

KILVE NEWS



Issue 351 November 2021

EDITORIAL

It was very presumptuous of me to mention in our October issue - the 350th! - that this month was going to be a special issue too. I was, in fact, having rather personal and selfish thoughts, because this issue is actually my



as Editor.

Back in 1997, I was attending a computer course given by the late, dear Olaf Chedzoy, when he mentioned that he was looking for someone to take over from him as Editor. I had not long sold my business and having retired, I was particularly anxious to devote my new-found leisure moments to doing a few more things for our community here in Kilve, not least that I wanted to recognise the wonderful support that the village had given me in my 17 or so years at the 'Hood Arms'.

Now in just a couple of days time, this old codger will be rising 84 and I feel that it is now time for me to 'pass the baton' on.

So, are there any 'budding editors' out there? If you feel that you might like to have a go, please get in contact and we can have a chat. I can explain what it entails before anyone makes a firm commitment.

A big thank you to so many of you who have helped out along the way and, not least, you dear reader for putting up with me.

I can already hear a chorus echoing round the village - 'Two hundred and fifty issues, you'd have thought he would have got it right by now!'

Robbie

Contact the Editor on 01278 741594 e-mail at davidandrobbie@talktalk.net or text on 07850 102874

You can view all our editions of Kilve News

KILVE VILLAGE WEBSITE www.kilvevillage.co.uk

WELCOME

This month we have much pleasure in welcoming Melanie Bennet who has just moved in to 3 Old Ham., Jacky and John Cotton, with dog Edward, who have a new home at 1 Kilve Court



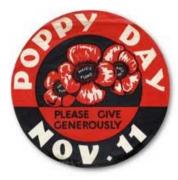
Cottages, Julie and Brian Braybrooke who now reside at Appledore, and Mark and Jill whose new home is 'Bryhers'.

We hope you all have a long and happy stay in our village.

WE REMEMBER

We all know that life can be very hectic and sometimes stressful and with a pandemic to cope with, we could be forgiven if we forget a few of the important things we should remember.

November is very special in that respect, when we remember those who lost their lives on active service in all conflicts; from the beginning of the First World War right up to the present day. We also remember all those who have served and their families.



Thanks to the Appeal, our Armed Forces community and their families, both past and present, receive the support they need and deserve. Every year, volunteers distribute over 40 million poppies to help the British Legion's vital work in supporting the Armed Forces community. Once again this year we are asking kind supporters to help distribute poppies to friends and neighbours, and we are please to inform you that poppies and collecting tins will be placed in both Kilve Stores and The Hood Arms.

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE SUNDAY NOVEMBER 14TH AT 10.50 am 0-0-0-0-0-0

We are truly delighted to announce, at this special time of the year, that funding for the repair to the Lyche Gate (Kilve's memorial to those who gave their lives in the First World War) has, with grateful thanks to the Fairfield Trust and Kilve Parish Council, been realised.



Quiz night is back!
Saturday November 20th
See page 5 for all the details.
0-0-0-0-0

KITCHEN & BATHROOM FEATURES

Find us on https://www.facebook.com/kandbfeature

SUPPLY & FIT OR SUPPLY ONLY

Kitchens, Bathrooms, En-suites, Plumbing
Floor & Wall Tiling and Electrics
Installation to the highest standard.
Fully insured & Free Quotations
Quality, at prices you can afford
Family business with over 30 years experience.
Home: 01278 651089

Mobile: 07894140533 Email: ridgmentc@yahoo.co.uk

DATA CAB TAXIS

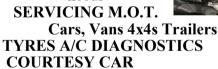
Doniford Watchet 4 and 7 seater taxis 16 seater Mini Bus We can also offer

Executive Airport
Transfers
01984 639141



WEST QUANTOXHEAD MOTORS

For all your motoring needs



CALL BEN for friendly advice & free quotes

Quantock Lodge Pool

Opening times 2019 Sunday 10.30 to12.30 pm Family Swim Monday 6.30 to 8.30 pm Lanes Swim Tuesday 7.45 to 10.15 am Adult Swim Thursday 7.45 to 10. am Adult Swim

6.30 to 8.15 pm Lanes Swim

Quantock Leisure Ltd.

Over Stowey 01278 733375

info@quantocklodge.co.uk



Kilve's 'Renowned'

'Mr VIKTOR'

Reliable Carpenter

and 'Odd Job' Man

No job too small



Call VIKTOR ON 07902327701



BIDDISCOMBES of BRIDGWATER

Carpets & Furniture

Your local Experts BEDS UPHOLSTERY FURNITURE



Quality Service Value Tel:- 01278 422364

ww.biddiscombes.co.uk

PARKE PLUMBING AND HEATING

Professional & reliable Plumber
Qualified in oil, gas and LPG
Boiler servicing, installation and
breakdown repairs

Bathrooms, radiators & system upgrades 01278 741723

07860 553704 parkeph@gmail.com

TWENTY FIVE YEARS AGO

From Issue 95

Traffic calming measures was the subject of a special meeting held in the Village Hall, with a



request that representations be made in the hope that the speed limit within the village could be reduced to 30 mph

OUR NEXT ISSUE

Our next issue will be for DECEMBER Contributions for the 352nd edition to Robbie, or the Village Stores (marked



Kilve News) Please note

NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 15th

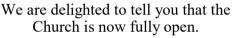
If you have reports, adverts or contributions to hand before the deadline, please let us have them as soon as possible. It greatly helps having them well in advance of the 15th.

ST.MARY'S KILVE

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 7th Holy Communion 11 am







HOLFORD GARDENERS GROUP

Holford and District Village Hall November 16th 7.30pm 'Stumperies, ferns and shady friends' A talk by Andrew Tolman

East Quantoxhead
Village Market and Coffee Morning
Saturday November 20th
10—12 noon
Café/Bread/Books/ Bric a Brac

READING GROUP

from Sue Hares

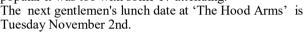
"The Dig" written by John Preston proved to be a very good Reading Group choice. It was short, well written, based on fact and currently in the news due the release of the film of the same name. The majority of the Group enjoyed the novel with one or two criticisms naturally, as is the nature of the Group! Only one member didn't enjoy the book and one other was on the fence. The film was also enjoyed by those who had seen it.

The Group continues to enjoy the hospitality of The Hood but

The Group continues to enjoy the hospitality of The Hood but is still unfortunately at full capacity.

GENTS LUNCHEON CLUB

After a lapse of some eighteen months, the 'chaps' in the village got together in October for lunch at 'The Hood', and very popular it was too with some 17 attending.



Any further information may be obtained from Arthur Williams on 741429.

KILVE VILLAGE HALL NEWS 100 Club Monthly Draw

Congratulations to our latest winners:-

Steve Collins and Mair Williams

COFFEE MORNINGS

Saturday October 30th



Saturday November 27th from 10.30 am

ALL WELCOME

THANK YOU!

A very big thank you to the Village Hall Committee for initiating and providing us with such an enjoyable evening at the 'Wine and Cheese' evening on October 15th. So nice to greet and meet many of the 'new faces' in the village and also to have a very sociable evening with all those we know already.



CHRIS GREEN MOWERS

Specialising in repairs and servicing of lawn mowers and other garden machinery. Suppliers of spares and new machines

A collection and delivery service available
Tel: 07714 281188

Email chrisgreenmowers@hotmail.co.uk Wibble Farm, West Quantoxhead

WOODLOUSE CONSERVATION

Recognised specialists in Lime Rendering, Lime Plastering Building Restoration

and Conservation Projects 01984 629131

07788 810576

www.woodlouseconservation.co.uk





EXMOOR PLUMBING

Reliable plumber No job to small 01984639629 07970632114

Radiators Cylinders
Tanks Ball valves
Bathroom Suites Taps Washers
Showers

Soil Pipes Waste Pipes Gutters Drain Clearance

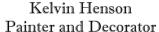
PLUMBING WORK COVERED



Pardlestone Farm

We would love to welcome

your friends and family to Pardlestone Farm in Kilve where we offer bed and breakfast and a self-catering cottage — within walking distance of The Hood! www.pardlestonefarm.co.uk Please book online or call Mark or Ann on 01278 256629, 07721 763993 or email enquiries@pardlestonefarm.co.uk



Internal and External Old, new and business premises Property Maintenance

'35 YEARS EXPERIENCE'

Tel:-01278 732949 Mobile 07817 641645

Purple Horse

07760 758 626

Embroidery, Rug Cleaning
* Repairs

sales@purplehorse.org

Personalised Embroidery

(Teamwear - Workwear - Equestrian)
Professional Rug Laundry and Repairs Service
Free Collections Available

Drop off at Williton Pet Equine



Williton Pet & Equine

Unit 11,
Roughmoor Enterprise Centre
Williton TA4 4AT
01984 631 508



www.willitonpetcare.com

Pet * Smallholder * Equestrian Clothing for Horse & Rider Local Delivery Available

RUSSELL H BRYANT

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE & REPAIR
TO DOMESTIC, AGRICULTURAL &
EQUINE PROPERTIES
Inc. PLUMBING REPAIRS ROOFING AND

PLASTERING EST 1988

L.C.G.I. & A.C.I.O.B .QUALIFIED FREE NO OBLIGATION QUOTES

01278 741054

Mobile 07787371741

email russellhbryant@yahoo.co.uk

SPORTS NEWS

MARATHON RUNNERS

It has been quite a number of years since we last mentioned about marathon runners in Kilve. Our picture shows Karen Hutchings, Peter Stone and Ali Davison who completed the Badminton Half Marathon on September 4th and then did the same thing again for the Glastonbury Half Marathon on October 3rd. Congratulations and well done to all three of you!



KILVE SHORT MAT BOWLS

A reminder that the Bowls Club meet weekly in the Village Hall of a Monday evening with a start time of 7 pm. There is always a warm welcome for anyone to come along and see if they would like to join in. Your contact in the village for any enquiries is Robbie (741594).

The Annual General Meeting of the Bowls Club will be held in the Village Hall at 6.30 pm on Monday November 1st.

FUND RASING FOR DEMENTIA

Last month we reported on the fund raising adventure being undertaken by Mel and Ali Davison .As of today (October 17th) they are a full week into their exciting journey, having already undertaken some very silly and unauthorized challenges, in exchange for donations to their fundraising. Photographic and/or video has already been placed on Facebook and Instagram.

This is a one off journey as 'The Odd Squad' and it is really very important to therm. We understand that these past 18 months have been difficult for all, and they are not begging for huge donations (although any £1 spared would be great) As mentioned last time they have a secret donor who will double the amount for every £1000.00 raised.

At the time of writing this article we are pleased to report that donations so far have exceeded £1500.

They are very lucky to have had some financial support from **Purple Heart Wishes** - a charity that helps people with a terminal illness to fulfil a wish. They are helping with some of the campsite costs. They have decided that their fundraising will be split 90% to Rare Dementia Support and 10% back to Purple Heart Wishes, so that another family can benefi.t.

To donate

https://
virginmoneygiving.com
and search for The Odd Squad
and click on Melinda Davison.
Thank you for your support.





KVH QUIZ & SUPPER NIGHT

SATURDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 7 PM

ENTRY BY TICKET ONLY

NUMBERS RESTRICTED (COVID)

TEAMS OF UP TO SIX

QUIZ ONLY £5
QUIZ + FISH & CHIPS £12
QUIZ + JUMBO SAUSAGE & CHIPS £ 9
QUIZ + VEGETARIAN BURGER &
CHIPS £ 10

Orders by 6th November



TO BE HELD IN KILVE VILLAGE MAIN HALL

ALCOHOLIC AND SOFT DRINKS
AVAILABLE FROM DENOVAN ROOM BAR
(NOT A BYO DRINKS EVENT)

RAFFLE PRIZES: PRIZE FOR FIRST PLACE AND OF COURSE LAST PLACE

TEAMS

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT KVH COFFEE MORNINGS: from KILVE STORES: or AILSA ROBBINS (741609) 00-0-0-0-0-0-0-0



ALAN MANCHIP

NICEIC Approved Electrical Contractor Domestic Commercial Industrial Agricultural Part P Domestic Installer Inspecting and Testing Portable appliance testing

REFRIGERATION and AIR CONDITIONING
Design Supply Install Maintain
24 HOUR EMERGENCY

CALL OUT

01278 733536

Inwood farm Nether Stowey E mail office@alanmanchip.co.uk



ROBIN PARKER TREE SERVICES

All aspects of tree work undertaken Felling, dismantling, pruning.
Woodland maintenance
Garden maintenance
Hedge trimming

Contact us on **01984 568047**

RESTORATION



LAKESIDE CARPENTRY

Custom ~ Design ~ Build MYLES JONES

07503 312961

lakesidecarpentry@hotmail.com ALL ASPECTS OF CARPENTRY & JOINERY KITCHENS FITTED WARDROBES WINDOWS & DOORS RENOVATIONS &



BROWNS Hair & Beauty

Ladies, Gents & Children Modern & Friendly Environment Gift Vouchers Available Full Disabled Access

East Street Cannington TA5 2HJ

01278-651251

www.browns-hairandbeauty.co.uk

GOUDE GARDENING

Hedges, Lawns & Tree Care Weeding & Planting Garden Clearance

Call Paul on 01984 631899 07804 828193 goudegardening@yahoo.com



NEIL COBB GENERAL BUILDER EXTENSIONS

BATHROOMS
ROOFING
KITCHENS
BRICKWORK
STONE WORK
FREE ESTIMATES
TEL 01278 425740
Or Mobile 07753620961



Tracy Wint Soft Furnishings

for curtains, blinds and a whole lot more...

Rose Cottage Shurton Stogursey Somerset TA5 1 OE

01278 732734 tracywint@btinternet.com



The only limits are your imagination....

CHIROPODIST

Grace Brown

M Inst CH P Reg no. Ch23926
FREE CONSULTATIONS

Nail Cutting & Filing. Hard skin & Thickened Nails Corn & Callus Removal. Ingrowing Toe Nails Diabetic Foot Care Advice. General Foot Health

Full Disabled Access

East Street Cannington TA5 2HJ 01278 651251

www.browns-hairandbeauty.co.uk

_

HONEYBEE DIARIES

from Neil Wellum

November is coming up fast and the bees know it. They have been foraging very actively on the ivy and the hives have a distinct smell of ivy flowers about them. Lots of yellow pollen has been going in. That's a good sign, because they use it to feed the young brood. The queens are probably still laying eggs at the moment, but they will be winding down. The bees can then store the pollen as pollen bread, covered with some preservative honey. That means they will have a supply of protein for the first brood next year when the queens start laying again and before any plants are producing pollen.

On some fine days, there has been so much ivy foraging that it has caused real air traffic control delays outside the hives. Bees have been falling over each other trying to get in and out of the hive entrances at the same time, but they don't end up fighting about it. There's a job to do, so they just get on with it, but it is funny to watch them somersaulting about on the landing board.

If I did see fighting at the entrances, that would tell me that the hives are being robbed. Then I might see something rather more resembling the ridiculous scenes we have seen on the news at some petrol stations recently!

Fighting between bees and bees, and bees and wasps is something to look out for at this time of the year. Honey robbing by a strong colony can destroy a weaker one; it's back to Darwin again. Wasps have been much less of a problem this year than last, but they can still set about a weak colony. Reducing the width of the hive entrance makes it easier for the bees to defend. They say it takes six workers to kill one wasp.

For so many reasons (resisting robbing just one of them) it is always best to try and keep strong colonies. That is why I have united two pairs of colonies that were not quite as strong as the others. In both cases, the bees in one of the hives were showing signs of trying to replace their queen, perhaps because she was losing her egg-laying vigour, but it is too late in the year to create a new queen, because the mating opportunities have passed.

To unite two hives, you bring them close together gradually over time. Then, making sure the more vigorous queen is the only one present, you put the two brood boxes together separated by a sheet of newspaper. This stops the bees from fighting, because they will have different colony 'smells' and may think their colony is being attacked. By the time the workers have chewed through the newspaper, they should have got used to each other as the different smells blend together. You close up the united hive and leave them to it for six or seven days. I confess to keeping my fingers crossed, having not tried this before. I'm pleased to say that both unifications worked, resulting in two strong colonies, both with a vigorous queen and better able to face the challenges of the approaching winter.

The Annual Honey Show of the Exmoor Beekeepers went well in Minehead the other day. I was asked to assist the honey judge; white coat, clipboard and everything! I learned a great deal, but also became rather sugar high as all the honey entries had to be tasted. The best bit, without question, was judging the mead and melomel entries. Though it was not up to me to determine the winner, I approached my duties with enthusiasm!

sm!



£25 could be life changing

Change your life and the life of a woman facing extreme poverty, all for just £25.

I am thrilled to announce that I am offering eight 45 minute coaching sessions (in Mindfulness) in return for a minimum £25 donation to MicroLoan Foundation.

I'm taking part in the WLA Coachathon 2021, a 24-hour, global coaching marathon on Wednesday 17th November 2021

You can book your next life-changing coaching session with me and other coaches for just £25 each session. You can select your coach from 10 coaching categories including:

Executive – Leadership – Career – Life –Mindfulness – Resilience – Public Speaking

What's more, that £25 will be directly donated to MicroLoan, and will support a woman in sub-Saharan Africa to start her own small business, generating a income to feed her family, pay for healthcare and send her children to school.

Book now - it's first come first served!

Email me today to book your session as part of the <u>WLA</u> <u>Coachathon</u>, a 24-hour, global coaching marathon or go to <u>WLA Coachathon</u> to book a coach in another category.

Paula Adams, Steepholme, Pardlestone Lane, Kilve

paulaadamsbhs@gmail.com

Kilve Quiet Lanes Update



We recently had the opportunity to show the Somerset County Council Highways Commissioning Manager around the proposed Quiet Lanes in Kilve. He was very interested in promoting more active use of our lanes by increasing the safety and interconnected roads, paths and bridleways. We are working closely with him to get the paperwork and then the practical changes done. Please continue to drive sympathetically and watch this space for updates.

Bruce Eyley Chair Village Lanes Committee.

'THE HOOD ARMS' KILVE



Opening

Times

BAR

Tuesday to Saturday
12 noon to 3 pm 6pm till close
Sunday
12noon to 3pm
FOOD SERVICE

(Reservations recommended)
Tuesday to Saturday
12 noon to 2pm and 6pm to 9pm
Sunday 12 noon to 3pm
(Closed Mondays)

Tel:- 01278 741114

Website :www.thehoodarms.co.uk

MHKELLAWAY

Chimney Sweep
Aga & Rayburn
Servicing
Wood Burners
serviced and installed

01278 741572





Chartered Architect

Specialising in work to historic properties and buildings in sensitive landscape

ALINA WISNICKA MSc Dip Arch RIBA MSc Building Conservation

Drawings for Planning and Listed Building Consent Working details and specification Building Contract Management



Friendly and at reasonable rates

T:01278 741755 m:07870305309 alina@alinawisnicka.co.uk

Kilve Stores and Post Office 01278 741214

www.kilvestores.co.uk

mfhirst@hotmail.com

Free, local home delivery service Fresh Bakery Bread delivered daily Fruit & Veg.

Over 65 different wines in stock
Calor & Flo Gas Stockist
Logs & Kindling
Compost available from March
Special Wine & Beer Offers

MONTHLY PREMIER SPECIAL OF-

FERS Cheapest Coal in the Area!
Order 10 Bags for a further 10% discount
POST OFFICE -PAY POINT
NATIONAL LOTTERY
HOME DELIVERY
OPEN



Furniture Paint®

KILVE STORES OFFICIAL STOCKIST Pop into Kilve Stores to view our range of Frenchnic Furniture Paint

We stock a wide range of paints from the Original Artisan Range, the Lazy Range, and the Al Fresco Range along with all the sundry items you need including a variety of waxes, finishing coat, Freshneen brushes, stencils, sugar soap and lots more!

Pop in and have a look and join the

W.W.REFURBISHING

TILING SKIMMING PAINTING Call WALDI ON 07837918337





KILVE FLORAL CASCADE

Following inspiration from Barley Flower Tower and Stogumber's current project, we have decided to attempt a Floral Cascade for St. Mary's, Kilve in time to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee on 5th June 2022. We estimate that we will need around 1400 flowers which is obviously a huge target for our small village! So please encourage willing friends and family to join in.

Flowers can be knitted, crocheted, fabric or felt, in any bright or pastel rainbow colour. They need to be approx. 10cm - 20cm (4" – 8"). If you would prefer to donate materials (e.g. wool, fabric, felt etc.), for others to use, there is a drop box in the church porch. Please DO NOT leave completed flowers in the box as they are too precious!

Flowers can be left at Park House, Streamside or village coffee mornings. We would also be pleased to collect them. Regular updates will appear in Kilve News and on our Facebook Page (Kilve Floral Cascade 2022). Any queries or suggestions please contact one of us on the numbers below. Many thanks for your support and Happy Knitting! Claire Walton 01278 741095 Pat Woolley 01278 741157



ANOTHER DATE FOR THE DIARY

CHRISTMAS BINGO

KILVE VILL; AGE HALL

FRIDAY DECEMBER 17TH

MORE DETAILS NEXT MONTH

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

As has been the practice for the last few years, we are again, next month, printing a page of 'Christmas Greetings', whereby people in the village, instead of sending cards, could send their greetings to friends within the village and at the same time support the Rare Dementia Group.

The greeting will come under a general heading

'To all our friends in Kilve Holford and East Quantoxhead' Best wishes for Christmas

and a Peaceful and Happy New Year'

Underneath this heading will be individual boxes such as this example



If you would like to be included please place your first name(s) together with your house name and leave it in an envelope at the shop or to me personally addressed

'For the attention of Robbie (Christmas Greetings)', and we will do the rest!

In return for this service we ask if you would kindly consider including in the envelope a donation, the proceeds from which will be donated to the Rare Dementia Group. Thank you.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE....

I must have your details and envelope by the 15th November



I received an e-mail from Alison and Bruce Eyley informing me Our Suffolk friends bought a lovely picture of the Burnham that they had composed a few words about a recent staycation and wondered if I and any of you would like to have it published in the Kilve News. Yes please! We are always so pleased to receive contributions, so if you have a few lines which might interest your fellow readers please get in touch. In the meantime a big thank you to Alison and Bruce. –Editor.

IF YOU CAN'T DO ITALY, THEN THE SOUTH WEST IS BEST!



Covid scuppered the planned trip to Puglia so our lifelong friends from Suffolk came to holiday in Kilve. We looked at the cost and availability of holiday accommodation across the South West and it was either not available or very expensive. So we decided to plan the week around places to see and, very importantly, places to eat.

After their long drive we opted for a gentle walk to the Plough (easy access from Hilltop) for a hearty and delicious roast Sunday lunch. The walk home took a bit longer, though it was well lubricated – this could be a trend!

The next day started bright and involved a drive to Bickleigh Mill on the river Exe near Tiverton. The eclectic mix of shops resulted in a Jellycat dragon and book for first grandchild (whose parents now need to move house due to the amount of baby stuff they have).

Fortunately, we had booked a table at the Bistro Restaurant, and lunch did not disappoint. The highlights were breast of lamb and chicken scarpariello. This was a nod to Italian food and is, apparently, the pasta of the shoemakers. After a walk along the riverbank, we were ready for afternoon tea/beers. We crossed back over the pack bridge to the Fisherman's Cot. This is a lovely riverside Inn with great outside space for soaking up the

The sun shone again on Tuesday so we went to Watchet Esplanade for ice creams – we were on holiday after all. The new East Quay development may be controversial to some, but it is a great asset and though we never had the opportunity to eat there, it looks like we will be paying a visit soon. The Somerset Art Week exhibitions were really engaging. The memories of lockdown in a bottle (like a ship in a bottle) is a brilliant idea and was well supported by the community. The highlight of the week (so far) was Reeves of Dunster. A humble G&T is now a work of art and the lovely touch of making the driver's plain tonic just as pretty was appreciated. Crispy coconut panko chicken with Jack Daniels sticky sauce, the roasted haloumi drizzled with Exmoor honey and the New England style clam chowder made choosing our favourite very difficult. It will probably take a few more visits to try them all. (The chowder was definitely the best). The beef wellington and mint and mustard lamb cutlets were delicious and were well supported by (the) Le Pigeoulet Vaucluse 2019. The individual lemon meringue pie and chocolate and raspberry cheesecake were beautifully presented with spun sugar decoration. There was still room for Espresso Martinis to finish the fabulous evening off.

Most holidays in Somerset don't usually include a trip to the Lambretta museum in Weston-Super-Mare. In fact the server in Coffee #1 had never heard of it, and she worked just around the corner! After an enjoyable scoot through the history of the 50s, 60s and 70s on 2 wheels we motored over to Cheddar to see the gorge. It is a wonderful place with rugged beauty. We browsed the shops and came across Don Bishop's photograph gallery.

On Sea low lighthouse. The nine-legged wooden lighthouse was built in 1832 and named on a list of the world's top 10 most beautiful lighthouses. They had no idea, so we had to visit it. Burnham Beach in the fading light was glorious. For tea we had Indian takeaway from the Williton Bengal Spice. They thought it quaint that Deliveroo didn't stretch this far, and we had to go and get it ourselves. The Himalayan chicken in tamarind sauce is a firm

The focus of the week was to get to Riverford Field Kitchen near Buckfastleigh in Devon as we had been there 10 years before and had a wonderful experience. Time and Covid has not improved it. We had Aubergine in olive oil and sourdough bread, blistered tomatoes on white beans. courgette, fennel, lemon, capers and parmesan followed by lamb shoulder with freekeh and yoghurt, broccoli, romanesco, carrots with bay and almond. This was followed by sticky toffee pudding or pear, hazelnut and chocolate pavlova or Chocolate beetroot cake or Lemon polenta cake. It had the makings of a gourmet lunch but didn't quite cut it.

Friday morning we strode out with enthusiasm for the beach. Well we got to the Chantry Tea Gardens and indulged in the best scones and clotted cream and jam you could get anywhere. Fortified, we went fossiling and then walked back up to Hilltop for a laydown before dinner. If you have not been to The Barn at Podshavers recently, then you have been missing a treat. Like Reeves, it is not the cheapest place to eat but the quality and surroundings make it worth every penny. We tried scallops in mornay sauce, sweet potato gnocchi and goats cheese and truffle croquet which were individually stunning. Honey and garlic pork tenderloin, loin of venison, beef in suet pudding were the mains. The venison stole the show. This was our joint wedding anniversary dinner and it was a great success. This may have been helped along by the 2019 Monastier Cabernet Sauvignon red. The hazelnut & praline chocolate truffle torte was accompanied by an unforgettable sweet dessert wine.

With the staycation over we then celebrated our 35th wedding anniversary at the Hood in Kilve. We started with sourdough and oil whilst we waited for the crayfish tails and red pepper humous. The venison special was exceptionally good and was cooked to perfection. Fowey mussels in a cream and garlic sauce also went down well. During the first lockdown we treated ourselves to Hood fish and chip takeaway and shared a toblerone cheesecake every Friday night. As it was our anniversary celebration, we shared a toblerone cheesecake and it was magical. To finish, we challenged Lawrence to make an espresso martini which was delizioso. So whether you get to go to Italy or not, there is a fantastic wealth and variety of great food right on our doorstep and lots of lovely people to enjoy it with.

(So some 12 stone heavier and with a credit card bill in excess of £800, I guess the Eyley's are back home! I am being very facetious, because it all sounds so wonderful and if the truth be known, I am feeling very jealous! A lesson to so many of us that you don't have to fly miles away to enjoy the good things of life. Editor)

