [donannhewlett@hotmail.com](mailto:donannhewlett@hotmail.com)

After serving our club as President for man for many years, Viv Scammell has decided to stand down from his post. However, we are delighted to announce, that Tim Mynott has agreed to take over the mantle, and we wish him all success in his new role for the club.

In the deep mid-winter, and the difficult times we all have endured, at least we have a new season to look forward to in 2022. We have a full fixture list every Sunday, starting on the 24<sup>th</sup> April through to the 11<sup>th</sup> September.

As ever, we will welcome any new players to join us, please get in touch if you are interested. We say goodbye to two of our young players, as Archie Mould, and cousin George have joined the HM Services. We wish them both good luck in their new careers, and will welcome them back to the fold whenever they have a free Sunday.

As part of the celebrations for the Jubilee of Her Majesty, we are hoping to arrange a fun cricket match, Coombe Bissett v. Homington on the Friday of the Bank Holiday. Men and Ladies are all invited, please keep an eye out for details later in the year.

Our fund-raising event for this year, will be a Bingo evening in the village hall, providing things are OK with the dreaded Covid, it's always a fun event for all the family.



The Fox and Goose Blandford Road Coombe Bissett  
Salisbury SP5 4LE Tel: 01722 718437  
Email: [foxandgoose@coombebissett.com](mailto:foxandgoose@coombebissett.com)  
[www: foxandgoose-coombebissett.co.uk](http://www.foxandgoose-coombebissett.co.uk)

For all intent and purpose, we are now as normal as we have been since March 2019 when the country was put in Lock down. We believe that we must now learn to live with Covid just as we did with Flu and other viruses before this pandemic.

Myself and Sue would like to thank everyone who has supported us through this last two years and we sincerely hope that you continue to support your local pub.

Thanks to the Parish Council, the railings across from the pub have been replaced and do look an awful lot better. With the Queens Jubilee coming up in June this year I hope that some of the weeds and overgrown bank the other side of the railings can be looked at so that we will have a tidy road through the village where a lot of people travel through. I am sure this will be on the Parish Council agenda.

During January we were offering a "Winter Warmer" two course meal deal for £12pp. This was very popular and we will be offering other meal deals during February and March.

On **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February** we are holding a **Chinese New Year** event, where we are celebrating the Year of the Tiger with a two course Chinese meal during lunch time and evening for £12.50pp

We plan to hold a **Bingo evening** on **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February from 7.30pm**. This will be a ticket only event with tickets on sale in the pub from 1<sup>st</sup> February. The tickets will cost £17.50 per person and this will include your Bingo cards and a Fish and Chip or Curry supper. Booking is essential as places are limited.

A Quiz night will be held sometime in March details will be advertised on our Social Media platforms and posters in the pub and village shop.

**Valentine's Day** is on **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February** and we are taking bookings now for this day.

The popular "**Open Music**" Nights on the third Thursday, are **February 17<sup>th</sup>** and **March 17<sup>th</sup>**. Which will be an Irish Theme as it is **St Patricks' Day**. These events start approx. 8.00 pm

**Mothering Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March**. This is one of the busiest days in the year and early booking is advisable.

The **Fox and Goose Golf Society** starts again on **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March**. The first game is at Paultons Park GC. Due to Gerald Bundy's hard work the Society has now 32 members which the maximum that will be invited to join and there is even a waiting list to join!

We do hope you will join us for some or all of the events above and if not come along and try some of our beers from local and national breweries.

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>

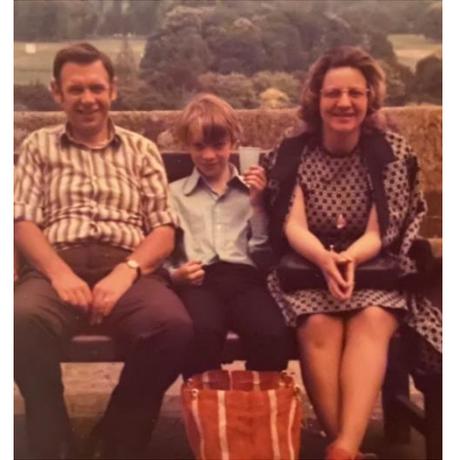
# Know your Neighbours

## Who Am I?

Our residents mum had a brain tumour in her twenties and was told during her recovery that “it could go again at anytime” so in 1968, when our resident was born in Odstock Hospital, he was obviously deemed very precious to his parents who lived in Coombe Bissett. His father was a carpenter, his grandfather was the landlord of the Fox and Goose, Coombe Bissett and according to his father this was where his first steps were taken.

His first childhood memory is sitting in a tin bath in front of an open fire, having a wash. While the house was undergoing renovations, they moved to Stoke Farthing (near Broad Chalke) along the Chalke valley.

Our resident remembers sitting on the back of his mothers’ bike being taken to school in Coombe Bissett (about 4½ miles away). Here he met some lifelong friends and maybe where his lifelong interest in cars came about as he remembers running toy cars up and down the small brick wall that supports the grass bank against the playground (those who know the school will know exactly the wall I mean)



One good friend was James Hewlett (Jimmy). Jimmy lived in Homington (or Humington as our resident pronounces it) whose Mum (Ann) used to take them swimming at Odstock Hospital. He became quite a good swimmer, apart from lacking in confidence in the deep end. From 9 years old, at Wilton Middle School, Mr Martel, the PE teacher, got frustrated with our resident as he used a float every time he went in the deep end, so he took it away, where upon our resident sunk. Mr Martel had to pull him out of the water, coughing and spluttering and then proceeded to scold him for sinking. Now our resident does not swim and thinks

he cannot swim. It was different in the 1980’s.

Our resident hated school, but he had and still has a lot of friends. When he reached Westwood St Thomas at the age of 13 years old, during metal work they had motorbike lessons (no helmets required) and rode around cones. When the teacher wasn’t around, they raced each other from the music room to the school gates, through the school car park. Like I said, it was different in the 80’s.

Hanging out at Jimmys, in the garden, they would build ramps and see how far they could jump on push bikes. When Rob Coombs joined Coombe Bissett School and they could cycle to his house, this progressed to motorbike jumps in Robs garden or they went down the tracks on the back of his or his brothers motorbike.

Coombe Bissett and Homington were different villages in those days, there were a lot more “youths” about. They would wander into each other’s homes, back doors open, keys left in vehicles. Everyone knew everyone.

# Give Up?

James Hopkins, or Chippy as most of his friends know him, recalls local farmers, Wesley Cole for one, allowing them to go camping in one of his fields. There would be about 10-12 of them setting up their tents, making a fire for the night. This would be regular occurrence in various fields around the Coombe Bissett and Homington area. I couldn't see a landowner allowing any such privilege these days. They attended youth club, played kick the can and would also "hang out" at the bus shelters by the Fox and Goose or in Homington, not causing any trouble. If you were to have to walk past a group of 10-12 lads now a days, how threatening and vulnerable would you feel?

At 17, Chippy had a scooter but his friend, Rob Coombs, had a faster motorbike, "a Fizzy" so when they went out, Ian Hardy, Robs pillion, used to

*A party in the Village Hall*

grab Chippys back rest when they were alongside, Chippy would have to get into neutral gear and they would pull Chippy along so he could keep up with them. They were fed up with him going so slow!

The beauty of having scooters is the leather jackets. In 1985 Chippy had a blue one, his favourite fashion clothing accessory, so he wore it even when he wasn't on his scooter and lucky too, for on this particular day he was having a lift home by a friend. The car had a blow out on Homington Road by the old Chapel, the driver lost control and Chippy got flown out of the back window and the car landed on top of him. What with adrenaline pumping and seeing Chippy lying there with the car on him, his two friends somehow managed to roll the car off him. A doctor came out of his nearby house and called for an ambulance. They wanted to cut his blue leather jacket off, but he wouldn't let them, flatly refusing and wanting to go through the pain and agony of manoeuvring the jacket from his body instead. Chip had crushed his vertebrae, had glass around his eye and other minor injuries. He was in hospital for three weeks wearing a back brace. They later found further glass stuck in his knee two weeks later, but at least his beloved blue leather jacket sat intact at the end of his bed.

Chip was accident free until his mid-twenties when yet again, he was in a friends car who found himself losing control along the Shaftesbury Road near Ludwell. Although Chip was wearing his seat belt he managed to get thrown out of the car and landed in the middle of the road, his left leg had an open fracture and this time he was in hospital for a month under traction. His parents were on holiday at the time in America.

Chippy still loves motorbikes and cars and loves nothing more than tinkering on his newly purchased Vespa or riding out on his Suzuki GSX-R. You may see him taking his adopted



chocolate Labrador, Benson for a walk along “Hopkins Way” or it might be the other way around, Benson taking Chip for a walk!!

## Quick Fire Q&A

1. What was/is your nick name? *Chippy*
2. If you could time travel, when would you go? *1970's, there was great music, quality loud shirts and good ol' ford cars*
3. What is your pet hate? *Bad drivers*
4. What is your favourite TV programme? *Any car or motorbike programme*
5. What do you like most about living in CB & H? *it's quiet and out of town*
6. What is the silliest way you have been injured? *I rode through a puddle on my enduro motorbike not knowing it was hiding a big hole. I ended up going over the handle bars and tore all my thigh muscles and could hardly walk*
7. Where is your favourite place in the world? *St Ives, Cornwall and Edinburgh, Scotland*
8. What is your favourite food/dish? *Used to be chips when I was a kid (hence my nickname) but now I love anything chicken related*
9. What is the best piece of advice you have received? *Take your time doing things, don't rush*
10. Would you rather....never get cold again or never be stuck in traffic again? *Never get cold again, I hate the cold!*

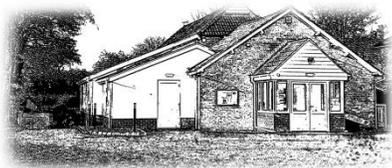


**Thanks to James Hopkins**

**Interviewed by Rachel Coombs**

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





## BISHOPSTONE VILLAGE HALL

### FEBRUARY 2022 EVENTS

#### **LATEST COVID ADVICE:**

As the pandemic is still with us we ask everyone to adhere to current advice which is to wear face coverings except when eating, drinking, exercising or singing, 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 during the winter months. We shall endeavour to keep the Hall at a comfortable temperature 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 maybe carrying Covid, even if you are fully vaccinated.

#### **SPECIAL EVENTS**

##### **THREE CIVILISATIONS – A programme of talks by Francis Taylor**

###### **FRIDAY 18TH FEBRUARY**

Petra and The Lost Kingdom of the Nabataeans

###### **FRIDAY 11TH MARCH**

Discovering the Maya

###### **FRIDAY 1ST APRIL**

Angkor Wat and the Khmer Empire

Each illustrated talk will start at 7.30pm with the doors opening at 7.00pm.

A bar will be available for drinks.

Tickets cost £5 for each event and bookings can be made by telephoning 01722 780316 or by email at: mail4taylor@gmail.com.

#### **BISHOPSTONE COMMUNITY LUNCHESES WITH SPEAKER**

Times as usual: 12.00 noon for 12.30 pm.

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022** – The guest speaker will be Sheila Crone talking about Victorian Inventions.

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022** – The guest speaker will be from Wiltshire Air Ambulance (postponed from January)

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 25th February "Dream Horse,"** - *The film tells the inspiring true story of Dream Alliance, an unlikely racehorse bred by small-town Welsh bartender, Jan Vokes (Academy Award nominee Toni Collette). With very little money and no experience, Jan convinces her neighbours to chip in their meagre earnings to help raise Dream in the hopes he can compete with the racing elites. The group's investment pays off as Dream rises through the ranks with grit and determination and goes on to race in the Welsh Grand National showing the heart of a true champion.*

##### **Future showings:**

**25th March** "Nowhere Special"

**22nd April** "Stillwater"

**Doors open at 7.00pm 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.

## BABY AND TODDLER PLAYGROUP

The playgroup meets on Friday mornings during term-time from 9.30 – 11.00am, Find our Facebook page *Bishopstone Playgroup*, or contact Kate Pendleton on 01722 780655 or email < [kmpendleton@hotmail.com](mailto:kmpendleton@hotmail.com) > for more details.

## “EXTEND” EXERCISE CLASSES

### Friday afternoons, 2-3pm, in Bishopstone Village Hall

These seated exercise classes are aimed at people who would like a full body workout but prefer to feel stable. They give confidence to keep fit without fear of falling over, and are fun to do.

£5 per session, (apart from anyone’s first free taster class).

Contact Jenny on 01722 780863, email < [jennyberwynjones@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jennyberwynjones@yahoo.co.uk) > or just turn up to any class to try it out.

Jenny Berwyn-Jones is fully trained and insured.

## PILATES AT BISHOPSTONE

Contact Claudine on 07788 587937.

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## THE DENNIS CHALK MEMORIAL TRUST

A trust fund was registered with the Charity Commission earlier this year to encourage and support young brass playing musicians in the South Wiltshire area. The Dennis Chalk Memorial Trust was set up following the dissolution of The Wilton & District Youth Band in 2020. The Trust was set up and is being administered by a small volunteer committee of former Wilton and District Youth Band members, including Dennis’ son Jon who is one of the trustees.



Dennis hailed from Broad Chalke and had a successful playing career in the Army and with the Woodfalls Band. Following this experience, he wanted to give young people the chance to become brass musicians. He founded the Wilton & District Youth Band in 1965 and encouraged and trained hundreds of young people to play brass instruments for over 50 years. The band performed at many concerts and engagements in the local area as well as regionally and internationally. Dennis encouraged the players to take their music grades and participate in competitions; he was awarded the British Empire Medal for his work with young musicians.

The Trust aims to continue Dennis’ legacy by making funds available to young people to support their brass playing education. Brass Bands are now starting to be active again, so we are keen to see new applications from the South Wiltshire area. We have now opened up to receive bids from applicants. Applications will be considered to assist with instrument purchase or repair, music lessons, examination fees, or other similar purposes. Any Brass Band player up to the age of 21 in the South Wiltshire area, of any level of experience, can apply and applications will be assessed three times a year to coincide with school terms. Additionally, we are now welcoming bids from youth training brass bands.

For further information please contact the Trust via email at [dcmt.wdyb@gmail.com](mailto:dcmt.wdyb@gmail.com)

### **Crossword Answers**

**Across: 2 trout 5 stamps 6 cream 10 mr muscle 12 eccles 14 watercress 16 chilli oil 17 naan 18 honeycomb 19 marigolds 22 fudge 23 relish**

**Down: 1 popcorn 3 rum 4 marmite 7 ale 8 walnut 9 beeswax 11 stationery 13 string 15 gin 20 dogchew 21 beans**