

Holford news & views



July - August 2021

Editorial



Another wet morning, after a disappointing evening. For those who let national sporting events pass them by I refer to The Football Match. Trying to find positive things to include in this editorial is hard but not impossible.

It is good to feel life and community immerging again after more than a year of lock down. The village hall is 'up and running again' with clubs and activities to suit 'every taste.' St Mary's is also opening the doors once a month for services and it is a lovely setting for other events.

We said goodbye to Stewart and Elaine Tavner, Tina and Mark Speight and Paul our postman who has given me a letter which will be included in this edition. They will be missed but we wish them all well in the future.

Welcome to the people who have moved into the village. Mo Young will, by now, have delivered the welcome cards to Linda and Graham, Steve and Lorraine and Dr Russell. We hope you all enjoy Holford and the surrounding area as much as we do.

One sad note I'm afraid. Someone or organisation decided they didn't like the rooks who had been living in The Silk Mills rookery. Part of the tapestry of Holford for some time was destroyed and a pile of bodies dumped on Stowey Lane. Authorities in West Somerset have been informed and if any one knows why and/or who was responsible for such an act let us know. Since January killing of wild birds is strictly regulated by law. I would like to know why and how. Were the birds shot or poisoned? If the latter then we should all be careful, especially when out with dogs. If it was a question of crop damage there are several people in the village experienced in making scarecrows who would, I'm sure, be willing to share their expertise.

With the proposed re-organisation of the bus services under the 'Bus Back Better' project you have a chance to make your views known as to the services you would like to see in Holford. Email your comments to somersetbuspartnership@gmail.com

Enjoy this edition of HNV and have a good summer.

Christine Mew

Don't forget to keep us informed of any interesting articles worthy of sharing. Please don't send pdf files or images and text directly from you phone – these are very difficult to edit. Save your photos and images to a jpeg file. If you are unsure contact Emma for help

This edition of Holford News and Views is kindly sponsored by The Plough

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NEWS FROM YOUR VILLAGE HALL



Village Hall Update

Village Hall to re-open fully Monday 19th July

I write this on 12th July having just listened to Boris and his scientific and medical wingmen announce the lifting of lockdown. The pandemic is not yet over.

It appears, however, the Hall can fully re-open without restrictions from Monday 19th July. There will be no **official** need for sanitiser, masks, one-way systems, social distancing, limits on capacity, ventilation etc.

We recognise that for some, venturing out of lockdown after such a long time may be problematic. So, we would ask everyone to be patient and have understanding for others as we all acclimatise to 'normal' life again. Some may still wish to wear masks and be cautious about mixing. We will communicate with the Hall hirers (mostly the clubs and societies) to discuss how they wish to meet the demands and needs of their groups.

The committee meets on 21st July to finalise the arrangements for this next phase. I can't help but think we will have much more to do before we can finally say we are back to normal.

And please think about booking the Hall for your next party or celebratory event!
Alan Falkingham - Chair

VEGAN COOKERY COURSE



Sunday 26 September 10am-4pm
at Holford & District Village Hall
with talented chef **Alanna Trillingham**

Learn to prepare and enjoy a delicious lunch of tamarind tofu stir fry, with aromatic basmati rice.

Then make homemade gluten free pasta and homemade mozzarella cheese for a hearty lasagne. Two generous helpings prepared in foil baking dishes for you to take home.



£45 Book early – spaces are limited
email: terrapioretreats@icloud.com
or text: 07930 145909

Richardsons' Ramblings

This time I am going to tell you why Scotland is my favourite holiday destination. My love affair with the country started when I was about 10 when my parents bundled my older sister, wire haired fox terrier and me into their Morris Oxford (I think) along with all the camping gear going from Suffolk when there was a serious lack of dual carriageways let alone motorways. When I say camping gear it was not the lightweight equipment you buy today but a heavy canvas tent (and camp beds for mum and dad), bivouac for Jen and me with hurricane lamp and primus stove – you get the picture! I can remember camping above Oban and near Edinburgh – with a box brownie I took a photo of the Firth of Forth Bridge before the middle section was completed. Now only buses and taxis can travel on that bridge as there is a new one for other vehicles.

I thought the lochs and mountains were wonderful and jumped at the chance at 15 to go with my Sea Ranger Group (we then lived in Sussex) to a mixed international camp. It was called *Janus* and was the first ever one for Ranger Guides and Venture Scouts. Two great weeks by Loch Laggan followed (it did rain and there were midges!) with hikes, riding, Highland Games and even swimming (very cold) in the Loch.

In 1979 I introduced Mike to Scotland but we made the mistake of camping by Loch Lomond – a good job he still occasionally smoked cigars as they were very good at keeping the dreaded midges at bay. Sometimes our dogs went but our Giant Schnauzers really preferred to go to their holiday home in the woods near us! We stopped camping many moons ago and have stayed in most regions of Scotland but the only islands we have been on are Skye (before the bridge), Mull and Arran, also visiting Iona and Handa. One of Mike's favourite golf courses (Rosemarkie & Fortrose) is on the Black Isle, which is not an island – great views and the chance to see bottle nosed dolphins. I went onto Cape Wrath, which is the very north-western tip of Scotland, and could only go via a small boat and mini bus. (The alternative is the Cape Wrath Trail).



1994 was the first time we went to the Trossachs staying at Tigh Mor, near Loch Katrine. We have been there several times before heading off north or west. The property was originally a Victorian hotel and featured in Kenneth More's *39 Steps* as a school along with a local tearoom. We have a private field down to Loch Achray where the dogs love to run free but ours have never gone into swim or paddle! The dogs have happily gone with us on the steamship, Sir Walter Scott on Loch Katrine – birthplace of the legendary Rob Toy MacGregor and the setting for some of Sir Walter Scott's poetic works. The Loch was selected to supply much needed fresh water to Glasgow and in 1859 Queen Victoria opened the sluices. She demanded accommodation be built for an overnight stay – Royal Cottage had all its windows shattered by the 21-gun salute!

Gae

Quiz Some tough questions to challenge you this time!

1. Who was the last man on the Moon?
2. What was Sleeping Beauty's real name?
3. Samuel Beckett's play Waiting for Godot was originally written in which language?
4. Which protected, blue-veined sheep's cheese is matured in the Combalou Caves in south-west France?
5. In astronomy, Perseids, Leonids and Draconids are examples of what?
6. Which flowering plant is often used as a remedy to treat mild and moderate depression?
7. Which chain of department stores founded by Dutch brothers Clemens and August Brenninkmeijer withdrew from the UK market in 2001?
8. In humans the upper jaw is known as the maxilla. What is the name of the lower jaw?
9. What name, dating back 1,000 years, is given to a confederation of maritime towns and villages in Kent and East Sussex?
10. A member of Neville Chamberlain's cabinet gave his name to a type of air-raid shelter given to members of the public before and after the start of the Second World War. What was it called?
11. The story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego features in which book of the Bible?
12. Which Japanese casual wear designer, manufacturer and retailer opened its first branches in the UK in 2001?
13. Which Scottish actor supplies the narration for the current BBC1 series of The Repair Shop?
14. In Greek mythology who was the goddess of divine retribution and revenge?
15. What was a Snickers bar called before its name change in 1990?
16. Titan is the largest moon of which planet in the Solar System?

Answers on Page 8

Spark Somerset

is the local infrastructure charity providing free support and advice to voluntary sector groups and organisation across the county. They run the Volunteer Service, [Spark a Change](#), helping hundreds of people in Somerset to volunteer each year. Through their work they aim to provide the skills and support to help groups and organisations become self sustainable. Spark are also a voice for the voluntary sector on a number of district, county and regional groups, ensuring that the sector is represented, consulted with and viewed as an equal partner with other statutory organisations.

There is a dedicated part time advisor for the Somerset West & Taunton area, Jenny Hannis. Jenny's role is to support groups in SWT in areas such as governance, funding advice and volunteering as well as working in partnership with a range of other organisations to champion the voluntary sector. **Spark** also have a lottery funded Community Development Worker, Gill Harrison, who is based in Taunton supporting groups with volunteering. If you would like to talk about how **Spark Somerset** could support you then please get in touch with Jenny on jenny.hannis@sparksomerset.org.uk or 07971 912452 and please share her contact details with anyone who may find them useful.

Hinkley C – an update from Erland Plomgren

'I find it difficult to believe that I have now been a Parish Councillor for over two years. It's been an interesting time working with a great team and hopefully has been of some benefit to our lovely parish.

Apart from normal Council duties, I'm also responsible for Parish Maintenance and representing our Parish on both Hinkley Point Stations A & B and on the Hinkley new build C.

During those two years I have attended over thirty meetings (latterly by Zoom) and to say that the first six months was a steep learning curve is to put it mildly, however, I now feel much more comfortable representing our Parish and with that in mind, have decided to publish all minutes and presentations on the Holford village website (with thanks here to David Talling) for you all to read and hopefully become more informed on projects being undertaken by EDF and its partners.

The minutes on Station A (currently being de-commissioned) and Station B (still generating electricity) are shown separately from H.P.C. and are managed completely independently with different chairmen and committees.

Hopefully the minutes and presentations will be self-explanatory but if you have any questions regarding them, please don't hesitate to contact me.

I have asked H.P.C. if they would consider holding a meeting in our village hall to show you all the progress to date, this they have agreed to do providing there is enough interest. If you would like this to take place, please contact me and I will make the necessary arrangements.

In the future when things return to 'normal' and you would like to tour the construction site, I will advise on the best way to do this.

I hope this has proved helpful to you all and as I said earlier, do contact me should you have any questions!'

Erland Plomgren

July 2021

Holford Parish Councillor



Local people recently enjoyed the invitation to visit the wild flower meadow at Winsors Farm. Many thanks to Peter Whitworth for his interesting tour and a chance to see the fantastic display of orchids. Such hard work has been well worth while.

Hinkley Point C - Monthly Update

A round up of the latest news from Hinkley Point C.



Hinkley Point C's pre-fabrication bunkers are specifically designed to provide protection from the elements. Inside, work has now started on construction of the domed roof for Unit 1. A temporary structure was constructed earlier this year to position the 38 panels which make up the dome roof and facilitate welding. When constructed the dome roof will weigh 200 tonnes, with 500 metres of welding required to join the segments together.

In the Heat Sink area on Unit 1 focus is on "bulk work". This means continued pouring of the circa 100,000m³ of concrete required to construct the Pump House building and associated reinforcement works. The Pump House is a 54 metre high structure, with 35 metres of that sitting below ground.



Three separate concrete pours have taken place on the outer containment on the Unit 2 reactor building. The outer containment is a 1.3 metre thick, curved wall which surrounds the nuclear reactor. Works on the wall began back in June 2020, with 1,740m³ of concrete being poured between then and now to complete the current section.

The Hinkley Point C Community Bus Service is operating again between Bridgwater and Minehead.



Visit our website to see what measures we have put in place to keep passengers safe and find the latest timetable.



Read the latest edition of Plugged in, the Hinkley Point C community magazine, on our website.

If you would like to receive future editions of Plugged in straight into your inbox or posted to your home address, get in touch on the details below and let us know.

Get in touch

Website: edfenergy.com/hpc

Email: hinkley-enquiries@edf-energy.com

Telephone: 0333 009 7070

FORTHCOMING EVENTS



HOLFORD FLOWER SHOW

AUGUST 7TH 2021

2-4.30PM

**HOLFORD AND
DISTRICT VILLAGE**

HALL

REFRESHMENTS

AVAILABLE



**Tabletop Sale
and
Coffee and Cake**

HOLFORD VILLAGE HALL
Saturday
4th September
10am - 1 pm

£10 per table inside
£5 per table outside

proceeds to St.Marys' churches
Strington and Holford
and Holford and District Village Hall

for more details please phone
01278 741367 or 741215



We will be back with our
monthly meetings in
Holford and District
Village Hall starting on
Tuesday 21st September at
7.30pm

All Welcome!

Quiz Answers

1. Gene Cernan
2. Aurora
3. French
4. Roquefort
5. Meteors
6. St John's Wort
7. C and A
8. Mandible
9. Cinque Ports
10. Anderson Shelter
11. Daniel
12. Uniglo
13. Bill Paterson
14. Nemesis
15. Marathon
16. Saturn

Holford Parish Council - Chairman's Report July 19th 2021

It has been difficult to move projects forward due to various lockdowns and the large number of people furloughed has resulted in reduced staffing levels. Although remote working has enabled some progress it has often been painfully slow. From today all legal restrictions are to be removed although it seems likely that there are many people who will feel more comfortable continuing to wear masks and keeping their distance in public places.

Planning

An enforcement order has been initiated to remove the building on Strawberry Field but there has been no progress so far and there has been a recent appeal against the enforcement order. This is a matter for the Planning Authority and not within the PC's remit.

We are pleased to announce that the planning application from Falcon Housing to update the facilities at the Portway playground has been approved. As yet they are not able to say when work will begin due to a large backlog of maintenance needs at their houses.

Alfoxton House has also received approval for its change of use to a Buddhist retreat and work is underway. The conservation officer is monitoring progress.

Environment

The 'wilding' of the grass verges on the A39 is an ongoing project. This aim is to establish an area for wild flowers and insects as endorsed by PlantLife. An update will be given under item 10 on the agenda. (See minutes on line)

In an act of extreme vandalism the rookery in the Silk Mills area has been systematically exterminated. The Police have been notified but there does not seem any likelihood that the culprits will be identified. The routine killing of wild birds has been illegal since the beginning of the year unless a farmer can demonstrate that they are damaging crops. It is a sad and shocking event not least because the dead birds were left in a pile on Stowey Lane to cause disgust and a health hazard.

The potholes around the Car Park in the village have been filled again. The noticeboards have been given a face-lift but it has not been entirely successful. The meeting will decide whether to repeat the process or leave it for another year and then have an upgrade or renew.

Traffic and Transport

Holford's Community Speed Watch continues to run smoothly thanks to dedicated volunteers. The weather has been kinder too and they have only had to cancel two watches because of rain. Our Speedwatch is one of approximately 65 in the County. Please see the Holford Parish Council website for more information.

To date The Parish Council has not received any emails, phone calls or letters regarding problems with traffic. However, due to monitoring by the Community

Speedwatch Team it was established that some vehicles do exceed the speed limit on the A39.

The Parish Council's Traffic Team (Emma Cavendish, Mike Copleston and Stephen Campbell) continues to investigate ways to reduce speeding on the A39. New signage has been agreed by SCC Traffic Management and we have been promised a time schedule for the work to be carried out. However, in the response from Traffic Management it said that it had to be completed with the financial year (which ends next April.) Hopefully it will happen sooner rather than later. The Parish Council is looking into applying for a grant from EDF for the purchase of two Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) but there are strict requirements for the application which may take some time to fulfil.

The Chairman is in the process of drafting a questionnaire to be distributed to all Parishioners to assess their concerns regarding traffic. However, this will involve costs for postage and printing so will be debated under item 10 Traffic.

The Chairman attended a 'Bus Back Better' Stakeholder Engagement event via a Zoom conference. The Government is proposing to de-regulate bus services and give local authorities the power to decide how best to serve their communities. SWT council has begun a consultation on BSIP (Bus Service Improvement Plan) with the benefit of a large pot of government funding. SCC requests input from local people as to their requirements from a bus service. Any local person can contact SCC with their comments. John Woodman and Tim Reynolds are the transport contacts. Email address for your comments is somersetbuspartnership@gmail.com
We can only dream of a reliable, hourly bus service in Holford.

Local Government

Local people voted for a two council system rather than one large council. The Government will need to confirm which model they will approve.*

Hinkley Point are shortly opening a new visitor centre for the public at Cannington Court and they have invited any member of the Parish Council to go along and see the new centre in August prior to its opening to the public.

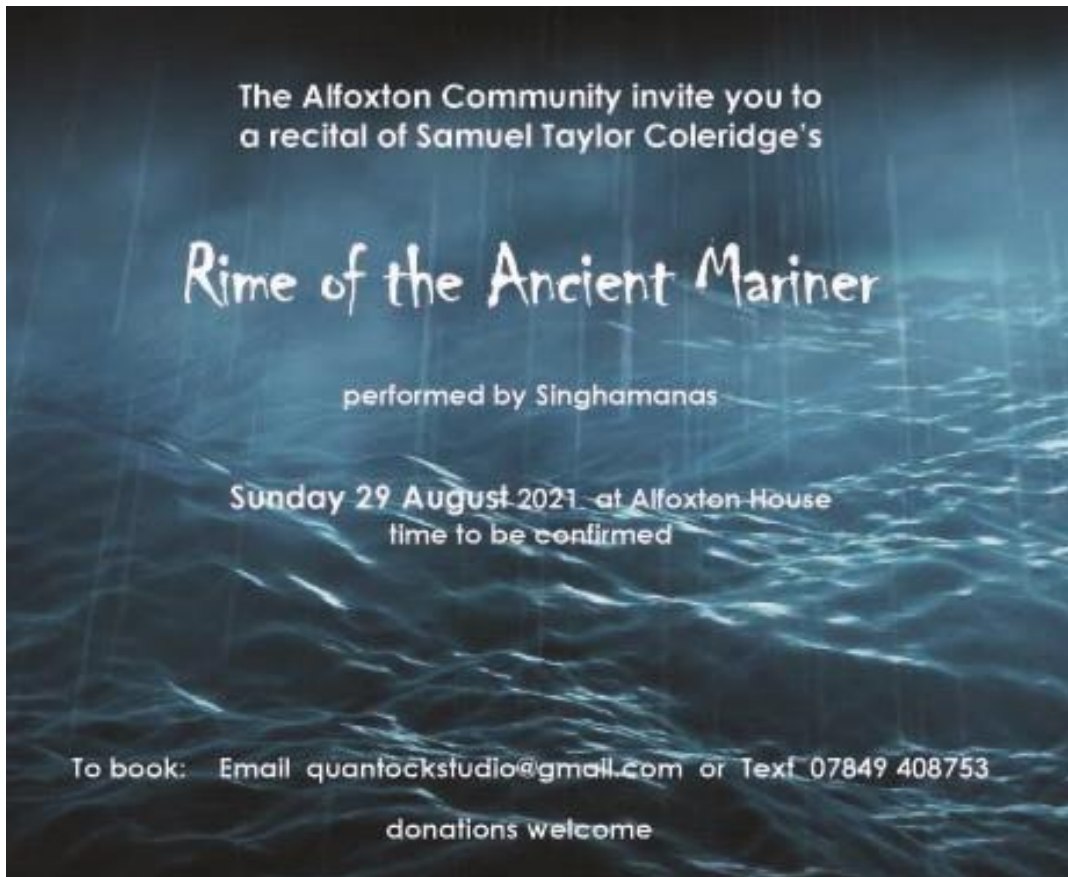
Emma Cavendish Chairman

Contact details for all the councillors are on our website www.holford-pc.gov.uk and on the village notice boards

Addendum : The Community bus service is now back. The shields around passengers will be removed and only the driver's will remain. Masks must be worn. Timetables are published and a copy is available at the A39 bus stop in Holford.

*Councillor Hugh Davies reports that the preferred model for the new council will NOT be considered by the Secretary of State due to late submission.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS



Update : Music beforehand and a 7pm start

u3a – Learning

u3a gives members local and national opportunities to learn a wide range of things at low cost. You can share your skills with others, take up something new and develop your interests in a friendly atmosphere. Over 40,000 u3a interest groups meet in the UK every week, face to face and more recently, online.

The choice is endless, and reflects local interests: from cookery to creative writing, philosophy to films, maths to mindfulness. The decisions about what to do are made by local members.

PLEASE COME ALONG TO HOLFORD VILLAGE HALL AT 2PM ON
WEDNESDAY 15th SEPTEMBER TO FIND OUT MORE
Mo Young maureenyoung@hotmail.com

PRESENTATION



On Wednesday, June 16th, there was a gathering in the Village Hall car park to say farewell to Paul Smith our very good friend and postman and to wish him a long and happy retirement. The only problem was that our good wishes were somewhat premature as we had learned that there was some confusion as Paul was not retiring just yet! However, after some consideration it was decided to go ahead with our gathering and presentation.

We gave Paul a lovely card signed by those who had contributed and also £400 which had been collected for him. Paul has been our postman for the past 23 years doing his job in all weathers, he has faced up to various hazards including dogs with large, sharp teeth and letter boxes designed to chop fingers off!



We will miss Postie Paul when he does decide to leave us, we will always remember him and wish him a long, happy and well deserved retirement.

Penelope Aldridge

July 2021 To All My Friends in Holford

I would like to extend a huge and sincere thank you from the bottom of my heart to the community of Holford for the kindness and generosity shown to me during my years as your Postman.

My wife Sandra and I would like to thank everyone of you for my 'retirement' gift. Thank you also for the lovely card which was signed by so many of you. A lot of thought and effort must have gone into arranging this. I was overwhelmed. You are a special bunch of people and I feel very humbled.

I would particularly like to thank Penny for organising the collection and Mo for her help. It must have been hard work!

I feel so lucky that I have truly enjoyed every day of my job and have made lifelong friends and memories.

However, you have all made my job so rewarding that I feel I can't 'let go' quite yet and I intend to carry on as your postie for just a little while longer. I'm afraid you haven't seen the last of me yet!

With warm wishes to you all

Paul and Sandra Smith

Mediterranean seafood stew

A lovely, sunny supper not as complicated as it looks!

Serves 4 - 6

2 tbs olive oil
1 large onion, chopped
1 - 2 medium hot red chilli, deseeded and chopped
2 tsp smoked sweet paprika
Large pinch saffron
2 strips orange zest
2 bay leaves
Sprig of thyme, leaves stripped off
Lots of chopped parsley to serve
2 x 400g cans of chopped tomatoes
350ml dry white wine (less will do in which case add more stock!)
200ml well flavoured chicken or fish stock
250gm prawns, thawed if frozen
500gm mussels* cooked briefly and removed from the shells
300gm other fish such as salmon, cod or squid



Sauté the onion and chilli in the olive oil until soft but not brown, then add the garlic and cook briefly. Stir in the paprika, zest and herbs and cook for 1 minute more. Add the tomatoes, stock and season. Simmer for 15 minutes. Add the fish and simmer gently for 5 minutes then add the mussels and prawns and heat through for 5 minutes more. Finally add the squid (it will become very tough if cooked for more than a minute or two).

Serve with chunks of a hearty, flavoursome bread and the chopped parsley.

*Quick short cut : If you don't want to pre-cook your own mussels you can buy frozen shelled ones in which case just throw in a handful but you will miss out on the lovely juice so add more stock or wine!

A favourite quote from Rita Rudner

'I read recipes like I read Science Fiction. I get to the end and say 'well, that's not going to happen'



350 years ago in 1671, uptight chef Françoise Vatel, inventor of Chantilly Cream, committed suicide when a seafood delivery failed to turn up!

Here's hoping your cooking is less stressful!

Emma

Holford's Community Speed Watch continues to run smoothly thanks to our dedicated volunteers. The weather has been kinder to us and we have only had to cancel two watches because of rain. Our Speedwatch is one of approximately 65 in the County.

Quote from. Avon and Somerset Constabulary:

"SPEEDING IS NOT HARMLESS

Nobody plans to crash their vehicle, yet hundreds of thousands of people do this every year. If you drive for long enough, sooner or later something will go wrong on one of your journeys. A major reason that speed limits exist is so that when the unexpected happens, the consequences are less serious both for the people around you and for you yourself.

The difference of a couple of miles per hour can literally mean the difference between life and death. The faster someone is driving, the less time they have to stop if something unexpected happens and the more powerful a collision will be if they do not stop in time. Every mile per hour taken off your speed increases safety.

- *Speed is one of the main factors in fatal road accidents.*
- *The risk of death is approximately four times higher when a pedestrian is hit at 40 mph than at 30 mph*
- *Fatal accidents are four times as likely on rural roads as urban roads. "*

Holford has recently had a fatal accident within an area that the CSW consider should be a 40mph zone, providing a staged speed reduction from the 50mph A39 to our 30mph village zone.

More volunteers very welcome!

Mo Young

Holford Community Speedwatch Coordinator

maureenyoung@hotmail.com

Lottery Winners



June Winner (£20): Brian Warren and Joan Birch

June Runners-up (£10 each): Midge Wise and Debbie Salvidge

July Winner: Pete & Chris Smetzer

July Runners-up: Pauline Tilsley and Stephen Campbell.

BRAIN TEASERS

See inside for
Our tough new quiz on
Page 5

?

(Answers on Page 8)

Mike Richardson is taking a well earned rest!

Oil delivery

Time to stock up again?
For those wishing to make use of the community oil delivery scheme. Orders will need to be placed by Monday for deliveries in the following week, usually on Wednesday

Please put these dates on your calendar

Mondays 23rd Aug, 13th Sept, 4th Oct, 25th Oct and 22nd Nov.

Contact :

David Young on 741249
davidyoung1934@talktalk.net

Lottery

Full list of the lottery results on Page 14

Enjoy your summer!



'When youth is gone may wisdom prove enough'

Well, we live in hopes!



Cheers!
The Plough Inn Is open



Holford and District Village Hall

What's On? – Dates for your Diary
July 19th signals the opening up of restrictions. Events in the Village Hall will resume in due course



Some events are restarting
See the Holford and District Village Hall information on Page 3 or visit their website details below

Bookings : Emily Hecksher T : 741694
or on line at www.HolfordVillageHall.org

VARIOUS EVENTS PLANNED ONCE THE VILLAGE HALL IS OPEN.

Weekly regulars

Check for details of when these will re-start

Mon	Computer Club	10.00 – 12.00
	Short Mat Bowls – Kilve Village Hall	7.00pm
	Aerobics, Pilates and Stretch	6.30pm
Tues	Karate – (ex 3 rd Tues in month)	6.30 pm (1hr)
Wed	Music and Movement	2.30pm (1hr)
Thu	Coffee and Play Table Tennis	9.30 – 11.30 7.00pm
Fri	Art Group Craft Group	10.00 – 1 pm 1.00 – 4pm

Recycling collections every Friday

Collections a day later after Bank Holidays

Refuse collections : Every two weeks.

Collections a day later after Bank Holidays.

Most recycling centres are open but on Limited days and there is no assistance available. Masks advised. Please check before travelling to the site.

New refuse and recycling systems are to be brought on line from the Spring - to be confirmed

We hope you have enjoyed this edition

If anyone has any articles, ideas, news, snippets etc please do let us have them

before the deadline Sept 14th

Please send items for the next issue to

Emma at Winsors Farm

Email : EmmaCavendish01@aol.com

Publication date Sept 30th

Please don't send pdf files or images and text directly from your phone– these are very difficult to edit. Save your photos to a jpeg file.