

Know your Neighbour

We focus this month on a couple of our more well known residents; Denis & Julie Linzell, who live in one of the houses known as Crossways.

Denis is a local lad, being born at Shearlangston, Modbury. His father was an agricultural mechanic and his mother a housewife, looking after 7 children. Denis went to school in Kingston and then Modbury. The family lived in Modbury until Denis was 13 years old when a small incident of him accidentally burning down the family home whilst his parents visited his brother in hospital led to the family moving into a farm cottage in Kingston.

Denis's parents eventually ended up running the village store in St Anne's Chapel—Lynwood stores was opposite where the current shop is now. They ran the store until his mum died when she was 60 years old.

Denis trained as a motor mechanic and for 20 years worked in Kingsbridge at Wills Garage. He married, had 2 children and lived with his family in Bigbury on Sea until the break up of his marriage.

Julie is not a local lass, born in Llanvaches, South Wales—Julie arrived in this area via Cornwall. When she was 16 years old she left school and trained as a hairdresser. Her fiancé's mother had three hairdressing salons. Julie was asked if she would run one of

these salons which happened to be in Looe, Cornwall. So — ^{she} ~~her~~ and her future husband moved to Cornwall, where they married and Julie eventually had her children Ty and Zak. An opportunity came up when some friends who were taking over a pub ask Julie and her husband if they would move with them and help run the place. The pub in question being the Tom Crocker at Bigbury on Sea.....the same Tom Crocker that Denis helped run.

Denis after the break up of his marriage was offered a flat by a friend over the Tom Crocker pub and was soon asked if he would help out—which he did for 6 years until the arrival of Julie's friends with Julie and husband in tow. At this point Julie and Denis became neighbours and fate took over. One dog walk led to another and to another and very soon Julie and Denis were more than just dog-walking friends. New owners took over the Tom Crocker, Denis stayed on as maintenance person and Julie moved with her children to a caravan at Challaborough, until the council housed them at St Anne's Chapel—she also started her mobile hairdressing business.

Love blossomed and Denis soon moved in with Julie. Julie applied to the council to buy the house but it was declined, ^{but} ~~but~~ was told that if she transferred to another village she would be able to purchase their home. They decided to transfer to a house in Ringmore—which they subsequently bought.

Julie was doing the hair of a client and casually asked if there were any jobs at the golf course—Dave Freeman contacted Denis and offered him the job as a green-keeper, a job he has done for the last 20 years ~~it~~ ^{he} is now deputy head green-keeper.

It was also around this time that their love affair with the village of Lindos on the island of Rhodes commenced. Julie had previously visited with a girlfriend and the children and was captivated by the place. ^{The} following year Denis went along and was also smitten. They have now visited Lindos every year since and in 1993 they were married there. No-one knew until they returned that they had tied the knot. They have now been going to Lindos for 23 years.

Denis and Julie have now lived in Ringmore for 19 years. ^{During} this time they have been involved in and supported many events. When the kids were young, Julie ran the youth club with Chris Jones and Ursula Phelan. For the last 16 years she has competed in the Bigbury Fun Run and raised heaps of money for charity and recently ran and raised enough money to buy an Aguchek machine for the Modbury health centre. She says she will continue to run so long as her legs will carry her around the course.

Denis is due to retire in 2 years. ^{He} will then be able to devote even more of his time to his passion, gardening. In 2003 he had major heart surgery, an aortic valve replacement, which was successful and has in no way curbed his enthusiasm for enjoying life. In fact they both enjoy life to the full and intend to continue their holidays to Lindos, are regulars at the Journeys End and like a good social life. Cheers!!

