 LYMPSTONE LIVES

CHRIS CARTER

Born in Devon but raised in Yorkshire, Chris Carter returned to the South West on a sailing trip down the coast with his wife, Judith. They anchored on the Exe then discovered and fell in love with Lympstone.

My first home was an ancient cottage in Yealmpton with no electricity at the end of the 2nd World War where my grandparents had been shifted to allow the American Army to take over Blackawton village (including my mother’s family home). Taken to Yorkshire before I could object and educated in a series of leaky huts, I somehow managed to pass my 11+ and get to grammar school. I spent the next four years in the uniformed branch of the AA then, after an accident disabled me, the AA moved me into computers in London in 1965 just in time to enjoy the swinging 60s. In 1973 I was married and had a daughter. We now have three lovely grandchildren who love to visit Lympstone.

I spent most of my life developing computer systems in business. My most interesting system was an enquiry programme called ‘Pert for Pets’ which I built in my own time and sold in the early 1980s (which bought us a holiday cottage in Lympstone). Teaching at local colleges in North London and Gloucester allowed me to expand my knowledge of IT; teaching adults to read and write in North London was an exciting hobby I shared with Judith.

My main hobby was sailing, visiting many ports on the South coast from Brighton to Cornwall and Cherbourg to Brest. We also sailed in areas as disparate as eastern Australia from Brisbane to Sydney and the Bahamas. At the turn of the century a stroke reduced my mobility and I retired to develop small computer databases and websites for the village.

Chris has made a significant contribution to life in the village. He has helped to get flood protection installed and became secretary of the Shop Supporter’s Club when the village shop faced closure. For the last sixteen years he has served on the Parish Council, edited the Lympstone Herald and for many years created and maintained the Lympstone Village website.