

Save Our Village Post Office

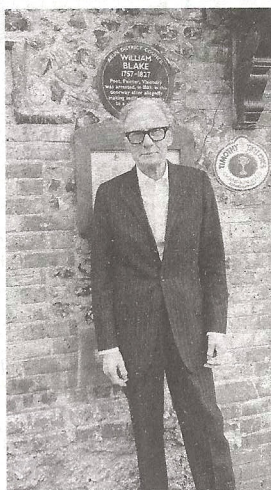
AN EVENING WITH BILL NIGHY

On Tuesday, May 14th, at St Mary's Centre, Felpham was entertained by the internationally renowned, award-winning actor Bill Nighy. The hall was packed for an 'Evening with Bill Nighy' in support of the *Save Our Village Post Office* Campaign. Interviewed by Lizzie Mickery, Bill spoke about his career and the many roles he has played. He told hilarious stories featuring his part as Davy Jones, the Squid Pirate, in the *Pirates of the Caribbean*, and his delight in his role as Viktor the Vampire in the *Underworld* series. He spoke personally and intimately about his life, his approach to acting with the odd nuggets of media gossip!! The audience loved him, rating the night as brilliant, hilarious, sensational. Someone even flew in from Finland to see the show, and Bill signed his *Pirates of the Caribbean* poster afterwards. The evening was made even more successful by the help of all the hard-working volunteers. Students from Felpham Community College, Eloise Lyons and Libby Wood, keyboard and vocals, and Karina Natkinis, keyboard, opened the evening with two wonderful performances.

At the end of the show Bill, in a heartfelt speech, spoke of his belief in the Post Office as central to the life and health of a village. He has very generously agreed to become a Patron of the *Save Our Village Post Office* campaign. The Directors of Friends of Felpham cannot thank Bill enough for his generosity in helping the Campaign. Praise, however, was a two-way street. Bill thought the audience was great and thoroughly enjoyed himself. He also enjoyed his stroll around the village and took a few moments to stand on the shingle and commune with the sea, as we all do from time to time.

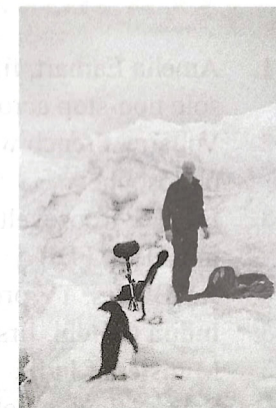
A JOURNEY SOUTH

Another fantastic event is lined up on behalf of the *Save Our Village Post Office* Campaign. The award-winning wildlife sound recordist, Chris Watson, is coming to Felpham, on the evening of June 11th. Chris Watson is Sir David Attenborough's go



to man and was involved recently in Apple TV's *Earthsounds* and Sky TV's *The Secret World of Sound*. He frequently appears on BBC Radio 4's *Broadcasting House*, and also *Great Lives* and *Tweet of the Day*. In *A Journey South*, he will be talking about his trip to the Antarctica with Sir David, illustrated with stunning images and amazing sounds.

June 11th will be a unique opportunity to travel with Chris to the end of the earth and witness all its glories, an opportunity that is literally melting away. The warming of Antarctica's territorial waters has caused the weakening or outright collapse of ice shelves, which float just offshore of glaciers and stabilize them. Many coastal glaciers have been losing mass and retreating, which causes net annual ice loss across Antarctica.



Photograph by Jason Roberts

Change is frequently a force for good, but not always. As part of the requirements for the Friends of Felpham's Government Grant Application, we have been gathering views from local shops and businesses about their thoughts on the impact if we were to lose the Post Office. (Thank you so much to those who responded.) All have talked about not only the impact on business and residents, but on the community as a whole.

The grant application requires a great deal of highly specialized box filling. Viability and feasibility reports, codes of conduct, building plans, aims and buzz words. But how do you capture in words the essence of community? The neighbour who knocks on your door to see how you are, the time it takes to get around as you stop to say hello to fellow villagers, the carols by the Christmas tree as the children sing. The Felpham community is truly bigger than the sum of its parts. And community isn't something that just comes about because of luck. Community grows through goodwill, laughter, mutual support and lots of dogs, of course. Maybe, sadly, it is too late to save some of the Antarctica glaciers, but not too late for Felpham Post Office, one of the core assets of our village. A legacy we would pass on to those who come after us.

A JOURNEY SOUTH WITH CHRIS WATSON – Tuesday June 11th, 7pm, St Mary's Centre, Felpham PO22 7NU, Chris will present this extraordinary Antarctica trip, with images and sounds from that unique and miraculous landscape. You can explore his work at - www.chriswatson.net. **Tickets, £12/£5 for students 18 or under, from the Post Office or our website friendsoffelpham.org.**

Lizzie Mickery