



## Happier New Year

Belated New Year greetings in the hope that the year ahead brings us closer to the way we used to be. This a short interim newsletter to bring everyone up to date on what's happening in the CDHS.

I frequently see members walking past our house as they take their permitted exercise and more out and about as I take mine. Thank goodness we seem to have the capacity to remain cheerful and pretty stoic despite the restrictions, rain, daily Covid updates, and Brexit. Politics USA style have been a merciful distraction!

No distraction needed when I received my text from our wonderful surgery inviting me to an



The Pavilion on a snowy February morning...

armful of the Pfizer vaccine. On the due date I hot footed it down to the Pavilion. The journey itself felt like a bid for freedom and I was processed quickly, efficiently, painlessly - and with many smiles. I didn't recognise any CDHS members there at the

same time, perhaps because we're all masked like bank robbers these days. But the doctor dealing with me did say that a very large number of



...and back in 1961 with some famous visitors.

patients being currently jabbed (mainly upwards of 70 years old) remembered seeing the Beatles, The Who and the Rolling Stones live at the Pavilion in the 1960s. By her estimate the building must have been at least twice the size it is now to accommodate them! Funny thing, the memory.

My thanks go to all who have made this current history in the making possible – and to Messrs Jenner and Pascal for the original idea

## Society Committee

The Committee is going through a number of changes. Sophie Pandit and Peter Davis have both resigned from the Committee and we thank them both for their work and support. Both remain as members.

I am standing down (as Secretary), as is Jon Wrigley (as Treasurer). We leave at the end of our current financial year in February. We both would like to thank members for their help and support whilst we were on the Committee and look forward to seeing everyone again soon.

Paul Reed has agreed to take over the role of Treasurer and he and Jon are currently handing over. The situation with the Secretary position is slightly more difficult as there is no clear candidate for the role so the work I do is being covered by other members of the committee until this is resolved.

Val Lyons and Simon Caldwell have joined the Committee, Simon as Membership Secretary taking over some of the work previously done by Tim Lunt. Tim remains on the Committee as does Dave Bishop, Dick Irving and our chair Brandi Hall–Crossgrove.

All appointments to the Committee need to be confirmed by members at the next AGM and meanwhile we welcome Paul and Simon C. We hope to have news on further additions to the committee in the near future.

## Annual General Meeting

Once more we are facing the prospect of being unable to hold our AGM face to face together in the school hall. Therefore we are planning a meeting via Zoom with the usual paperwork sent out beforehand. For those unable to participate via Zoom we'll ask you to make any comments and vote on proposals by email or by post. I think this is probably the best we can do in the circumstances but I would be grateful for any suggestions you may have to improve on this plan.

## Museum of Bath Stone

You may have seen a recent article in the Bath Chronicle giving news of new management at the museum and at the Combe Down Stone Legacy Trust (CDSLTL) that runs it. These changes are, I'm sure, a great relief to Jen Morgan who has shouldered the burden of running the place pretty much on her own for several years. We'd like to thank Jen for all her work and to offer the new team at the museum every good wish with their endeavours.

## Search for family photos

Our Archivist Dave Bishop is already working with the museum's chief executive Miranda Litchfield on material for new displays. Miranda would like to include photos of past Combe Downers and their families. If you have anything suitable which you are happy to save in our archive and possibly use in displays please contact Dave Bishop on davidbishop31@btinternet.com or Miranda Litchfield on 01225 837439. Dave will scan the photos and return them to you.

## Mend the wall!

Last year we gave a grant to help fund improvements to the gateway and access to the Jewish Burial Ground in Bradford Rd which I'm sure those who have seen the work will agree was money well spent. If your lockdown exercise takes you that way you cannot fail to notice the wooden battens and chicken wire holding up the crumbling perimeter wall opposite the chip shop. This results from works carried out by the Council in 1995—a 'temporary' repair that has lasted 25 years.

The 'Friends' group that take care of the cemetery are about to put in an application to the Council for part of a pot of money they hold from developers (the Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy, or CIL).



Crumbling wall looking toward the Forester & Flower next to Mulberry Way roundabout



Such applications depend on being able to show neighbourhood support—the more responses they attract from local residents and groups like ours, the more likely they are to succeed.

So if you'd like to help, simply by expressing support, do please go online to

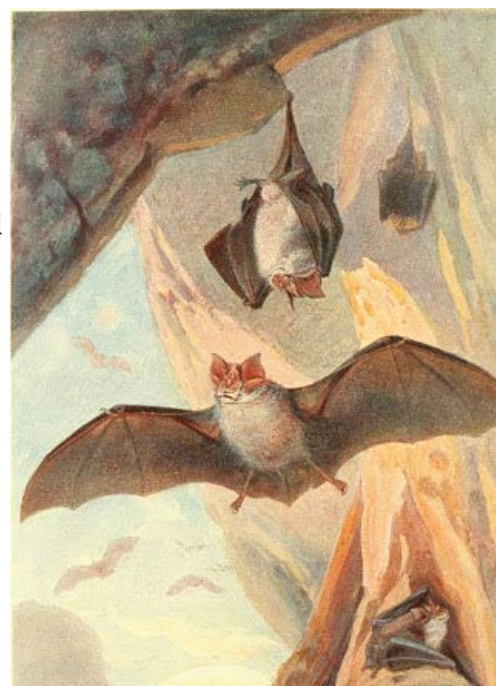
[bjbg.uk](http://bjbg.uk)

Or if you prefer write to BJBG, 33 Worcester Park, Bath BA1 6QU and say that you support The Friends of the Bath Jewish Burial Ground's application for CIL funds to repair the boundary wall which fronts onto Bradford Road.

## Combe Down's bats

Our remit as a heritage society includes the physical and social history of the village – and also of the natural world around us. The stone mines below the village have been home to bats since they were quarried and are an internationally recognised important habitat for the Lesser Horseshoe bat which has thrived there since the stabilization project.

Areas were created underground for incubation and for bats to roost but it seems now that help is needed to ensure these are maintained and secure. To that end we are assisting Dr Roger Ransome (who was the expert with responsibility for all bat affairs during the stabilisation work) in working with the Council and applying for any grants that are needed.



Watercolour illustration of the Lesser Hoseshoe bat

Simon Burrows