
HATHERN HERALD

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PAGE 4

HATHERN'S COMMUNITY WOODLAND

An important and exciting new project gets off the ground.

PAGE 6

JOE'S HOUSE OF PLANTS

If you want to know how to keep house plants then Joe's your man – he's got lots.

PAGE 10

IT'S ALL RELATIVE

The true story of the man who decided to buy Stonehenge instead of furniture – and the connection to Hathern.

HATHERN'S LOOKING FORWARD



 CONTENTS

INSIDE YOUR WINTER ISSUE...

- 03 Know Your Councillors :
Borough Councillor Emma Ward
 - 04 Parish Council News
 - 06 **SPECIAL FEATURE :**
Joe's House of Plants
 - 08 Short Story :
My Warm Bed
 - 10 It's All Relative :
Sale of the Centuries
 - 13 Meet The Neighbours :
Jim Gisborn
 - 16 **SPECIAL FEATURE :**
George Colemore - Aviator
 - 18 Hathern Community Library :
Winter at the Library
 - 20 20 A Goodbye From Pastures
New PlaySchool
-

Front Cover Picture : A scene from one of Hathern Church of England Primary School's new, beautiful and inspiring stained glass windows designed by Hathern's Pete Gillespie

WELCOME TO THE WINTER EDITION OF THE HATHERN HERALD.

Well we are back again – and saying goodbye to 2020; a year most of us will want to try and forget. So, we are looking forward and to help brighten things up a little during this winter period we bring you another packed and stimulating edition of the Herald.

This time we have exciting news about the progress of Hathern's very own Community Woodland within our Parish Council News pages – in the future this will no doubt become an important amenity for villagers. In this edition our Meet the Neighbours subject is well known Hatherner Jim Gisborn – publican extraordinaire with a well-travelled past!

We have two special features this time around – one about Joe Bagley, at the age of 20 already a media star and an expert on house plants who lives with his 1400 house plants in the village. Watering can be quite a chore I should imagine. The second features the story of a previous Hatherner and early aviator, George Colemore, who became Britain's very first Royal Navy pilot in 1910. I'm sure that you cannot imagine that there would be a connection between Hathern and Stonehenge – well there is and all is revealed by villager Jon Smith-Moorhouse in our It's All Relative feature. The story is quite extraordinary and tells of Cecil Chubb who went out to buy dining room chairs and came back with Britain's most famous megalithic monument!

And finally, we have news from Hathern Community Library and their new management and trustee team, another cosy short story from Jo Symon, and a profile of one of our most active local Borough Councillors Emma Ward.

That's all for 2020!

WINTER GREETINGS FROM THE HATHERN HERALD EDITORIAL TEAM – ROY DANN, DAVE NEVILLE, MARTIN CLAYTON, DAVE CLEGGETT AND ELLA-MAE HUBBARD, AND A SPECIAL THANKS TO JO SYMON, EMMA WARD, DAVID PILLING AND JON SMITH-MOORHOUSE FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS.

BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

EMMA WARD

Hello, I'm Emma and I'm one of the two Borough Councillors representing residents in Dishley & Hathern. I was elected in 2019 and feel privileged to represent such a diverse community. I live in the Gorse Covert area which is where I grew up. I went to school at Robert Bakewell Primary, Garendon High School and lastly Burleigh College – so I consider myself to be a true local!

After studying in Wales, I decided to focus on languages and spent some time living in Florence, returning to the UK to study Spanish and Italian at University. After graduating I went back to Italy, where I worked as a business English tutor. Since moving back I have been teaching Italian, as well as teaching English at summer schools for teenagers. I rediscovered a passion for craft during lockdown, and recently set up my own sewing business as a result.

Since returning to the UK I've developed a fresh appreciation of what a great place Charnwood is, and I have a particular affinity with both Hathern and Dishley. Hathern is such a lovely village, with a great sense of community and, before Covid-19, I attended many community events and activities there. Helping people out has always been very important to me. This is what spurred me on to stand as a Councillor – a desire to make a difference in my local community, and help local residents resolve their issues. I have also been a trustee at Gorse Covert Community Centre since 2014, running a children's after school club, organizing craft fairs, and helping out with Christmas lunches.



Matters close to my heart include social justice and all things environmental, and I'm currently working on encouraging the Borough Council to create wildflower corridors (I'm very envious of the beautiful wildflower meadows created by the Parish Council and Church with assistance from the Hathern Wildlife Group). I keep up to date with all things Hathern by attending Parish Council Meetings, and have regular briefings with our local beat team. I'm also a trained referrer for Loughborough Area Food Bank. Before the pandemic I would hold regular surgeries (I'm planning some 'virtual' ones for now), and I'm in the process of helping to set up a residents' association for the Dishley area of the ward to try to encourage a greater sense of community, like exists in Hathern.

On a more personal note, I'm a single mum to one Lego-obsessed 9 year old boy, I love reading but invariably fall asleep after 10 minutes, adore Strictly (although I've got two left feet) and I have a dependence on Turkish Delight which is frankly getting a little out of hand since the start of the pandemic!

If you need any support or advice on anything you think I might be able to help with, please don't hesitate to get in touch.
Cllr.emma.ward@charnwood.gov.uk
Tel. 07951 198258.

COMMUNITY WOODLAND FOR HATHERN

We are excited by the very real prospect of having a significant environmental and recreational project aimed at creating a community woodland here in Hathern.

As part of its Corporate Plan and commitment to environmental improvement Charnwood Borough Council (CBC) will be planting 100,000 trees across Charnwood over the period to 2024.

Apart from their amenity and wildlife value woodlands provide a significant contribution to the quality of our lives. They improve air quality and reduce air pollution, giving off oxygen as part of their natural growing process. They absorb carbon dioxide and contribute significantly to mitigating climate change, they retain water and stabilise soils, thereby reducing flood risk.

This substantial project is aiming to plant up to 15,000 trees on a 7.4-hectare site of former agricultural land, already owned by CBC, behind Golden Square. This will be the largest project of its kind in Charnwood. The Parish Council together with its' Borough Council Councillor colleagues have been working closely with CBC to support the project through its early stages.

The project now has the full backing of the Borough Council who have agreed to release the land, subject to external funding being available for the development of the woodland. This is a major step forward for the



project itself but also has the added benefit that it now makes the land unavailable for yet more house building in the village.

The new woodland will have open public access and use best practice design principles for woodland creation by providing at least 20% open space for biodiversity within the woodland e.g. rides, glades, ponds, walks, and picnic areas. The woodland itself will be planted up with native trees and shrubs.

Funding for the creation of the woodland is now being sought by CBC from external grant schemes, including the Forestry

Commission's HS2 Woodlands Creation fund and the Parish Council will provide updates on progress in due course.

If these applications are successful then planting could start as early as autumn 2021. In parallel with this CBC are committed to establishing a Woodland Management Plan that will call for a Management Committee to be set up that will include the Parish Council and others who can bring expertise and experience to the table. The Parish Council has committed to financially support the first three years of maintenance of the woodland.

The opportunity exists to make this a true community project – from the establishment of volunteer groups to help plant, manage and maintain the area, to letting local people get actively involved in biodiversity and conservation work on their doorstep. It will give access to local schools and other groups to learn about the natural environment and wildlife, to providing a range of outdoor recreational activities for villagers, from walking footpaths and nature trails to bird watching and pond dipping.

There is still much to do and the detail of how things will develop and operate are still yet to be decided by CBC. What is clear though is that creating a community woodland from scratch is going to take some considerable time before it can reach its full potential – trees don't like to be hurried along!

But we feel sure that the wait will be worth it.



Looking West
across the Site



Looking East
across the Site



JOE'S HOUSE OF PLANTS

It all started with a Spider Plant seven years ago. That's when Hathern's Joe Bagley first engaged with houseplants when he propagated a "spiderette" (an offset runner) from his grandmother's plant. Next came the insect devouring Venus Fly-Trap, then a Dracaena and now Joe was well and truly bitten by the houseplant bug. His collection - and knowledge of the subject - grew and grew. Now 20-year-old Joe has his own website with Facebook and Instagram pages too giving loads of information and advice to successfully grow houseplants. His Instagram followers number an incredible 52,000.

In 2019, while working at Wyevale Garden Centre, Radio Leicester broadcast a programme from there, and he was asked to take part. The radio presenter was so impressed with Joe's knowledge, enthusiasm and communication skills that he was asked to contribute to Dave Andrews' gardening slot on the station. That led to 'Joe's Houseplant of the Week' that airs on the station every Sunday & Tuesday at 1:10pm to discuss a whole range of easy-to-find plants and how to care for them. Joe has now contributed over 30 of these. Joe also became a member of the "Down to Earth" team on Radio Leicester - a local version of Radio 4's "Gardeners' Question Time" where experts go to clubs and societies round the county to answer gardening problems - sadly now on hold because of the Covid restrictions.

By now 1400 plants were now lodging with Joe in his house and taking over most of the rooms. Next Joe was approached by a

freelance journalist who produced an article about him. This plus a video were shared on internet platforms and resulted in Joe's house being viewed by over 20 million people world-wide. That led to many on-line radio interviews from stations all over the globe including France, Ireland, Vietnam, China, Australia and Nigeria.

Joe's passion then came to the attention of BBC Breakfast Time and he was asked to do a live broadcast. Joe said, "It was a bit unnerving, especially when they told me there would be 11 million viewers. Also, I could not see the presenters or myself, so I had to hope that it came over OK". It certainly was OK as presenter Dan Walker said they should have a little bit of Joe every week and he was then asked to film a segment for BBC Gardeners' World.

Joe is also a Royal Horticultural Society Young Ambassador and has contributed videos to them dealing with orchid repotting, how to tell if a plant needs water and repotting normal plants. Joe is focussed on developing his website and is keen to do more media work in the future.

Houseplants have been out of fashion for some years, so why are they back in vogue? Joe thinks there are several reasons. He said, "Well, in this electronic age, houseplants are one of the few things in the home that don't need electrical power! There are health reasons. NASA Clean Air Studies since 1989 have found that many plants, as well as producing oxygen, also have air purifying qualities. Added to that there is the effect of

social media when photos of plants can be easily shared, particularly as part of interior design.”

At this time of year Christmas Cactus is a very popular house plant. Joe has one that has been happily flowering for 50 years. We asked Joe for his advice to keep our plants thriving.

“Water once the top few inches of the soil dry out, reducing this further a few weeks before the flower buds develop. Keep the soil evenly moist during the flowering period. Keep the ambient temperature above 10°C (50°F) throughout the year and provide a humid location. A pebble tray will keep the surrounding moisture high during the winter. Provide a bright location but avoid more than two hours of direct sunlight. Whilst in bloom, supplement using a potassium-based feed to prolong flowers. Revert to a general plant fertiliser once the blooms have elapsed.”

Full growing information for house plants can be found on Joe’s website, ukhouseplants.com and also check out Joe’s Facebook and Instagram pages ([@ukhouseplants](https://www.facebook.com/ukhouseplants)).

We feel sure that Joe will be seen on our screens more in the years to come.



MY WARM BED

I stretched. Slowly coming awake now. My bed was warm and comfortable and I luxuriated in just curling up, stretching and yawning, eyes still closed. I wonder what's going to happen today? Probably the same as yesterday and the day before that and most probably tomorrow will also be the same as well.

Which in itself is reassuring, makes me feel warm and secure. Time for another stretch. And I can feel another yawn coming on - ah, that's great. What is it about a warm comfortable bed that makes you yawn and stretch? Especially when you don't have any particular reason to get up. Do I really have to get up? I bet it's really cold out there, and it's so nice and warm in my bed. Just a few minutes more and then I'll get up.

Someone's already up. I bet it's him, it always is. I can hear him in the kitchen, making the first cup of tea of the day. The tea will be for her, still laying in her bed, pretending to still be sleeping. I don't think she has ever got up first and made him a cup of tea, it's like a time-honoured ritual played out every morning throughout the year. Throughout the years more like, now I come to think of it. I don't get offered tea anymore. I was offered it once, some time ago, and I did try it but didn't like it. I made my feelings known, which is probably why I've not been offered it again. No great loss.

The sun is up, it's started coming through the blinds now, so at least it's not raining. I love it when the sun is shining, not just because it's warmer but also because everything seems to come alive, as if everything and everybody has been waiting for this moment in time to cram everything they wanted to do into a few

brief sunny hours. The long pent-up energy of all things seems to explode in a frantic haste to achieve as much as they can before the sun disappears again. Birds fluttering, fighting for the best perches.

Flower heads popping open, struggling to make themselves the most attractive for the busy buzzing bees. Even the clouds seem to be in a rush, scudding over the sky pushing all their competitors to the far horizons, leaving just themselves as the winner. Which, for me, is pretty cool. I like the sun. If there is nothing to do and nowhere to go, what can be better than just lazing in the sun? And when you come to think about it, it's just like laying in bed isn't it!



So. I have a big decision to make. Do I get up and out of bed now or just enjoy this wonderful luxury for a few moments more? Perhaps I should delay making the decision until I'm forced to. Yeah, that sounds like the better idea. I don't really need to go to the toilet yet so a few more minutes can't hurt. And it really is lovely and warm in here.

Quick, eyes shut again, he's coming back with her tea. She mutters an almost intelligible "Thanks" as he places the cup and saucer on her bedside table. Now he's off to the bathroom to 'perform his ablutions' – whatever that means. I do know it's a lot of splashing of water and vigorous brushing of teeth and some other strange sounding activities. Oh, and he gets dressed in there too. I'll know how cold it is by what he's wearing when he comes out and that's when he's going to get me out of bed, so I'm really enjoying these last few minutes, just time for another stretch. Aw yes – that's so good.

Here he comes and oh! yes! Great! He's got his shorts on, that means it's nice and warm out there, I like that! Suppose I'd better move

my body now and at last get out of my bed because he's bound to call me right now – and yes, there he goes calling me now!

"C'mon Buddy!" he calls, "let's go!" And I leap up from my nice warm bed and trot along the hallway and sit beside him. He ruffles my ears. I like that. He puts my lead on and off we go – out in the bright warm sunshine. Just like going hunting! Ah, the sunshine – this is fabulous, I can feel the sun warm on my back already. Should have got up a long time ago – who needs to lie in bed when the world is awake like this? Time for a bark I think!

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THE SALE OF THE CENTURIES

You may have seen them on the news, in books, or in person – the megalithic stones of Stonehenge have been a source of mystery for thousands of years. But did you know that there is a historic link to Stonehenge here in little old Hathern?

Considering its status as a UNESCO world heritage site, it is intriguing to reflect that until 1918, Stonehenge was private property. What is known is that in the 16th Century, Henry VIII “acquired” Amesbury Abbey and its surrounding lands. In 1540, he gave the estate to the Earl of Hertford. It passed through numerous Lords and Marquesses before being purchased by the Antrobus

family in 1824. After the last remaining male heir to the Antrobus legacy was killed fighting in France, a now much dilapidated Stonehenge came up for sale again, this time at auction at the New Theatre in Salisbury on 21st September 1915 as part of the sale of the whole of the Amesbury Abbey estate – Lot 15, Stonehenge itself with about 30 acres of adjoining land.

Step in, Sir Cecil Chubb. Chubb was born in Shrewton, just four miles from the Stonehenge site and had amassed considerable wealth as a barrister, as well as overseeing what was at the time the largest private Mental Health Asylum in the Europe.



Enraged that the stones could be bought by someone overseas (there were rumours in the auction house that the stones were potentially heading to the US) on the spur of the moment Chubb put in a winning bid of



Stonehenge in poor condition in 1870

£6,600, about £683,000 in today's money. It is said that he bought the stones as a present for his wife Mary, only for her to be less than pleased with his new purchase. Supposedly, he was sent to the auction by Mary to buy a set of dining room chairs, although other sources claim it was curtains!



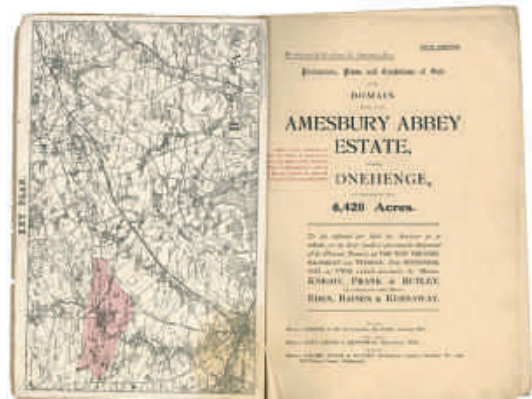
Sir Cecil Chubb and his wife Mary in 1926

Whims are often associated with deeply rooted emotions and in a letter written after the purchase he wrote "To me, who was born close to it and during my boyhood and youth visited it at all hours of the day and night, under every conceivable condition of weather – in driving tempests of hail, rain and snow,

fierce thunderstorms, glorious moonlight, and beautiful sunshine, it always has had an inexpressible charm."

On 26th October 1918, and perhaps encouraged by Mary, Chubb formally gifted Stonehenge to the nation. The deed of gift included the following condition:

"..that the public shall have free access to the premises hereby conveyed and every part thereof on the payment of such reasonable sum per head not exceeding one shilling for



The auction

each visit and subject to such conditions as the Commissioners of Works in the exercise and execution of their statutory powers and duties may from time to time impose."

Whilst the public may pay more than one shilling for entry these days, Chubb did set up a separate agreement with the Parish Council that stated that local people should be able to enter for nothing – an agreement that remains to this day for around 30,000 people.

The next year, Prime Minister David Lloyd George recognised his generosity with a title, Chubb becoming Sir Cecil Chubb, First Baronet of Stonehenge.

So, as interesting as this all is, you may be asking "Why is this featuring in a Hathern publication"? As it happens, one of Chubb's relations lives in our village, and is a face you may recognise if you have ever been to a Village Association event!

Jon Smith-Moorhouse, moved into the village after studying Engineering at Loughborough University and living in the town centre. He and his wife Rachel (who joined the Parish Council this year) have settled into village life by getting involved in all things Hathern. In fact, it was after one of the village events that Jon decided to share this information with his fellow actors, having just performed in the radio play of Scrooge in Hathern Village Hall, in December last year.

"It was only recently we worked it all out", says Jon matter of factly. "My late grandmother was at the time trying to track her lineage

and the link to the Chubb family became apparent. Following the female line of the family, through my mother and grandmother, my great grandfather was Kenneth Chubb. From there, you go sideways on the family tree."

Unfortunately, this is as far as Jon's grandmother got before her passing, but it does indeed seem to check out that a George Kenneth Chubb is in the

Chubb family tree in Wiltshire. "I keep meaning to pick up the torch and continue the exploration on her behalf – perhaps now I'm a trustee at the library I will be able to do that with some help!"

Far less provable is Jon's second family link – "My Aunt Mabel Moorhouse lent a good friend in Guiseley the funds to open up a fish and chip restaurant. I wonder what became of Harry Ramsden?"

Perhaps we will leave that one for another day.

Have you ever found someone in your family tree you didn't expect to see? Let us know!



ALSO THE HISTORIC REMAINS OF
STONEHENGE.
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A section of the auction advertisement for the whole of the Amesbury Estate



Sir Alfred Mond (left) and Cecil Chubb (right) at Stonehenge on the occasion of the gifting of the monument in 1918

JIM GISBORN

Have you ever spun a world globe or pored over a world atlas, gazing in wonder at far-flung lands with strange sounding names? Well, our 'Meet the Neighbour' for this edition, Jim Gisborn, has probably been to those countries and many more besides. Here's how he did it. And no, there is no relation to Sir Guy Gisbourne of Robin Hood fame, (he was French anyway) and Jim's family roots are firmly embedded in Guiseborough, North Yorkshire.

Orphaned before the age of two, Jim and his siblings were raised in Leicester by their eldest sister Pauline until he was sixteen. After listening to his elder brother talk endlessly of tropical islands and wonderful adventures, he followed in his elder brother's footsteps and joined the Merchant Navy as a trainee steward.

Jim's first ship didn't take him to those imagined tropical islands, it was more a case of surviving the cold and gritty coastline of the UK aboard a tanker, delivering fuel-oil to the refineries dotted along the coast. Still, after six months and £20+ in his pocket, that was quite a result for a 16-year-old.

Further trips on another tanker saw Jim going to Rotterdam, Murmansk and Montreal before trying to dock into Hartlepool as the biggest sand carrying bulk-carrier to attempt it. Well, the attempt failed miserably and got stuck on a sandbank and the ship had to wait



Jim and Mitch

for high tide before it could be pulled off by tugs.

The continuing lure of the tropical islands led Jim to volunteer to serve in the Far East, on tankers this time, so he was flown out to Singapore via KLM airways and spent nine months delivering aviation fuel along the coasts of Malaysia, Indonesia, Japan, Australia and out to New Caledonia in the Pacific.

One trip to Vietnam sticks in Jim's memory; whilst delivering fuel to the USAF bases at Ving-Tau and Nha-Trang in the De-Militarized Zone (DMZ), and watching tracer rounds arcing through the night sky and the distant hills being lit up by bomb blasts, the ship's safety lookouts called for help from the Vietnamese Navy to disperse Vietcong militants trying to plant limpet mines to the ship's hull! But at least the ship's crew got an extra 50p per day danger money for being in war-torn waters!

After that contract finished in Singapore, Jim flew home and waited for his next opportunity to find his tropical islands. Not having long to wait, he was flown to Genoa to join the

ship's company, another tanker, this time sailing around the Mediterranean, west coast of Africa then across the Atlantic to Corpus Christi, Texas. For a further six months it was up and down the east coast of the Americas from Maracaibo in Venezuela up to New York in the States, visiting numerous ports in between, Maryland, Portland, Maine, Jersey and New York. Incidentally, the port of Maracaibo gave Jim his first insight into repressive regimes, as he and several crew-mates were arrested at gunpoint for trying to leave the dock area! Still, timed to perfection, that contract ended on December 14 in Brooklyn, so it was a jumbo jet flight home from New York to Heathrow, just in time for Christmas – pretty good going for an 18-year-old lad!

Now it's February '72. Continuing to follow advice from his elder brother meant Jim applied to P&O (Peninsular and Oriental Steamship Company) for a position on a cruise ship. Interviews and medical checks in the London offices meant he had to experience the world-famous 'Paternoster' – a non-stop, jump-on, jump-off door-less lift! Don't panic, you Health and Safety experts, it's no longer in use!

So began Jim's fifteen-year career with P&O cruise liners. Australia bound from Southampton, Jim's desert island dreams were re-ignited with thoughts of sun-kissed sandy beaches – well, until they left Durban, South Africa that is, as the ship suffered a major electrical breakdown which took two days of aimless drifting to fix. That delay had a knock-on effect in Australia as the first of several Sydney-based cruises had to be cancelled. Which was a great shame because Jim had to spend six days in Sydney waiting for the next cruise date! Tough luck Jim, especially for an 18-year-old!

It's now winter '73 and P&O introduced their first major 'Crew Change' policy, where crews from around the world would

be flown back to UK; this policy was badly timed as it's now right in the middle of the UK fuel crisis, the winter of discontent. In Freddie Laker's charter aircraft, a DC10, the crew flew from Sydney into Singapore then onwards to re-fuel at Tehran, right in the middle of the overthrow of the Shah Phalavi by the Ayatollah Khomeini. The P&O crew were denied entry to the airport lounges by



Captain's Cocktail Party 1973

gun-toting Republican Guards and escorted back to the aircraft, which then took off for Gatwick.

After a month's leave in cold, dark England Jim flew back to Australia to join up with the cruise ship again, a system that continued for the next three years, Jim making many new life-long Australian friends in the process.

P&O now acquired an American franchise called 'Princess Cruises' and purchased a Norwegian ship to fulfil its criteria. All it needed now was a crew! Flying from Amsterdam to New York Jim and the new crew eventually joined the ship in Newport, Virginia. For those 'Dear Readers' who can remember a TV series 'The Love Boat', this was the ship it was filmed aboard, the 'Pacific

as and when required throughout the P&O fleet.

That role lasted for a while before economic necessities throughout the shipping world meant many ships were 're-flagged', crews of any nationality could apply for positions on any ships at salaries not acceptable to a lot of seamen. So, redundancy and Jim's seaborne career was over, and he signed off and left ship and P&O from Valetta in Malta.

Pub management in England seemed a natural progression and 'The Britannia' in Kegworth was the first opportunity to put his years of experience into profit-making practice, quickly followed by running 'The Blackbird' in Loughborough where their first son was born. Before long Jim and Meg had an offer they couldn't refuse, management of a nice quiet pub in a nice quiet village – 'The Three Crowns' in Hathern, which they successfully managed for nearly thirteen years. After the marriage break-up Jim took over the Dewdrop in 2001 and retired last year after 18 years of management. Now happily retired, Jim has an occasional trip to Washington DC to visit his youngest son who lives and works there, (Jim's eldest son lives in nearby Kegworth), and spends lots of time walking around the village and along the river with his dog 'Mitch'.

Jim has two main wishes for the village – the first being to maintain the green wedge between Dishley and Hathern, and the second being more rubbish bins spread around the village, to minimise the dropping of offending litter.

So, if you see Jim and 'Mitch' walking around the village, please give him a wave and 'Hello Jim!'



Bar Manager for P&O

Princess', and Jim sailed on its maiden voyage. Based in Los Angeles Jim spent 3 years on board. Then for purely personal reasons Jim changed ships and joined the 'Sun Princess' a smaller ship cruising Alaska in the summer, Caribbean in the autumn and winter in Mexico – tough job but someone has to do it. Eventually, Jim had found his desert island dream! And more besides as it was on this ship that Jim met Meg Beldon, his future American wife! They got married in Syston 1982. And he continued to live his tropical island dream for a further 3 years.

A slight change of direction now as Jim decided job variety and quality married life could best be achieved by becoming a locum or relief crew member, ready to fill vacancies

GEORGE COLMORE

AVIATOR

Did you know that the very first aircraft pilot in the Royal Navy was born in Hathern? He was George Cyril Colmore, born 14 September 1885. His parents were George

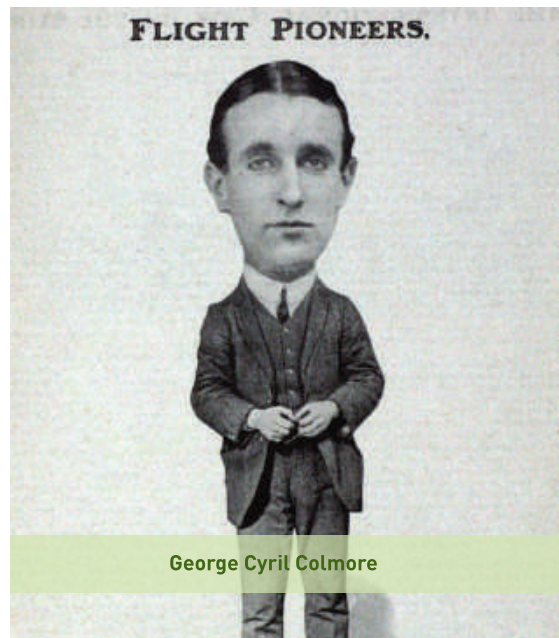


George Cyril Colmore

Henry Colmore, described as a gentleman and retired brewer, and Emily Laura Colmore, née Dashwood. Some sources say that his father had died when he was young, but actually his parents went through an acrimonious divorce. His mother remarried and in 1891 George was living in Bishopstoke, Hampshire with her and his stepfather Edward Linzee. In 1901 he enrolled as a Royal Navy Officer Cadet at the Thames Nautical Training College at Dartford. Two years later the first manned powered flight was achieved by the Wright brothers in North Carolina and the miracle of flight captured the imagination of many. George Colmore was determined to become an aviator.

The Short Brothers were British aircraft pioneers and were the first in Britain to gain a

licence from the Wright Brothers to construct their aircraft. In 1909, they began building biplanes to their own improved design on the Isle of Sheppey, and one of those, no. S26, was built for aviator Francis McClean. George learnt to fly at his own expense and flew S26 at Eastchurch in Kent on 20 June 1910. After 20 minutes of taxiing trials he completed two and a half circuits of the airfield before having to land because of engine trouble. The next day he succeeded in qualifying for his pilot's licence, the fifteenth awarded by the Royal Aero Club. In partnership with Cecil Grace, George competed in all the early flying competitions and in 1910 won an altitude prize at Bournemouth. In 1911 he married Phyllis Isobel Fellowes and would have been proud to give his occupation as "aviator" in the national census that year.



George Cyril Colmore

In July 1914, the Royal Navy established the Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS) and George transferred into the new organisation. On the outbreak of war, George was posted to the airship branch which had twelve stations around the coast. The airships



Short Brothers Biplane

provided aerial observation of German submarines threatening shipping and convoys. In November 1914 he was posted to Kingsnorth Airship station as a Flight Sub-Lieutenant. Initially an experimental and training station, it later moved on to production of airships and carrying out anti-submarine patrols. While posted there, George had a strange encounter while driving a car in Polegate, Sussex on 16 April 1915. A road was being guarded by a sentry and apparently, as a result of a misunderstanding, the sentry fired at the bonnet of the car wounding George in the leg. He was admitted

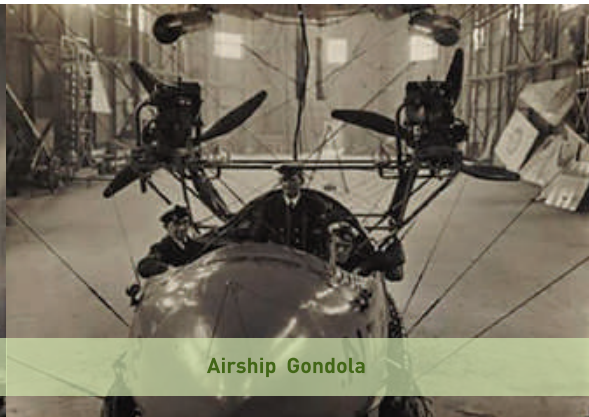
station was mainly used as a construction base for the Submarine Scouts which were assembled, tested but not flown and would be shipped to other RNAS stations by rail. George saw out the war at Wormwood Scrubs and was regarded as one of the

foremost authorities on the construction and flying of airships. When he received his war medals in 1924, he had the title of Squadron Commander. George and Phyllis had two sons, but the marriage ended in divorce. George married Margery Dorothy Bushby in 1921 and in 1928 he was living at Stoke House, Purton Stoke in Wiltshire. He died of heart failure on 23 June 1937.

Those magnificent men in their flying machines. Their dedication and pioneering spirit improved the early machines to become ever more efficient aircraft. They did this



The Last Airship Built at Wormwood Scrubs



Airship Gondola

to the Princess Alice Hospital in Eastbourne for treatment.

George was promoted in October 1916 to be Flight Commander of the Luce Bay Airship Station in southern Scotland which housed four Submarine Scout airships. In August 1917, George took over as commanding officer of the Wormwood Scrubs Airship Station. This

at enormous risk, and some lost their lives in the process. Many of those who survived lived to see air travel as a commonplace and successful mode of transport.

Thank you to David Pilling for providing information about George Colmore.

WINTER AT THE LIBRARY

The team behind Hathern Community Library (HCL) is continuing to work hard to make sure that the library is prepared for winter, and ever flexible to deal with the changing circumstances we all find ourselves in.

Regular visitors to the library may have noticed that the heating system has been upgraded, and with pretty good timing as the balmy temperatures we had in late summer gave way quite quickly as autumn arrived. There are also plans for continuing facilities improvement to be ongoing, so the library will be even more of a comfortable place to visit as we head into 2021.

In terms of opening hours, our general times are subject to review dependent on the Covid-19 situation, as you may expect. These will be reviewed in the new year, as will the face to face groups that we run, such as the Art Group and Craft and Chat. We continue to follow the advice of Leicestershire County Council and central government for such groups, particularly in terms of risks of social contact. There are lots of benefits to being a small library, unfortunately space isn't one of them. We are confident that we are able to continue to manage the library, following the relevant guidelines, and focusing on the safety of both our volunteers and those visiting the library. Please get in touch with the team if you have any concerns or queries.

Meet the team

Following the HCL AGM, HCL welcomed new members to the management team and this

seemed like a good opportunity to introduce some of the people that work hard behind the scenes, alongside the rest of our dedicated volunteer team, to keep the library going as a valuable service for the community. Some of the team have been around since the library became community managed, and it's great to see some new faces joining as well.



Jane Sorby, Annette Harper and Bill Leivers have been trustees and volunteers at HCL since it became community managed in 2016. They've all been part of the Hathern community for a while and note that it's about more than just books "The library community brings many social benefits, other than simply loaning books – it's also a hub for community groups and events." John Martin, a more recent member of the team agreed,

and noted that it serves Hathern along with surrounding villages, such as Long Whatton.

Andy Branch took over as Chair at the recent AGM echoed the community focus "The library epitomises the fabulous community spirit we have here in Hathern, and following my early retirement in 2018, I was keen to be a part of it." Jon Smith-Moorhouse, also new to the committee, said he wasn't expecting the level of community spirit in the village when he moved here, and that getting involved with HCL is his way of supporting the village.

Talking to the team, it is clear that they are all very proud of our village and of their little library – and rightly so!

You can find us on social media or at hatherncommunitylibrary.org



Jane Sorby



John Martin



Annette Harper



Andy Branch



Bill Leivers



Jon Smith-Moorhouse

A GOODBYE FROM PASTURES NEW PLAYSCHOOL



After 40 years Pastures New PlaySchool has had to close its doors.

Over that time, we have seen so many children come through our doors and watched as the play group became part of the fabric of the community in Hathern. We have even been privileged to see previous generations of pre-schoolers return with their children as families have stayed and grown in the village.

During the last few years, we have been looking for alternative premises to meet the demand for longer opening hours, but with the recent loss of the use of the community lounge at Hathern School following the COVID19 pandemic, and without a viable alternative in the village, there has been no option left to us but to close.

The sad demise of our much-loved playgroup has, however, meant that we have been able to support other local playgroups within the area with donations of equipment and finance, in the hope that during these very tough times they may still be able to continue.

The staff and committee of Pastures New have been overwhelmed by the support they have received from the village. They would all like to thank those who have helped and supported the play group in many different ways over the years, as volunteers and committee members and for attending the various fund-raising events we have held.

We hope we have served the village well over the past 40 years and want to say a final goodbye to those in the community who have come to know us and to all those children who have passed through our doors.

The Staff and Committee of Pastures New PlaySchool.

