

Holford news & views



November – December 2021



Editorial

'Remember, remember the 5th of November - Gunpowder treason and plot'
It came and went in Holford without a fuss or much of a bang. We have been left with a few wilting pumpkins on garden walls, all that remains of autumnal revelries. Now its time to work towards Christmas, clear the garden of leaves , buy cards, check on the log pile and begin to think that maybe we should buy ingredients for the cake and /or pudding.

I'm glad the hall is up and running again. Many groups have restarted eg art and craft, table tennis, Pilates and now, thanks to Mo Young and her willing band of volunteers, The Hub on Wednesday afternoons. The Plague is still with us and we should still keep masks handy, keep the hand washing and distances going as we do Christmas shopping and wait to see what the winter weather brings.

'Community Speedwatch' will soon be suspended until the New Year, those of us who have stood on the A39 monitoring speeds of vehicles passing through the village for the last few months are glad of the break and we will be pleased to hear that others will be willing to join the group. An hour a week is not too much to ask and the information collected may help to put things in place to remind drivers about keeping to the rules of the road.
Christine Mew

The News and Views team hope you enjoy this special colour Christmas edition delivered to your door. All future issues will be online only on the Holford Village website – thank you to David Talling for this. You can find all editions in glorious colour including back issues at [HN&V \(holfordvillage.com\)](http://HN&V(holfordvillage.com)) There will be a paper copy left in each of the notice boards for you to borrow and browse if you don't have internet access. The team wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas and fingers crossed we don't have any more lockdowns!

If you have any news, titbits, articles or ideas that you think may be of interest please let us have them. Details of deadlines etc are on the back page

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

Merry Christmas to all!





NEWS FROM YOUR VILLAGE HALL

Village Hall Events

Hall reopens - Reminder: A 50% discount!

We continue to open the Hall as fully as we feel is safe, limiting the capacity to 60 people. We ask all users to ensure there's plenty of ventilation. Sanitiser and hand washing are still recommended. Extra cleaning is done between events wherever possible. Please respect the views of others. We politely ask you to wear a mask and keep socially distant wherever possible.

Stop it and Tidy Up Saturday 16 October was one of our maintenance days when a group of like minded volunteers came forward to give the Hall its pre winter clean. Thank you all.

We fitted the last of the acoustic clouds: so, hopefully, the Hall is much less like an echo chamber now! New recycled plastic outdoor benches are now in place, and we also have a few metal chairs that can also be used outdoors in fine weather.

Wot? No Internet? Our radio-link broadband supplier suddenly stopped trading. So, we decided to install BT Broadband, which needed a new phone line, of course - but Openreach need to install a new telegraph pole in the Hall grounds first - a further delay. Sorry!

October and November Events. In October we were entertained by a play about the Lynmouth Lifeboat, LOUISA: a full house - and a terrific evening of acting and sea shanties. November saw the arrival of TANGO CALOR and the Christmas Fayre and Workshops.

December Events Ali & The SwingCats perform The Great American Songbook on two dates - both postponed from October when Ali Foyle, the lead singer, lost her voice. Let's hope she's in good form in December.

If you're coming along please try to do so in Fancy Dress: 1930 - 1940s.

- 'Afternoon Tea' inc Tea and Cake. **Sun 5th December 2.30pm** - call Sue 741493 for tickets: £8
- 'Speakeasy'. **Saturday 11th December - 7.30pm - SOLD OUT**

Sadly I have to report there's **no Children's Christmas Party this year**. Without volunteers to organise these events they simply do not happen. If you want to help with this or any other event, please contact me. You don't have to become a trustee. Just help wherever you can. We really want to see more people involved - and more events!

50% off

Don't forget - local people and clubs who hire the hall get a 50% discount until July 2022. Others can get a 25% reduction. So please think about booking the Hall for your next party or celebratory event!

If you're not on our database please email marketing@holfordvillagehall.org with your details and we will email you with forthcoming events.

Alan Falkingham, Chair
chair@holfordvillagehall.org

THE HUB

Please drop in to the Village Hall any Wednesday until 8th December between 2pm and 4pm.

Films, card games, scrabble, dominoes, card making, indoor boules and, of course, tea cake, and talk. Please contact maureenyoung@hotmail.com if you need a lift.

WANTED

Young people and those young at heart to put up the Christmas lights and doves at the Lychgate on Saturday 18th December at 11am.

Please email maureenyoung@hotmail.com

CHRISTMAS TRIP TO WELLS December 15th

Christmas Cracker Fair and usual Wells Market.

Parking always a nightmare in Wells so join us on a minibus picking up at Kilve, Holford and Nether Stowey. Pick up at 10 and depart Wells at 3.30. £15

Please contact maureenyoung@hotmail.com

Holford Christmas Card Delivery Service.

Keith and Sue Edwards will be continuing with the Christmas card delivery service in Holford this year.

The post box will be in the church porch from the 6th to the 15th December and the cards will be delivered around the village towards the end of the second week. Cards can also be left at "Westering" or "Lady Charles House" between the same dates, to be included in the delivery. Please make sure that a house name/No. is included on the envelope to aid delivery. Just a name is frequently not sufficient. Although there is no charge for this service, donations are very welcome and the monies collected will be given to the Friends of the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance.

Sue & Keith Edwards

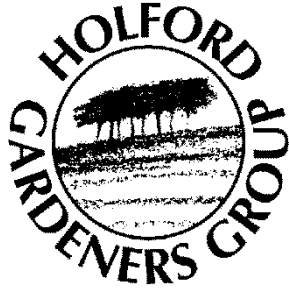


EAST QUANTOXHEAD CHRISTMAS MARKET

Saturday December 11th at 10-12
Market Café/Mince Pies/Tombola
East Quantoxhead Village Hall

EAST QUANTOXHEAD MARKET
Saturday January 16th 10-12md
East Quantoxhead Village Hall





Tuesday January 18th
7.30pm
Holford and District
Village Hall
Speaker- TBA
Members £1.00
Visitors £2.00

HOLFORD HISTORY SOCIETY

Next Meeting
Tuesday 11th January 2022
7.30 p.m. at the Village Hall
A talk by Stewart Richards,
Chairman of the Friends of the
Blake Museum

"The Mill in Blake Street,
Bridgwater and the restoration
project for it"

Members £2 : Guests £3

HOLFORD GARDENERS GROUP

Christmas Social
Tuesday December 21st at
Holford and District
Village Hall 7.30pm
Members £1.00
Visitors £2.00
A Warm Welcome to all

**Members £1,
non-members £3.50
(01278 741130)**

Lottery winners



October: Winners
Clive and Annie Hoskisson
Runners-up (£10 each):
Mike and Nicky Harris and
Graham Koppa

November :
Winner: Jenny Swash
Runners-up: Corisande Tennant
and Anthony Salvidge.

Mike's Christmas-ish Quiz

1. Complete the name of this famous Brazilian statue: 'Christ the ...'?
2. According to the nursery rhyme, who was it who sat in a corner, eating Christmas pie?
3. Alphabetically, which of Santa's reindeer comes first?
4. In 'The Gingerbread Man' fairy tale, who or what devours the gingerbread man in the end?
5. How many Drummers Drummed?
6. Which record was a Christmas number one in 1975 and 1991?
7. Adele, Oasis, Eminem, Lionel Richie and Beyonce have all recorded songs sharing the same one word title. What's the title?
8. On 10th March 2017, which UK artist claimed 9 of the top 10 positions in the UK singles chart when his new album was released?
9. Which newsreader won the first series of 'Strictly Come Dancing'?
10. Jodie Foster plays Tallulah in which 1976 gangster musical comedy film?
11. Which James Cameron directed film starring Zoe Saldana, Sigourney Weaver, and Sam Worthington was released in 2009 and went on to become one of the highest grossing films of all time?
12. What comes next in the sequence 1,1,2,3,5?
13. What is the first animal to be found in a dictionary?
14. Shakespeare wrote a play for Elizabeth I, as a Christmas present. Which one is it?
15. What was the first name of the main character in the Christmas film 'Home Alone'?

Answers on Page 10

Oil delivery Scheme

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 Dec 13th, 27th and Jan 10th and 31st

Contact : **David Young** on **741249** davidyoung1934@talktalk.net

Christmas Treat Recipes



This 'recipe' has been in our family for about sixty years... no specific measurements as you will see, but a favourite with Christmas Pudding/Mince Pies or best on their own with a little toddy late on Christmas Eve! Brandy Cream Snaps!

Ingredients

Couple of packets of shop bought brandy snaps (or home-made if you have the time or the inclination!) *Double cream whisked thickly to hold shape for piping (as much as you like)

*A little brandy or favourite liqueur can be added to cream (optional)

Melted dark chocolate

Method

In a piping bag, pipe whisked cream into brandy snaps at each end to fill the biscuit, then dip just one end in a little cooled melted chocolate.

EAT STRAIGHT AWAY! Happy Christmas Mo (P)

Salmon and Butter Bean Salad

Ingredients

Lots of salad leaves, 100gm of smoked (or fresh) salmon, a tin of Butter Beans, a red onion, French dressing and a lemon

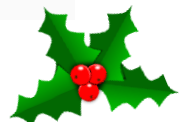


Method

This healthy, zingy salmon and butterbean salad is quick, easy and full of bright summery flavours. Just the thing if you have been over-indulging at Christmas!

1. Tip the handfuls of mixed salad leaves into a large bowl. Drain the can of butterbeans and add to the salad for **bulk** , tossing well to combine.
2. To add **punch**, finely slice the red onion and mix through the salad followed by the smoked or fresh salmon, roughly broken into pieces.
3. Drizzle with French Dressing for **kick** and garnish with chopped lemon wedges to squeeze just before serving, for added **zing**. **Happy eating!**

Emma



Richardsons' Ramblings

In October we were allowed into Wales spending one week in a very remote valley near Dolgellau – we hadn't been in the area for over 40 years in our camping days. I will just say that it was slightly damp – the garden room was great for weather watching! Fortunately the sheep remained up on the hills and not in the field surrounding us and our Airedale, Ella had plenty to occupy her hunting in the well enclosed garden.



Our second week was at a regular spot of ours close to Beaumaris on Anglesey and a lot drier. At Henllys there are woods where 6 red squirrels were introduced in 2006. There were only 40 reds on the island in 1996 and close to extinction with birth abnormalities. Now Anglesey has about 700 mainly through the efforts of the Red Squirrel Trust Wales especially in ensuring there are no greys. I did see one red on a walk led by the Head Woodsman and have seen them when staying previously and not when walking dogs. Walking Ella late one night she found a hedgehog – quite a rarity apparently, just like here.

We were lucky enough to be on Anglesey when The Hidden Gardens Plas Cadnant were open. What an amazing garden and history! In 1780's to 1835 John Price created arcadian gardens, parkland and valley paths with fruit and vegetables in a walled garden. The last of the Price line died in 1928 with the estate split and sold. Major Thomas Fanning-Evans then bought the house, but only one area in the walled garden was cherished by Mrs Fanning-Evans with the rest ending up covered by a self-sown sycamore wood.



After nearly 70 years of neglect Anthony Tavernor bought the 200-acre estate in 1996 and it was only the sound of water that made him aware of the River Cadnant flowing through the valley. It was a garden of contrasts comprising the walled garden with its geometric topiary and herbaceous borders, upper woodland walks and the lower valley walk to the river and waterfalls. The resident reds kept hidden! I spent a very peaceful afternoon but had forgotten to charge my camera battery! It was incredible what had been achieved and recommend a visit if you are in the area – you could always stay there as there were 5 self-catering cottages.

Gae

Chairman's Report - Parish Council meeting November 8th 2021

There are two big issues challenging the Parish Council at the moment.

The first is the continued anti-social behaviour of the Hunt in and around the village. An agenda item will discuss what action can be taken by the Parish Council given that the Police do not seem to be engaging with this problem. We are grateful to Emily Heckscher for bringing this to our attention.

The second is the ongoing Local Government Reorganisation, the transition to a single unitary council known as One Somerset. The Chairman went to a whole day meeting on October 7th where a hundred plus Town and Parish Council Chairmen and Clerks were present. As you can imagine there were some lively questions from the floor. The details of this will be discussed under item 10. This is an enormous undertaking and progress so far, and the Parish Council action going forward, will be discussed at length during the meeting. The Chairman has been in contact with a number of local Parish Councils to consider what we all need to do to make sure our local voices are heard. So far there has been very little engagement from SCC. It has been decided centrally that Parish Council elections will be held a year early to coincide with the main council elections, basically to save money. Thanks to Stephen Campbell for writing to the council on our behalf with our objections to the suggestion that if we did not agree to the re-scheduling of the elections the PC would have to bear the burden of the costs involved. We would welcome any new prospective councillors putting their names forward in the Spring. We really had no choice in the matter.

I am pleased to report that Falcon Housing has finally begun work on the Portway Play Area in line with their planning submission. It is likely to be a while before they complete the work but at least it is now underway.

The Parish Council supported the Village Hall with an application under the 'Community Engagement' grant which was successful and a sum of £1,179 has been awarded. This will fund some free sessions 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. It has been a slow start but hopefully more people will come along as word gets around.

The rewilding of some verges in the village is ongoing and it was decided at the last meeting that we should put up some signage to better inform people of the project. There has been an issue with littering along the verges which need to be cleared before the last mowing was done. As I write this it is obvious that we will need to assess whether the triangle should return to a regular cut as there are problems leaving it uncut all year. Chairman will be joining the Rewilding Somerset meeting on Nov 19th which will hopefully give us some encouragement and advice!

Speeding on the A39 through the village continues to be a danger. Our thanks go to the Community Speedwatch Team for their continued monitoring. It is hoped that we can obtain a grant to install Speed Indicator Devices along the

road. Councillor Copleston will give an update on the grant application during this meeting.

Councillor Grandfield has agreed to take on the responsibility of the PC representative for Bus Back Better. During the meeting PG will report on the latest developments from the recent meeting on November 3rd . This project has a sizeable grant in place and we will have the opportunity to input our local needs.

At our last meeting it was pointed out that no-one should do any major tree work within the Conservation Area without planning permission. It is illegal and there can be large fines for not gaining permission.

The Quantock AONB are proposing putting in new ditches to discourage inappropriate parking on the roadsides.

After a spate of thefts of catalytic converters in Watchet the Police were able to arrest 5 suspects after their vehicle registration was spotted by a resident from their video doorbell. Great result! A reminder from the police that as the nights draw in there is always a steep rise in thefts from sheds so we must all be extra aware of locking away tools etc. Power tools are particularly targeted.

Emma Cavendish
Chairman

Please note the official minutes and the Chairman's report are available on the Holford Parish Council website : www.holford-pc.gov.uk

Holford Parish Councillors are:

Emma Cavendish (Chairman)

Clerk: Hema Stanley 07818 015956

David Talling

Mike Copleston

Michala Crossley

Peter Grandfield

Feel free to contact any of the councillors

Stephen Campbell

Erland Plomgren

Contact details are on the website and posted to the notice boards in the village

Updates from the November Parish Council meeting

Hunt issues Following an email from Emily Heckscher The Parish Council has sent letters to The Police and Crime Commissioner and the Police Superintendent for Somerset and Avon informing them that reports of bad behaviour by the local Hunt have not been followed up adequately by our local Police. Emily Heckscher has agreed co-ordinate any reports from local people so that an

appropriate list of violations can be provided if necessary. Please contact her if you have anything to report at heckscher@btinternet.com.

Responses to requests for Freedom of Information material and the cost process. Councillors agreed that, in accordance with the law, these requests must be reasonable, not vexatious and should not be requested when all the information is available somewhere else e.g. online. Requesting vast amounts of documentation is **NOT** reasonable and in future only specific requests will be agreed. A recent request has resulted in more than two days work for the Clerk and this has to be paid for from the Parish Precept at a cost of nearly £200 meaning council taxpayers money had to be used to supply information which is already available on the Parish Council website.

Nicola Hale from Sedgemoor County Council has introduced herself as the new Community Safety Officer. The role is in place to be a point of contact for the community, to deal with any safety concerns they may have. She is working closely with the Police, EDF and other agencies to provide support to the local communities. Email: Nicola.Hale@sedgemoor.gov.uk Telephone:01278 619636; 07464 981763. It was noted that the Hunt issue may be covered under Health and Safety legislation.

Sincere Thanks to all who donated clothing for refugees :

Emma would like to express her gratitude for the generosity of all those kind people who have given warm clothing for Afghan refugees in their hour of need. Your dedication in turning out your cupboards and wardrobes, not to mention washing and ironing, will be greatly appreciated. Special thanks to Jill Jones for galvanising Kilve residents into donating 4 large bags of clothing. This request closed due to the fact that there was no room in her home left to store any more! These 14 very large, filled dustbin bags were collected by the charity which was extremely grateful as they have a large number of requests in the pipeline.

Quiz answers

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Redeemer | 9. Natasha Kaplinsky |
| 2. Jack Horner | 10. Bugsy Malone |
| 3. Blitzen (Blitzer) | 11. Avatar |
| 4. A fox | 12. 8 |
| 5. 12 | 13. Aardvark |
| 6. Bohemian Rhapsody | 14. The Merry Wives of Windsor |
| 7. Hello | 15. Kevin |
| 8. Ed Sheeran | |



SOMERSET BUS PARTNERSHIP

The future is suddenly starting to look a lot brighter for bus services in Somerset.

Over the past decade, public transport has not been an economic and developmental priority for Somerset County Council. Residents of this large, mainly rural county have been encouraged to rely on cars to get them to work as well as to shops, hospitals and places of entertainment and bus travel has dwindled accordingly. Bus journeys in the County have fallen by 43% over the past decade, we now have the second lowest bus journeys per head in the country and our bus services have the lowest satisfaction score.

But the Government's Bus Back Better strategy has prompted a major rethink with £3 billion of funding for bus improvements to be shared out between transport authorities across England (outside of London). Somerset County Council has responded and developed a highly ambitious Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) and is asking the Government to fund the Somerset BSIP with an eye watering £163 million grant. You can read the 184pp document that Somerset has submitted justifying this bid here <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/transport-strategy> (the BSIP document can be found under the National Bus Strategy Section).

Even if the full amount of the Somerset bid is not granted, it is a recognition by Somerset County Council that its bus services need major improvement. Transport is the biggest emitter of carbon emissions in Somerset accounting for 44.1% of Somerset's total emissions. Given COP26, we must now make sure Somerset pursues the initiatives outlined in the Somerset Bus Service Improvement Plan that encourage a switch to public transport and away from single occupancy private cars. This will reduce our carbon footprint.

Somerset Bus Partnership was set up so that the voices of bus users from across Somerset are heard. We now have over 80 "bus representatives" from all parts of the county who ensure we understand and reflect the needs of towns and parishes across the county.

We are looking for extra support within the Somerset Bus Partnership's core team. Have you had management experience of the bus industry or in a transport department within a Council? Please do get in touch if you have.

Somerset is now entering into an Enhanced Partnership with local bus service operators to implement the Somerset Bus Service Improvement Plan. Somerset Bus Partnership has been invited to attend the launch of the Bus Advisory Board in late November. This is Somerset's first step in establishing a partnership arrangement with local bus companies.

Somerset Bus Partnership will continue to work with bus users and will hold Somerset County Council to the ambitious and worthy goals now espoused in the Somerset Bus Improvement Plan.

If you would like to get in contact with us drop us an email: somersetbuspartnership@gmail.com or follow us on Facebook: or via our website: <https://www.somersetbuspartnership.co.uk>

John Hassall

Co Chair – Somerset Bus Partnership



Church News

I just want to say a very sincere thank you to everyone who gave so generously to St Mary's Gift Day Appeal. The total to date is £1,500, a truly wonderful amount. The donations, from our friends and neighbours in Holford, was really overwhelming.

In the past, the Gift Day Appeal raised money for a specific purpose like replacing the guttering and the new stained glass window to name just a couple of things.

The Parochial Church Council would normally be doing some fund raising like our Harvest supper, a Jumble Sale and other events to help our financial situation but because of the Covid virus this source of income has been stopped for the last eighteen months.

Each year we need to pay the Diocese of Bath and Wells nearly £7000 which is quite a challenge for the small congregation of St Mary's but we realise the importance of keeping the church doors open for everyone.

Thank you once again.

Ann Steer



Afternoon Tea
with
ALL
and the
SWING CATS

The story of the
'Great American Songbook': 1920-50s
Music and Songs by
Gershwin, Cole Porter, Jerome Kern, Irving Berlin

SUNDAY 5th December
Doors 2.30pm
Holford and District Village Hall

Tickets £8.00 - max 60 people
01278 741493 or 741711

INCLUDES TEA COFFEE AND CAKE

or bring your own 'snifter'

Period Dress optional

Profits to local churches

Holford Hub
Wednesday Afternoon
2pm - 4pm

Please come along any Wednesday until 8th December
and again from 12th January until 30th March.

Free tea, coffee and cake.

Blow away the Winter blues with good company & a giggle or two! A game of indoor boules, card games, bingo, card making, library? The choice is yours!

HOLFORD
& DISTRICT VILLAGE HALL

For more information contact:
maureenyoung@hotmail.com

<https://www.HolfordVillage.com>

Fall, slowly

Abaigéal Warfield

Go slowly into Autumn,
notice the colours,
sense the breeze amongst
the trees
as September softly
sweeps
the summer away.

Autumn is nature's way of
making room after the
brimful abundance of
summer.

A time for slowly shedding
what is no longer needed.
Let go of what you don't
need.

Let the gentle breeze help
you discover which leaves
are ready to fall.

Let them go, lovingly,
and with gratitude,
knowing summer will come
again.

Smile inside your heart,
and feel the earth beneath
your feet,
safe in the knowledge that
change can be beautiful.

(Thanks to Helen Falconar)



Party time!



Holford and District Village Hall

What's On? – Dates for your Diary



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

Weekly regulars Back on Track!

Mon	iPad and Computer Group	10.00 – 12.00
	Short Mat Bowls – Kilve Village Hall	7.00pm
	Aerobics, Pilates and Stretch	6.30pm
Tues	Pilates (occasionally History Society or Gardeners' Group)	6pm – 7pm
Wed	Pilates The Hub	11am – noon 2pm – 4pm
Thu	Table Tennis	7.30 – 9pm
Fri	Art Group Craft Group	10.00 – 1 pm 1.00 – 4pm
Sat	Monthly Coffee Morning	

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



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 January 14th

Please send items for the next issue to

The Editor :

Chris Mew : c.mews@outlook.com

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**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.**