Holford news & views



September - October 2021

Editorial

A very quiet period, in-between summer and autumn ...most trees have not yet begun to let go of their leaves, the weather continues in benign mood, the sun has a lie in most mornings.. deciding to attempt a shine at around midday.

After a bumper crop last year even my apple trees look as if they are having a year off! The tomatoes are, however, putting up a brave fight. The plants may be drooping but with a little help (window ledges?) the fruit look to be in good condition. I will give them a few more days before making a decision on whether to pick them or not.

Beyond our gate Holford continues to tick over comfortably. Events in the village hall are beginning to settle back into a routine... a successful tabletop sale, coffee and cake morning (first Saturday in the month) plays and musical events in the pipeline. Other regular groups such as art, craft, table tennis, iPad training and Pilates are up and running again. The art group is now 'under new management', new members are most welcome, contact Brian Gay (07850 606999) for more information. In November there will be a Christmas Fair, maybe with masks, but never mind, we will manage.

National and international news continues to plague us but as long as we look after ourselves and each other there is hope that next year everyone will be able to move on with more optimism. When it begins, enjoy the change of season.

Christine Mew

There are a number of charities requesting donations of good quality used clothing and shoes for the 17,000 new refugee arrivals from Afghanistan.

The majority of them left the airport in flip-flops and a carrier bag of goods and have need, in particular, of warm clothing, coats, jumpers, jackets and shoes. I believe they have plenty of children's toys and books. If you have 'as new', clean garments sitting in your wardrobe please donate them. Gifts can be left with me at Winsors Farm and when there are sufficient these will transfer to the Village Hall to be collected by a charity. It would be helpful if you could pin a note of the size somewhere so they can be sorted. Emma

Opening up Safely and Reconnecting Communities Fund. The Parish Council is happy to report that the application for a grant, in association with Holford Village Hall, has been approved. The aim is to encourage local people to engage again in a safe environment after what has been a very challenging period. Details of the Hall opening day is on page 2.

This edition of Holford News and Views is kindly sponsored by Holford Village Hall

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 and will be returned to you. Save your photos and images to a jpeq file





NEWS FROM YOUR VILLAGE HALL

Village Hall Events



The Village Hall recently received a government Funded grant to open Holford and District Village Hall every Wednesday afternoon between 2pm and 4pm to give local people a chance to get back to mixing in a group in confidence.

Please come along and choose a book, have a chat and a cuppa or perhaps a game of dominoes or scrabble? Play a game of indoor boules? The hall has a TV licence now so we could watch films or programmes on the big screen.

We would love to see you! If you need transport please let us know.

For more information contact: Mo Young 01278 741249

Welcome to Holford!

Thank you Christine, Editor of Holford News and Views for your kind invitation to write a few words in this edition. I am absolutely delighted to have arrived in the community of Holford in July 2021. For the last decade my life has been predominantly based in London where I lived in Earls Court and cycled to work in South Kensington, Fulham and Paddington. I also had the good fortune to travel a lot to western Europe and the US through work. Occasionally I would escape to my home in Holmfirth, West Yorkshire which I shared with my son, Adam. Nestled on the edge of Wessenden moor the Pennine Way was just over a mile away and I knew the rugged moorland well. My life is essentially working, in clinical research relating to rarer lung conditions and walking, when I am not working.

Moving to Somerset had one major condition – I needed easy access to a hill and a connection with nature. Close proximity to the sea is a bonus. I am looking forward to getting to know the combes and the hills of the Quantocks through the seasons and already in awe of the wildlife and birdlife I have encountered. As a custodian of Glenside, a large portion of the former Fox and Goose Inn, I am researching how to authentically restore and maintain the fabric of the building. It has been wonderful to meet Pat Thatcher, now, of Nether Stowey who oversaw the sympathetic rebuilding of Glenside in 1998. We enjoyed a brief reopening of the Fox and Goose on 29th August, spending a sunny afternoon in the garden getting to know new neighbours.

Everyone I have met so far has been exceedingly welcoming and kind. According to recent research acts of kindness reduce stress and anxiety, contribute to disease prevention and lower blood pressure. So a long and happy and healthy life is likely in Holford! I am looking forward to getting to know both new and veteran Holfordians in the years to come.

Anne-Marie Russell



Church News

DESPERATE OF HOLFORD As you are probably aware, we do have a church in Holford. It is called St. Mary's and stands behind the lychgate in the front lane. I know that church worship is not for everyone and we do not have a large congregation but a very small and very ageing few help to keep it clean and looking in good condition. Unfortunately, those few are diminishing greatly and we desperately need some more people to join our team. During the pandemic when the church was closed we obviously didn't do any cleaning or maintenance at all but now we are open again there are various things that need to be attended to and kept up. If anyone can offer their services for a general clean and spruce up for just one month during the year, it would be much appreciated. Also brass cleaning (a messy job I know) needs to be tackled monthly.

If you feel you would like to help in any way, please call me on 01278 741 215 and I will be happy to add you to our list. One never knows when one might need the church



Holford Gardeners Group A flower show once again this year!





HOLFORD FLOWER SHOW AUGUST 7th 2021 GROUP WINNERS



GROUP H: JUNIOR

5 Years & under: Winner Tristan Tennant

5-8 years Winner Adelaide Tennant

9– 12 Years: Winner Sarah Cox

GROUP A: THE MARGARET UPSON AWARD for FLOWERS & CONTAINER PLANTS

Winner Jean Pearce Runner Up Mark Kellaway

GROUP B: THE ALAN DATE AWARD for FRUIT & VEGETABLES

Winner Mark Kellaway Runner Up Ailsa Robbins

GROUP C: HOME-CRAFT TROPHY

Winner Kate Hammomd Runner Up Lorraine Tilsley

GROUP D: FLORAL ART TROPHY

Winner Sally Bult

Runner Up Gae Richardson

BEST FLORAL EXHIBIT

Winner Sally Bult

GROUP E: PHOTOGRAPHIC TROPHY

Winner Jean Pierce Runner Up Mike Richardson

GROUP F: ART TROPHY

Winner Brian Hartfield

Runner Up Phil Hill

BEST ART EXHIBIT Angela Wells

GROUP G: HANDICRAFT TROPHY

Winner Lorraine Tilsley Runner Up Ailsa Robbins

OVERALL SHOW WINNER ON POINTS AWARDED

Winner MARK KELLAWAY

Runner Up LORRAINE TILSLEY

Forthcoming Events for your diary

EAST QUANTOXHEAD VILLAGE MARKET

October 16th 10am-12 **East Quantoxhead Hall**

Market, Café, Bric-a-brac, Bread, Books, Dvds Court House Produce

POP UP LIBRARY!

Starting Wed 22nd September

Please drop in to Holford and District Village Hall on Wednesdays between 2 pm and 4 pm. Choose a book and have a cuppa and a chat. Perhaps play Scrabble, have a game of cards or dominoes?



Extra date!

HOLFORD GARDENERS GROUP

Holford and District Village Hall

October 19th 7.30pm 'Climate Change Garden'

A Talk by Sally Morgan Members £1.00 Visitors £3.50

All Welcome

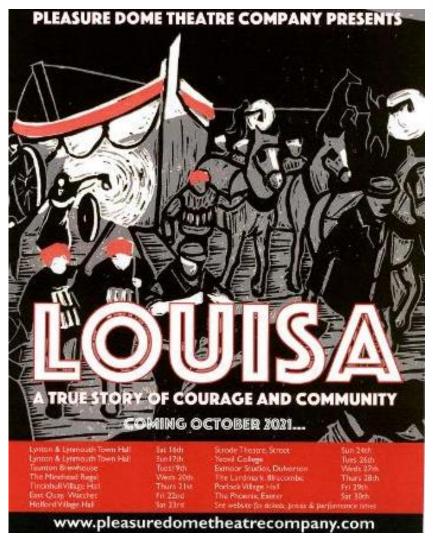
Somerset Art Works Open Studios

are happening this year from 18th September to 3rd October.

You are warmly invited to visit

Mosaics by Kate at Heathercot

where you can share a cup of tea or coffee, a glass of wine or a beer and wander in the garden to look at the pieces Kate has created





We are pleased to be able to offer the production **Louisa** by Exmoor based Pleasure Dome Theatre Company partnering with the RNLI. on Saturday 23rd October

LOUISA is the incredible true story of how on one stormy night in January 1899, the communities of Lynmouth and Porlock rallied in a raging storm to save all the souls of the Forest Hall; a ship foundering in the Bristol Channel.

With the help of horses and sheer determination, they dragged the heavy lifeboat Louisa thirteen miles across open moor to launch it from Porlock Weir and saved everyone on board.

This visceral new play uses physical theatre and Sea Shanties over 80 minutes to tell the extraordinary tale. The story of the Louisa is testament to the resilience and courage of a small community achieving extraordinary things in exceptional circumstances.

Tickets: Adults £10 Children £8 To book a ticket please contact Helen Falconer 07849 408753 or Ann Anderson 07843348057

THOUGHT FOR TODAY:

Dreams heed no borders, the eyes need no visas. With eyes shut I walk across the line in time. All the time. Gulzar, poet, lyricist, and film director (b. 18 Aug 1934)

Richardsons' Ramblings

Having prattled on about Scotland in my last missive I shall now tell you about our 2017 holiday there when things did not exactly go to plan! It was our Airedale, Hebe's first excursion north of the border and to Tigh Mor where we had a mixed week of sunshine and downpours. Golfing aficionados will be amused that the map on the scorecard at Aberfoyle Golf Course was about as much use as a chocolate teapot. Mike played the same hole twice from different directions and must have walked an extra half mile searching for the next tee! Meanwhile Hebe and I were not too happy at hillwalking in a hailstorm only for the sun to come out once back in the car.

The Kelpies near Falkirk by the Forth & Clyde Canal are a 'must see'. The sculptures were created by Andy Scott – they are 100ft high, each weighing 300 tonnes and it is the largest equine sculpture in the world. They were modelled on Clydesdale horses Baron and Duke being representative of the work these noble animals did. The Kelpies' name reflects the mythological transforming beasts possessing the strength and endurance of 100 horses.





The Kelpies

Avoch Harbour, Black Isle

After a 2 night stay in Strathpeffer (near Inverness) we were due to go to a cottage by Loch Carron on the west coast. Three days into our Tigh Mor stay it transpired that the booking agency had withdrawn the property because of various problems with it – communication to us was sadly lacking to put it mildly! With limited Wi-fi we had to try to find alternative accommodation. Very disappointedly there was nothing suitable on the west coast and we had not been on that side for many years.

In the end we accepted a property on the Black Isle which was lovely, but we had stayed on the Isle 2 years previous! Mike was ill that first time so at least he got to see the area and even more importantly play at the Fortrose & Rosemarkie Golf Club – along with Tobermory GC on Mull it is in the most fantastic setting. The Black Isle is a very gentle area with friendly and polite residents – even teenagers moved out of the way in the tiny supermarket! Friends love taking their caravan to Rosemarkie Bay where they can look out across the lovely bay.

Our return journey to our Carlisle B & B proved 'interesting' as a red warning light came on south of Inverness and guess what the Skoda garage back there was then shutting up for the day, it being Saturday. The AA man was very quick in assisting us and even followed us for several miles (his computer was linked to our Yeti) to ensure all was OK. We had to pray that the fault would not rear its ugly head again – well at least till after we got home. The Yeti got us home and it is still a much loved car – well by me anyway!

Holford Parish Council - Chairman's Report Sept 6th 2021

It has been difficult eighteen months which has made it a challenge to move projects forward.

Community Engagement Fund

The government is offering grants to enable local organisations to organise projects to encourage all local people to get together after long periods of isolation for some. Holford Village Hall committee has submitted a proposal. The Parish Council is in favour of this project in principle and will be discuss this under item 13 requests via email. (see update at the end).

<u>We have a new Community Safety Officer</u> – Nicola Hale. She will come along to our November meeting to discuss her role. The role is in place to be a point of contact for the community, to deal with any concerns they may have. She is working closely with the Police, EDF and other agencies to provide support to the local communities.

We have an application to join the Parish Council which will be good news as we will finally be up to a full team of seven.

Environment

The 'wilding' of the grass verges on the A39 is an ongoing project. An update will be given under item 11 on the agenda.

I am pleased to say the rookery in the Silk Mills area appears to slowly becoming reestablished, at least there has been a visible migration of birds across Winsors' Meadow, hopefully in time it will recover.

The potholes along the access road to Alfoxton have been filled which is a rare occurrence as the council generally will only repair up to the standard required for a bridleway and have declined to do any maintenance for some years. Persistent requests seem to have paid off!

Quantock Common SAC Woodlands are about to make improvements to the woodlands mostly to remove the Rhododendrons and hollies that are becoming invasive. A map of the proposed areas for treatment will be posted on the Parish Council website.

There have been reports of noise nuisance in the village late at night. The Chairman has asked questions of SWT planning about the use of domestic premises for business use. This will be raised at item 11 by Councillor Plomgren.

Traffic and Transport

The project known as Bus Back Better from Somerset Bus Partnership is holding Zoom meetings on Sept 14th and 16th for councillors. Hopefully we will be able to give an update on progress to date at our next meeting.

The Parish Council's Traffic Team (Emma Cavendish, Mike Copleston and Stephen Campbell) continues to investigate ways to reduce speeding on the A39. The new signage that has been agreed by SCC Traffic Management has yet to appear although

some renewal of the white lines and arrows seems to have been done. Councillor Copleston has been investigating the protocol for applying for a grant for two Speed Indicator Devices (SIDS) and will report on progress to date under item 11. I have heard from Katherine Tyson of Traffic Management that there is also a possible grant from police sources - Police Road Safety Trust fund.

A questionnaire has been designed to be distributed to all Parishioners to assess whether they have concerns regarding traffic in their area. This will be discussed under item 11.

EDF Hinkley C

The Community bus service is now back. The shields around passengers are removed 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.

EDF 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 prior to the official opening.

Full details of all HPC endeavours and minutes are now posted on the village website so that Parishioners can follow progress. Thanks to Councillors Plomgren and Talling for making these available.

<u>Local Government Reorganisation</u>

This is progressing slowly. The Parish Council is continuing dialog with Kilve and Nether Stowey Parish Councils on ways we can share information and there are plans to discuss possible areas of co-operation. As yet we have not been informed of the kind of services the PC might be asked to adopt. Indeed the PC may not want to adopt any, it is not compulsory. It would, however, give local people more of a say in how things are carried out. This is obviously not a practical option unless such responsibilities are accompanied by a cash injection. The current volunteers are unlikely to want to take on considerable extra duties without some kind of financial assistance.

It has been suggested that if local Parish Councils don't agree to take on a larger role then local activities that would normally be the role of the Unitary Council will simply not happen.

<u>Defibrillator</u> – replacement parts are proving difficult to obtain for the usual reasons. Hopefully this will improve soon. Councillor Crossley will update under item 10.

On a lighter note, the Chairman has been contacted by the BBC who want to do a piece on the 30th anniversary of the filming of the Bryan Adams video in Silk Mills. If anyone can remember personal details of the event please let me know and I will pass on your contact details. Thanks to Sue Ayshford who does remember!

Updates:

Peter Grandfield has been successfully approved as a new (returning) member of the Parish Council with special responsibility for investigating ways the Parish Council can influence the development of the new Unitary Council alongside Councillor Talling. They have also agreed to take on investigating areas where a group of local Parish Councils could join together to influence future developments.

In an successful application supported by the Parish Council a grant award of £1,179 has been confirmed for the Village Hall to organise a program of events under the banner 'Opening Up Safely and Reconnecting Communities Fund'. This fund is to encourage people to start to join in local events again, particularly those who may have become isolated or anxious during these trying covid times.

The traffic questionnaire has been postponed until the results of the grant application for the Speed Indicator Devices are received.

There is to be a conference on progress to the new Unitary Council on October 7th. The Chairman will attend and report back.

The grass verges being trialled for re-wilding to provide wild life habitats have received their last cut of the summer. It was agreed that signage on the verges and within the village would make the project clearer to local people. We plan to do this in early Spring.

This updated report is for information only. Official copies of the Chairman's Report and the minutes of all the items discussed are available on the Parish Council website www.holford-pc.gov.uk. Details of your councillors can also be found on the website and are posted on the notice boards. You can approach any one of the councillors if you have any issues.

Emma Cavendish Chairman

Lottery Winners



August: Winner (£20): Fran Jeanes

Runners-up (£10 each): Esme Salvidge and Mark Kellaway

September: Winner: Steve Keirl

Runners-up: Matt Pardoe and Clive and Annie Hoskisson



Kilve & Holford Play Reading Group

The late residents of Kilve,
Doreen and Olaf Chedzoy,
founded the group as long ago as
1989, when prior to that, they
had organised play reading
groups in the north of England
before they moved here to
Somerset.

In the beginning, I am reliably informed, readings were held of an evening, but the dark hours were not always congenial for travelling or walking home and it was agreed after one particularly cold winter to meet in future of an afternoon, once a month from October through to March or April.

I have here at home a little black book handed to me after Doreen passed away, which she had recorded for almost every meeting, with all the plays read by the group from 1991 until her death in 2013, the last recording is of mine in January 2020 as there have been none since for obvious reasons!

The list is endless, of playwrights/authors from Ayckbourn, Christie, Rattigan, Mortimer, Austen, Frayn, Maugham, Plater, Stoppard, Priestley, Shaw, Du Maurier, Chekov, Henry James and Jeffrey Archer - to name just a few!

I first joined the group - or rather - I had to be invited to join, as it was the procedure in those days, by Doreen and at my first meeting, I have a vivid recollection of sitting in a cosy armchair in front of a blazing fire in the lounge of Mary Hoose's house in East Quantoxhead, on a cold afternoon with eight or nine other ladies plus of course Olaf, listening to them speaking their parts of a play the title of which I shamefully admit I do not remember (despite the little black book!) but thinking as I looked out of the window across the fields watching the sun setting, that it was a very pleasant way to spend a winters' afternoon. At the first couple of meetings, I was given small parts; it can be a little intimidating if you're not used to reading aloud to others or have made speeches, or indeed have never trod the boards, but of course you don't have to be a budding thespian...once you're into the role, it can come quite easy and you find yourself involving yourself in the character. My experience was of friendliness and encouragement, especially if you pronounced a word wrong! The plays were varied, some very funny (and could be risqué!) and you would find yourself unable to play the part for giggling, which in turn made everyone else start laughing and it would be a while before you could reclaim your composure!

A few years have passed since those early meetings and six years ago, whilst on holiday, I received a text message on my 'phone from one of the play readers to

say, that they had decided I should become the organiser of the group (there's democracy for you!) Being some hundreds of miles away I was not in a position to argue! Since then, we have had a lot of changes as sadly some of those founding members are no longer with us, but although new people joined, our number has depleted, which brings us to the position we now find ourselves in. I wish to stand down as 'organiser' but it's doubtful that any of the existing members will want to take over, so I am hoping that this little history of the Play Reading Group might attract some people, especially those new to the district who would like to join the group and perhaps get involved with the management; I am of course, more than willing to show them the ropes, which isn't difficult, it's a matter of choosing - with others - the plays from the County Library, and arranging convenient dates and venues. It has always been the 'norm' to meet of an afternoon, take turns in hosting and to provide light refreshments, however, the meetings do not have to be held of an afternoon, they do not have to be held all through the winter, they can be held anytime through the year, a garden on a warm summers day would be more than agreeable and it doesn't always have to be 'play' reading, we can read poetry, essays, interesting articles or even stories of your own life you could share, there are many options!

We just need some new 'blood' and if you feel you can transfuse some, do please get in touch with me, it would be a great shame for this little group to cease.

Mo (Plomgren) – Holford

Tel: 01278 741152 or email: plomdove4145@googlemail.com

Quick Chicken Recipe

(Amounts to suit numbers of diners!)

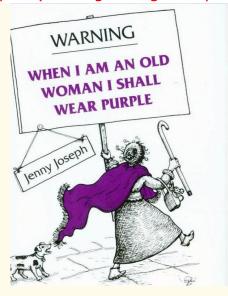
A rotisserie chicken Tub of crème fraiche Little toms Pesto sauce Fresh basil if you have it!

Half tomatoes and fry in a little olive oil in a skillet that can be put on table Add crème fraiche and dollop of pesto Add jointed cooked chicken and heat slowly Garnish with basil and serve at table

Serve with delicious breads or rice or potatoes or pasta

Thanks to Mo (Young)

And just a little frivolity.... (nothing wrong with purple in my book)



When I am an old woman I shall wear purple
With a red hat which doesn't go, and doesn't suit me.
And I shall spend my pension on brandy and summer gloves
And satin sandals, and say we've no money for butter.
I shall sit down on the pavement when I'm tired
And gobble up samples in shops and press alarm bells
And run my stick along the public railings
And make up for the sobriety of my youth.
I shall go out in my slippers in the rain
And pick the flowers in other people's gardens
And learn to spit.

You can wear terrible shirts and grow more fat
And eat three pounds of sausages at a go
Or only bread and pickle for a week
And hoard pens and pencils and beermats and things in boxes.

But now we must have clothes that keep us dry
And pay our rent and not swear in the street
And set a good example for the children.
We must have friends to dinner and read the papers.

But maybe I ought to practise a little now? So people who know me are not too shocked and surprised When suddenly I am old, and start to wear purple. © *Jenny Joseph*,

Lottery

Full list of the lottery results on Page 11

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 4th Oct, 25th Oct and 22nd Nov.

Contact:

David Young on 741249 davidyoung1934@talktalk.net



To Autumn

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,

Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;

Conspiring with him how to load and bless

With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run;

Read more at

To Autumn by John Keats – Poems

Holford and District Village Hall

What's On? - Dates for your Diary New Wednesday open day begins



Some events are restarting
See the Holford and District Village Hall
website www.HolfordVillageHall.org

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

VARIOUS EVENTS PLANNED NOW THE VILLAGE HALL IS OPEN.

Weekly regulars

Check online 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

Refuse collections: Every two weeks on Fridays
Collections a day later after Bank Holidays.
Recycling collections every Friday
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.

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 November 14th

Please send items for the next issue to **Emma at Winsors Farm**

Email: EmmaCavendish01@aol.com

Publication date November 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.