

FLOWERS IN AUGUST ... WE'RE GOING AHEAD!

SATURDAY 7 AUGUST, 2 PM - 5 PM

You'll find your programme and entry form enclosed in the magazine. A few changes for this year only. (Note that if all restrictions have been lifted, the COVID compliant requirements below may not be necessary):

The Flower Show will be on just one day - Saturday.

We will be presenting 'virtual cups' so no need to return cups to us this year.

A reduced number of classes.

We will be COVID compliant. If you have the NHS Covid app on your phone, please bring it with you. Otherwise, we will take your details on entry to the Hall.

Cakes for sale, but please could you bring your own coffee/tea.

It would be helpful if you could put together your floral displays and other exhibits at home where possible. There will be tables and water outside the Hall.

Exhibits can be collected on Sunday morning from 10 am - 12 noon.

Our contact details are on the programme. Don't hesitate to call us for clarification.

Thank you, and we look forward to seeing you on 7 August.

Liz Napier 321496

Chris Chappell 342035

Steve Westrip 07960 586028

Sue Forrest 321662



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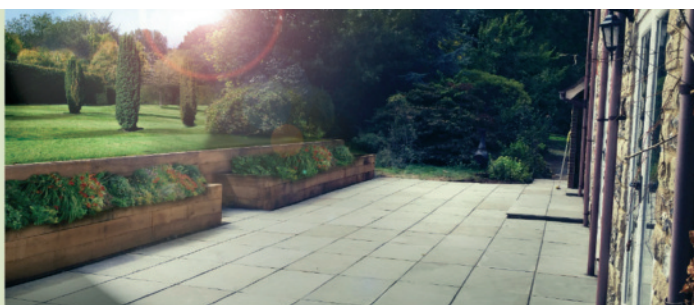
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Frampton's local cows meet the digital age ...

George Holmes

For those of you that don't know me, I am George Holmes. I farm Longlands Farm on top of the hill (managed by Jon Hurford) and Littlewood Farm in the park (herdmanager, Peter Jenkins).

In the last 6 months all of the adult cows at Littlewood and Longlands have joined the modern world and gone on line. If you look carefully at the cows you meet at either farm you will see they now have an orange tag in their ear as well as the yellow identity tag. The orange tag has a movement and temperature sensor in it. When the cows are within 500m of the sensor the tag downloads its data to the internet. This data is then translated by a computer system based in the Netherlands into information about the health and breeding condition of the cow and this is transferred back to any computer we want to use to access the information or on to a phone app. This tells us how much time the cow has spent eating, ruminating, resting and being active. It also compares her temperature to the rest of the group and her own normal temperature. This information can then be used to identify if she is unwell or if she is on heat. The cow can then be checked to see why she is unwell meaning we can now pick this up quicker, aiding earlier recovery.

The information to tell us if she is on heat is really useful. In the past we used a combination of stickers on the cows' backs that showed if the cow had been mounted by another cow (when they are on heat the cow underneath stands still rather than running away). In addition we spent quite a bit of time watching for heat activity, including going to the

farm every evening at around 9.30 during the breeding period to watch for 30 minutes. At Littlewood, this period is from late November to late February, when it can be a very cold, unpleasant job. Removing this chore is very attractive.

Now we just look at the phone app before each milking and we know which cows are on heat and require artificial insemination. We can then easily divide them off ready for insemination as we milk them. At Longlands, this has removed the need for bulls in the latter part of the breeding season. Artificial insemination has critics from some of the animal rights people but bulls can be dangerous to work with for the staff and accidents happen during mating with bulls. Both bulls and cows can end up injured, particularly if the bull gets too keen and tries to mount a cow before she is ready and she then runs away. In a field this is not so bad, but if this happens in the concrete yard, whilst cows are waiting to be milked, injuries occur.

Now we know exactly when the cow started her heat and we can time the insemination more accurately. To breed our replacement heifers we now use sexed semen and we get better conception rates when the timing is between 10 and 22 hours after the start of heat. As a result, this year at Littlewood, we had our best ever conception rates and we know we will have almost no male dairy calves born. All our replacement heifer calves will be born within a 3 week period helping management of their growth and the later calves will all be Aberdeen Angus cross calves, perfect to be reared for quality beef.

Your participation will be greatly appreciated ...



FVN's annual QUIZ NIGHT, FRIDAY 15 OCTOBER, FRAMPTON VILLAGE HALL

As most of you know, this is the only annual fund raiser for the FVN which, together with advertising revenue, enables us to give every household in Frampton a free copy of the magazine.

Mike Elliott and Dave Bentley will be our quiz masters, entertaining us with their wit and repartee ... More details in the September/October FVN. Meantime, we hope you'll put the date in your diary. Thank you

... and after Ethiopia it was to Djibouti ...
(David Tharby)

Frampton's Armchair Travellers' Club

... a small French and Arabic speaking country on the Horn of Africa, bordering Somaliland, Ethiopia and Eritrea with frontage to the Gulf of Aden and The Red Sea. The smallest African nation, for a century known as French Somaliland before a heavily disputed and strife torn referendum campaign led to independence in 1977. The capital is Djibouti city, in part an antiquated sprawl of abject slums interspersed with the trappings of a place striving for forms of modernity – hotels, offices and apartment blocks of dubious build quality.

We quickly discovered the aspects of a fundamentalist Islamic state, not ideally suited to visitors. A dislike of cameras, especially videos, the use of which provoked abuse and in one case stones thrown at our mini bus. The markets are lively and colourful but with a darker side.

Whilst admiring a stall of scarves and pashminas a lady in full face covering sidled up and whispered in perfect English 'are you from England?' when I said yes, she asked me to turn away and not to look at her as her husband's watcher was nearby. She told me she had studied medicine at Oxford on a scholarship for three years, as she wanted to be a doctor in her country. When she returned, she had been 'sold' to an older 'husband' who forbade her career and forced her to run his market stalls and would punish her with a beating if she was caught speaking to a stranger.

When the 'watcher' came over she visibly quaked and moved away but the sight of her fearful, dark brown eyes through the eye slit of her veil still lingers.

Why Djibouti you may ask. Whale Sharks (and Manta Rays) is the answer. Two in our group of six were marine biologists and wanted to study the phenomenon of the largest fish in existence giving birth to live pups, spending their early years in the warm, food-rich, relatively safe waters prior to making the long journey to the Pacific Ocean. Their

plan was to tag and photograph juveniles for future reference and identification.

After two noisy nights we embarked on 'Keyif', a beautiful two masted sailing boat fitted out with cabins and equipment including a pair of Ribs plus a crew of three. The Somali captain knew the waters and coastline well, his French wife was an excellent cook, assisted by an engineer and a chat-chewing Rib driver.

The country is a geological hotspot being the tripoint of three massive tectonic plates at the very northern end of The Great Rift Valley, in fact one of many highlights was standing over the fissure where it is only a foot wide and feel the searing geo-thermal heat rise up against the legs (shorts on!) a few moments was enough given that a few yards away a pool of boiling water simmered gently over what looked like a bleached white skeleton of a donkey or deer.

The most recent massive quake and upheaval took place less than a thousand years ago and left a legacy of contorted molten rock that looked like a gigantic iced cake with a spectrum of brilliantly coloured minerals. The desert floor, once the sea bed, is a deep layer of shells with 8 to 10 feet tall smoking chimneys exuding a foul sulphurous gas. Similar to those shown on deep sea dives.

We cruised under sail and motor up The Gulf of Tadjoura and visited the hinterland seeing wild camels, the very rare, unique and endangered Djibouti Frankolin (looks like a large partridge), various hawks, eagles and vultures. On one shore trip we stayed with an Afar family of goat herders and salt traders. Their simple and hospitable village comprised a number of small skin covered huts with a traditional central community building, however with day time temperature of around 34C/94 F and 28/80 at midnight living outside in the shade is the norm. Mainly vegetarian food with beers sufficed as a prelude to drumming, dancing and singing around the fire-pit, a sort of semi



1. Our hotel for the week was Keyif, a sailing cruiser.
2. The manta ray that played around us for several days.
3. The war cemetery at Tadjourna, the saddest part of the trip.
4. The helicopter dipping below the mountain to collect the sniper squad.
5. Standing on the crater rim.
6. The village huts for a two night stay.
7. Lac 'Assal
8. Villagers collecting salt.
9. Camel train setting off with the salt.
10. Lava flows on Devil's Island.
11. Dawn over the chimneys.

naked Morris dance with razor sharp machetes used instead of sticks.

The sunrises were beautiful overlooking Lac 'Assal, the lowest point in Africa at more than 450 feet below sea level, the result of a massive land drop that left about 30 square miles of the worlds saltiest water constantly fed by volcanic hot springs. The extreme temperature evaporates vast volumes of water and leaves a thick layer of pure white salt.

The local tribes still have access to their share for camel train distribution, but the majority is mechanically taken in slabs by diggers, conveyor belt and lorries to the nearest port for export.

Despite the toxicity of the water a variety of micro-organisms thrive, including a species of hardy shrimp, that provides food for a flock of about 500 flamingos that constantly move like a fluorescent pink bedspread across the blue water.

A party piece is to leave a pair of pants or socks overnight on the shore/salt line and come back next day to find them solidly encrusted; a souvenir to treasure - or dip them in a boiling pool for ten minutes to have them bleached, the whitest and cleanest they will ever be.

Back on board to continue the so-far fruitless search for whale sharks. Thankfully, the Manta Rays were still around so content with watching them performing alongside the Ribs while we fished for supper.

Next stop for replenishing supplies was Tadjoura, a fishing and trading port and the scene of vicious fighting in the inter-tribal civil war that was fought between 1991 and 1994. Many thousands were displaced, killed or injured and the saddest sight in the town was the cemetery containing several hundred graves, unmarked little stone humps with no markers or names, just the odd ribbon or poignant faded toy that indicated a child.

The sight and sounds of revolting and cruel Halal butchers operating in the streets made us hurry away to collect the recharged SCUBA tanks and get back on board. Enough said.

The next three days saw us cruising back, still no whale sharks seen, but a shore excursion to climb to

the volcano rim proved a bit different. The French moved their elite Foreign Legion to Djibouti from Algeria and then the Americans built a large, fully enclosed military base on the edge of the airport including a desert warfare centre.

Half way up a squad of six heavily armed men, a Barrett .50 cal among other guns evident, in full desert camo emerged, literally, from nowhere and demanded (in best Franglais) to know who we were and why we were there. We had unwittingly walked in on a joint US and French sniper school exercise, and were told, in best Texan, to get out of it. Shortly afterwards a helicopter arrived at low level and evacuated them. The intrepid Brits continued as planned to the crater amid the blood red lava field.

The major source of income is from nations vying for pole position in this important but war-torn region. The US pay about 62 million dollars a year, the French over 35 million, the Japanese have their sole overseas establishment and most recently the Chinese are in big time with a newly built military and naval port. I guess the new electric railway to Ethiopia and other infrastructure projects is the rent.

The last day on board, mostly in the bowsprit netting on watch, with a couple of SCUBA dives down to the coral reefs and assorted fish in water so warm we had to get out to cool off, unlike the UK. We asked the Skipper for one last Rib ride before dinner which he agreed to and, yes, a juvenile whale shark arrived, dorsal tail fluke up, slowly circled the rib, dived under it so close we could see the eyes, mouth gape and the gorgeous patterned skin. About 12 feet long and a truly gentle giant, we wished him or her a long life and safe journey to wherever with a generous toast later.

A sunset docking, after the peace and tranquillity of the 'Keyif', one last steamy, noisy night before catching the same geriatric Fokker Friendship back to Addis and the connecting flight to Heathrow. A stunning three weeks in a remarkable couple of very different neighbouring countries.



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Any comments about the FVN?

We'd appreciate your feedback.

Just contact us at framptonian@aol.com

BY THE WAY ...

THE FVN IS NOW ON THE FRAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE:

[HTTPS://WWW.HUGOFOX.COM/COMMUNITY/FRAMPTON-PARISH-COUNCIL-DORSET-15845/HOME](https://www.hugofox.com/community/frampton-parish-council-dorset-15845/home)

CLICK ON THE 'FRAMPTON VILLAGE NEWS' TAB AND OPEN THE PDF FILES

Fete Notice - New to You stall!

The ladies who run the New to You stall at the Fete are asking if you will kindly support them by donating items of men's, women's and children's clothes, shoes, bags, hats, scarves, unwanted gifts. In fact, any items in good conditions will be acceptable. Clothing suitable for autumn and winter will be particularly useful as we do have summer wear. Please look in wardrobes and cupboards for those things which you no longer require but would help us raise funds for village organisations.

Items may be left with June Roper, 10 Dorchester Road, or Joan Masters, 7 Rural Lane, or phone and we will collect. June's number is 320431 and Joan's is 320142.

THANK YOU!

Paws and Claws



NAME: **Sophie, 11 years old**

BREED: Jack Russell Terrier

OWNER: Timothy Roper

PET LOVE: She's very friendly, especially towards children

PET HATE: Cats and Hedgehogs

OWNERS TIP: Don't expect a Jack Russell to obey your commands immediately. They will eventually, but in their own good time

The FVN Committee would like to thank Kate for taking over the Nature Notes article.

We know everyone will enjoy Kate sharing her observations and photographs of the Frampton countryside.



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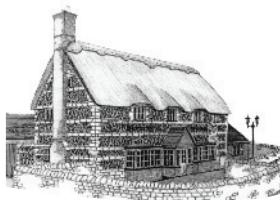
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WHEN OPEN:

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The Coffee shop and bakery will continue to be open between 10 and 12 every Thursday morning.

New summer menus



A local, a restaurant, a B & B

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**IN THE GOOD PUB &
BEER GUIDE 2021**

