



KILVE NEWS



Issue 342

January/February 2021



EDITORIAL

2020—what a year!

I can't imagine any of us thinking back in January 2020 that it would be such an eventful year. The Coronavirus pandemic brought heartache, trauma, untold problems for health and mental well-being, not forgetting the ultimate tragedy of losing loved ones. Yet, for all of the horrific moments that we have all so readily seen, one of the most memorable moments of the year for me will be having witnessed the kindness, generosity and out pouring of love by so many of you here in Kilve. I am not going to 'single out' any particular kindness but so many of you have ensured that neighbours and friends have not been forgotten and that their every need has been catered for. Glimmers of hope on the horizon, with a vaccination programme under way, and here's hoping that in the not too distant future, we might just be able to have a big village celebration to welcome in 'better times'.



On behalf of all of us here at Kilve News I extend to you, your family and friends

'Very best wishes for Good Health, Peace and Happiness in 2021.'

Robbie

Contact the Editor on 01278 741594
or e-mail at davidandrobbie@talktalk.net

You will be receiving this issue a little later than anticipated as our good friends at Kilve Court were closed over the Christmas period. However it does give me the opportunity to place on record my humble thanks for all they have done to enable the printing of Kilve News over the last nine months. Without the kindness of Sharon, Director Daniel and the rest of his staff we would not have been able to continue.



WELCOME!

This month it is a pleasure to welcome Paula, Andy and their lovely dog Twiglet, who have moved in to 'Steep Holm' at the top of Pardlestone Lane. We hope very much that you have a long and happy stay in Kilve.

(We have a long and happy tradition of welcoming new residents to our village but alas on some occasions, a few 'slip through the net'. If you have a new neighbour at anytime please be kind enough to let the Editor know so that we can include 'a welcome' in our columns).



GREETINGS

Our deadline was passed for inclusion on the Christmas Greeting page in our last issue, but we are most pleased to add this extra greeting:-

To all neighbours and friends,

Best wishes for a Very Happy and Peaceful New Year

Ween, Alan and Poppy Pincot



Ali Davison decided he would try to cycle 2000 miles during 2020. His rides were mainly from Kilve to Minehead and Kilve to Porlock. He completed his 2000 miles at the beginning of December and was presented with a certificate and commemorative mug in recognition of his fantastic achievement. Since then he has continued his rides and just lately he rode up Porlock Hill which has a gradient of 1 in 4!

Well done Ali.

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In our December issue, I was asked if we could include a few words to encourage, those who are able, to help 'Light up Kilve for Christmas'. The response was quite outstanding, so I 'sent' David and 'ace-cameraman', Trevor Stanton, off around the village to capture on film some of the many wonderful decorations which certainly 'lit up' our village.



Sorry if we missed you out, but lighting was a wee bit of a problem and access too, ensuring we didn't invade peoples privacy. A very big thank you to all.



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Somerset Micro Providers

Not many people may know of the army of registered professional self employed people that can offer care and support within your home. Since 2015 self employed care workers have signed up to the community catalysts programme, founded by Somerset County Council. The programme which supports people in their own homes, enabling hundreds of people to remain in their familiar surroundings. The scheme has proved successful as now the membership has grown to over 360 micro providers, working across Somerset today. What makes this level of help different is micro providers can offer a friendly one to one level of affordable care, tailored to customer's needs. The micro provider can plan their work rota so that they can meet the times that customers want them to arrive., having a familiar friendly face, has also benefited customers and has taken the stress out of getting the professional care that they need. Micro providers are local to their area and can support each other when cover is needed for sickness or holiday leave. In order for micro provider to join the accredited scheme they have to be DBS Checked, have appropriate training, relevant insurance, and policies and procedures for their services. What do we do ? anything and everything to enable someone to stay at home. We can be cleaners, carers, dog walkers, and gardeners. There is a full list of micro providers on the Somerset County Council web site and also your local Village Agent knows who works in your area.

For any more information on Micro Providers across West Somerset please contact - Vicki James on 07475803652 16 Coastguard Cottages .Lilstock Somerset TA5 1SU



2021 CENSUS

Census day 2021 is March 21st. By taking part and encouraging others to do the same , you'll make sure that the community gets the services it needs. In our next issue of Kilve News we will be able to give you more details and in the meantime up to date information may be found on the internet at :-

www.census.gov.uk

DO YOU BELIEVE IN ANGELS?

This picture should prove the point beyond doubt.!

We managed to 'capture' Marlene Payne who heads up the Quantock Food Bank, and presented her with a bouquet of flowers from the village of Kilve as a token of our appreciation for the tremendous hard work she undertakes to ensure that all the donated food parcels go out to needy families in our area.

The village has been generous beyond belief in their donations and we hope that all of you can take comfort in the knowledge that you have brought a little seasonal cheer to many families who would otherwise have been without.

The following couple of months will continue to be very demanding for the Food Bank. May we remind you all that donations may be left at the Village Stores and that I am most willing to collect if asked. (Robbie 741594)



Kilve Stores News – from Charlotte

(not Matt!)

Some exciting news from me this time rather than Matt!

Over the last few months, I have started to upcycle old furniture which I have bought very cheap from junk shops, online, charity shops etc.

I discovered a range of paints called 'Frenchic', perfect for furniture restoration along with all the other general household painting tasks.

The range is suitable for beginners or seasoned professional DIY experts. The great thing about this furniture paint is, how quick and easy it is to apply and the range of colours and finishes you can achieve.

It's also toxin, solvent free, no nasty chemicals added, virtually no odour whatsoever and the coverage and depth of colour is amazing. This paint can be even be applied to PVC doors and windows to bring them back to life and it's so toxic free it can be used in a babies nursery!!

The 'Frenchic' range has been featured in lots of places including, 'The Telegraph', 'Good Housekeeping Magazine', 'Grand Designs', and even 'Escape to the Chateaux' a very popular TV programme.

'Frenchic' paint is really hot property at the moment and I am excited to announce that **Kilve Stores** will be a stockist of all 'Frenchic' paint along with their range of paint brushes, finishing waxes, stencils and lots more.

If you love to upcycle old furniture, or you are looking for some inspiration for a room in your house, please visit the 'Frenchic' website www.frenchicpaint.co.uk and read all about the fantastic range of products on offer and watch some demonstrations on how to use and the end results.

As we will be the only supplier of 'Frenchic' paint and between Taunton and Minehead and with Kilve Stores being advertised on the Frenchic website and Facebook pages, we are expecting our first delivery of stock to sell exceptionally quickly, so we are advertising to our regular, local customers first.

Please feel free to have a chat to me (Charlotte) about the paints and keep an eye out in-store for the arrival of the paint that's gripping the nation at the moment.

Thanks very much

Charlotte

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HONEYBEE DIARIES from Neil Wellum

It takes about 50,000 honeybee flights to make a pound of honey. Incredible! A queen honeybee can lay up to 2,000 eggs a day at the height of the breeding season. Incredible!



A queen can determine whether to lay an egg that will produce a female bee or a male bee. Incredible!

I'm over halfway through my second year of keeping bees and 'incredible' seems to be the most fitting word to describe these amazing creatures. After I retired four years ago, I knew that I wanted to try and keep honeybees because they fascinated me so much. Also, I am very fond of honey. So, in spring 2019 I attended an introductory course run by the Exmoor Beekeepers Association – a bit of theory and as much practical training as you liked. After that I brought my first bee colony home in a hive in July, just too late for a honey crop. My first challenge was to get them through the winter in as strong and healthy a condition as I could. They did get through, and then with a bit of drama, some luck and a little input from me, that colony is now three colonies and I'm going to try and get all three through this winter and stay at that level.

Winter is a critical time for the bees. They can starve, get diseases and the damp is more of a killer than the cold. Roughly 20% of bee colonies in the UK are lost in the winter. This is often attributed to the weather, but the arrival of a pest with the apt name *Varroa destructor*, from Asia in the early 1990s, is a major culprit. Before it arrived, winter losses in the UK were about 5%. *Varroa* is a little brown mite that feeds on the blood and fatty tissue of the bee, but it is the viruses it transmits which weaken the bees and can cause problems. I'm sure, given time, honeybees will evolve to cope with them. Until then, beekeepers can help.

Fighting varroa is a multi-stage procedure throughout the year with two key stages: in August, after honey extraction and in mid-winter, when the queen takes a break from laying eggs. A few days ago, I carried out the mid-winter treatment and vaporised the inside of the hives with oxalic acid. This doesn't bother the bees, but the varroa certainly don't like it.

You also have to make sure the bees have enough honey to get them through the winter. A healthy colony in August, say 50,000 bees, will need approximately 40lbs of honey for the winter months. By mid-winter, the number of bees in the hive will be down to something like 10,000. The bees don't hibernate, but they do go into a cluster. This keeps the cluster's internal temperature at about 26C and this can rise to 35C when the queen starts laying again. The worker bees take turns on the outside of the cluster, where it is coldest, much like male Emperor penguins in Antarctica when they are protecting the young chicks. The last job of the year is to give each colony a Christmas present in the form of some bakers' icing fondant, to make sure they don't go hungry. No tinsel or crackers, though!

All insect pollinators are vitally important to us; arguably the honeybee is man's best friend. Our greengrocery shelves would be very depleted without their good work. In the UK, some 70 crops rely upon insect pollination, not to mention many of our wild flowers and trees.

Sadly, across the world, insect numbers are in decline. A combination of the usual factors – climate change, pesticides, fertilisers, insect diseases and habitat loss – have led to this, but we have become more aware in recent years and with that awareness things can improve.

Continued in the next column>>>>>>

In some countries people carry out the pollination themselves, due to the dearth of insects. In South-west China you will see people up apple trees doing just that. Can you imagine? Then, in the vast almond orchards of California, the farmers have to bring in millions of honeybees by the lorry load to pollinate the almond trees. After the bees have done their good work, the farmers have to ship them out again because there are no other flowers there to keep the bees alive. Plant biodiversity is best.

You don't need to keep bees to help. We can all do little things, whether or not you are a keen gardener. I'm old enough to remember playing in lovely flower meadows as a child, and we need to restore those vital habitats. If you walked around the village and the fields this summer, you would have seen examples of this happening. The little flower meadow behind the Church was a vision of beauty, as was the area just to the south of East Wood. The rich and diverse hedgerows round here are something to be proud of too. The honeybee absolutely loves brambles, hawthorn, blackthorn, wild cotoneaster, ivy and many more.

Through January and February I will be keeping an eye on the colonies as the winter weather does its worst and making sure they have enough food. I will also be making up new comb frames in preparation for the first big hive inspections of the year, probably in March, where a health check of the bees will be the priority.

(Thank you, very much, Neil. A most interesting article which I am sure will interest many of our readers. We look forward to your next contribution in our next issue. :Editor)



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TWENTY FIVE YEARS AGO

From Issue 87 January 1996 It was announced that 'The Hood Arms' had changed hands in the middle of December. A 'chap called Robbie' had, after 17 1/2 years sold the business to a Barry and Vanessa Eason who were welcomed to the village. There was also a significant change to the look of Kilve Stores as the proprietors, Mike and Chris, had extended the shop floor area to take in what was previously the tea room.



READING GROUP

from Sue Hares

The last meeting of 2020 saw the Group discussing "Here We Are" a novel by Graham Swift. This proved to be rather a disappointing book, although well written with nice language. The most interesting part appeared to be the back story of the evacuee, one of the three main characters. It was not a book we would recommend to our friends, although it was a Booker prize winner. Obviously they are easier to please than the Kilve Book Group! The Group will continue with meetings on Zoom until such time as "normal" life resumes! Unfortunately, the Group is at full capacity and there is currently a waiting list.



OUR NEXT ISSUE

Our next issue will be for March Contributions for the 343rd edition to Robbie, or the Village Stores (marked Kilve News)



Please note

NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 15th

If you have reports, adverts or contributions to hand before the deadline please let us have them as soon as possible. It greatly helps having them well in advance of the 15th



A great surprise to everyone when they realised that Santa's reindeer were having the day off when he visited Kilve!

Kilve Golf Society 2020-year end review from Mark Walton

Despite it being a very challenging year for everyone, the society managed to have an enjoyable and competitive third season, in between lockdowns.



The first game at Cannington, was memorable for last years winner Mark Walton, accepting the forfeit of playing with a bag of 1960's golf clubs and the surprise winner of the "Longest Drive" Trevor Stanton, demonstrating the value of accuracy over power. Among the courses played were, Cannington, Minehead, Worlebury, Long Sutton, Wedmore and Oake Manor. At most places we managed bacon rolls and coffee beforehand and meal afterwards, lockdown permitting. Sadly, our two day trip to Devon had to be cancelled. By the time we reached the last fixture, there looked like only one winner barring a "Devon Lock" slip up which didn't happen and Dan Sefton was duly crowned champion of 2020 season sweeping the board and winning every category. That bag of 1960's club and a 4-stroke handicap cut await Dan in 2021!

Dan was not entirely infallible. He did lead his playing group down the wrong fairway at Worlebury, in the driving rain and arrived at Long Sutton in a roll neck jumper and cardigan, it was 25 degrees, so a trip to the club shop was required for suitable summer wear.

The other performance worth noting, was Bruce Eyley's mid-table finish, in his first year of retirement and vindicating the purchase of a new set of golf clubs. Also proving you have "got to be in it to win it".

Whilst writing this review we have just entered Tier 4 lockdown, so our ability to play as a group in 2021, is on hold.

At the first opportunity we will meet to present trophies to Dan and discuss plans for the new season, which will include new venues to visit, competition formats and any other thoughts to make our matches as social as possible. The society has a Mens and Womens section and a wide range of handicaps. We would welcome new members, who may have moved into the village/area this year or found their golf clubs at the back of the garage, during that lockdown clearance purge we all seemed to have had. We meet to play once a month. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Mark Walton tel: 741095 or email mtwalton@btinternet.com.

'LOVE IS IN THE AIR'

Dianne and Graham Keating set up a 'Mistletoe Station' just prior to Christmas when they invited passers by to help themselves to a bunch of mistletoe in return for a donation to the Watchet and Quantock Dementia Group. A total of £53 was donated and this has been forwarded to the Group together with the 'Kilve News Greetings' donations making a grand total of £490.



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