

# Holford news & views



January – February 2022

## Editorial



A very Happy, Peaceful and Healthy New Year to all in Holford and surrounding area, from the whole team at Holford News and Views. I hope you enjoyed Christmas and that your New Year has started in a positive way. Just realised that 'positive' may be linked to certain tests still being taken but never mind we must keep going, with hope that 2022 will be a better year for everyone. Thank you to all of you who organised events during the Christmas period, we enjoyed gatherings on the Green, in people's houses and the Plough. Now we wait for the sun to claim ownership of the sky so that we can swap winter for spring.

There have been several people who have moved into the village during the last few months, welcome all. It would be good to hear from you. If you will be willing to introduce yourselves via HNV please send your notes to the editor [c.mews@outlook.com](mailto:c.mews@outlook.com) and I will include a piece in the next edition.

Another idea for this New Year. Would it be possible to organise some kind of event on the Green for the Queen's Jubilee celebrations in June? Has anyone got a Maypole stored away in the shed? Tea, cake, singing, competitions for the children, displays? Again, ideas to me and we will see what can be done. We can't do a 'street' party but in collaboration with the Village Hall people, the Parish council and St Mary's Church I'm sure we could organise a good day. **Christine Mew (Editor)**

In 2020, **Somerset County Council** submitted a proposal known as "One Somerset" to the Government. Under this plan, the County Council and the four non-metropolitan districts of Mendip, Sedgemoor, Somerset West and Taunton and South Somerset are to be replaced by a single unitary authority to be known as One Somerset.

You will no doubt be aware that there are to be Council elections in May this year. This time there will also be a chance for you to vote for councillors on your own Parish Council. This would normally happen every 4 years but has been brought forward by one year due to this major re-organisation.

Holford Parish Council is allowed 7 councillors. The current team are : Stephen Campbell, Erl Plomgren, Mike Copleston, Michala Crossley, Emma Cavendish, Peter Grandfield and David Talling

If you would like to become a Parish Councillor you will need to apply to Somerset County Council for an application form and to submit your application to them by the cut off date (TBA). Please feel free to contact any of the councillors or the Clerk to discuss what is expected of a councillor and what time you would be committed to giving. It is a voluntary post and if elected the term of service would be four years but a councillor can step down at any time.

There is a valuable document available from the National Association of Local Councillors called 'It takes all sorts' which is a good introduction to what is involved in being a Parish Councillor [file \(nalc.gov.uk\)](http://file.nalc.gov.uk) No experience necessary except life experience, time and a willingness to get involved

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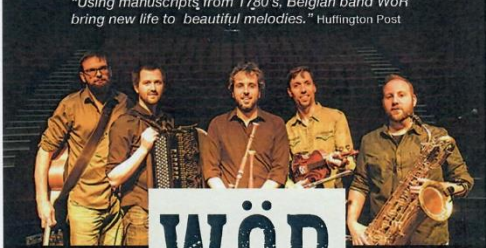
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 Blow away the Winter blues with good company & a giggle or two! A game of indoor boules, card games, bingo, card making, library? The choice is yours!



**HOLFORD**  
 & DISTRICT VILLAGE HALL  
 For more information contact:  
 maureenyoung@hotmail.com  
<https://www.HolfordVillage.com>

"Using manuscripts from 1780's, Belgian band WÖR bring new life to beautiful melodies." Huffington Post



**WÖR**  
**BACK TO THE 1780'S**


WÖR are not only a band to watch, but with their unusual repertoire, they have produced one of the best albums of the year. Rootswood (USA)\*\*\*\*\*

Amazing musicians, with some of the most imaginative treatments of traditional music I've ever heard. Huffington Post

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**Holford and District Village Hall**  
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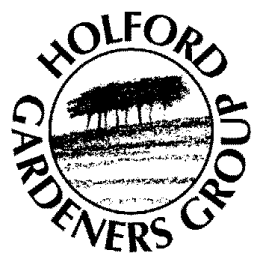


**Christmas Card Deliveries**

With Erl and Mo's help, we delivered about 450 cards sent by a guesstimate of 35 households. We raised £208 for the Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance (£22 up on last year) from eighteen contributions. Most of the cards were clearly addressed and limited to Holford – thank you! Unfortunately, a few contributors struggled with names of both the people and the house, which makes the sorting more of a task. The 'prize' this year went to a card addressed to 'The Family' then a house name that was incorrect, but we think we got it right in the end!!

Sue & Keith Edwards


*Very well done to all of you!*



Tuesday  
 March 15<sup>th</sup>  
 7.30pm

**'The Art of Topiary'**

A talk by **James Crebbin-Bailey**  
 Holford and District Village Hall  
 Members £1.00 Visitors £2.00  
 All Welcome



Tuesday  
 Feb 15<sup>th</sup>  
 7.30pm

**'Westonbirt School Gardens**

**- the Holford Creation'**

A talk by **Margie Hoffnung**  
 Holford and District Village Hall  
 Members £1.00 Visitors £2.00  
 All Welcome

## NEWS FROM YOUR VILLAGE HALL

# ENTERTAINMENT ROUND UP!

### **SPEAKEASY and AFTERNOON TEA - Ali & The Swing Cats**



In early December the revised Ali and the Swing Cats sell out gigs took place, with the band delivering its repertoire of 1930s and 40s 'standards' from the Great American Songbook; songs made famous by the likes of Fred & Ginger, Louis Armstrong and Ella Fitzgerald.

As a member of this trio it's difficult for me to comment but people seemed to enjoy the two events. We received some very nice comments. The Afternoon Tea event was slightly more subdued than the evening Speakeasy event. Perhaps the Speakeasy's alcohol played its part? Some great dancing!!

We really enjoyed playing for you. We will come back again. A September date is planned.



### **TANGO CALOR! How hot was that!**

On a cold Friday night in January the Hall windows were open for ventilation (Covid!) but the temperature inside was HOT as Tango Calor performed their Argentinian Tango music.

This amazing trio of Daan Temmink on piano, Mirek Salmon on bandoneon and female vocalist Indira Román entertained us.

Those lucky enough to be there were treated to some electrifying music. Daan's classical skills combined superbly with real Latin American flair to produce rousing bass crescendos, trilling triplets and some delightful 'diminished chord' arpeggios - just so right for this type of music.

Mirek Salmon had been to Holford before as a member of the Moscow Drug Company (he still plays with them). He didn't recognise the hall in its new guise! Mirek is one of the very few people in the UK who can play the bandoneon, a large box shaped concertina. His skilful playing was truly beautiful and exciting to hear: so full of emotion and passion.

Which brings me to Indira Román. Born in Cuba, but now resident in Bristol, Indira's strong personality shone through as she drew our emotions from happy to sad and back again. Her powerful voice and strong vibrato had us enthralled. Very few of us understood the words: the songs were all in Spanish. But we understood the emotion of each song. You can find Tango Calor online at [www.tangocalor.com](http://www.tangocalor.com) where you can download the whole EP of 6 tracks or buy tracks individually.

Alan Falkingham, Chair  
[chair@holfordvillagehall.org](mailto:chair@holfordvillagehall.org)



## SNIPPETS

It was good to see the Howard and Forsyth families putting up the lights and doves at the lychgate at Christmas. Some of the doves were flying very close to the ground thanks to the smaller helpers!

So many new Holfordians! Mo Young has delivered 10 cards in the last couple of years to new residents. These cards simply say "Welcome to Holford" and have the emails for the Village Hall, Parochial Council, Parish Council and Dave Talling's informative

Holford Village website [www.holfordvillage.com](http://www.holfordvillage.com) Mo is looking for someone else to take this over in 2022.

Holford's Community Speedwatch duties have been badly affected by inclement weather over the past couple of months. However, we hope to get started again in January. We have two new volunteers – Linda Finch and Lorraine Edwards. Please come and join this merry band.

The Christmas Fair held in the hall for Cancer Research raised £670. Well done all stall holders and villagers who supported!

Thank you to Joan Birch for her £40 donation to Air Ambulance. This was added to the donation of £60 from the very enjoyable Saturday evening Speakeasy.

The hall was opened just after Christmas for families with young children. Since our wonderful Coffee and Play was disbanded a couple of years ago we have had all these toys and activities sitting in our cupboard. It was great to see children using them again. All a bit noisy to begin with after being cooped up for several rainy days but all children very well behaved.

The Hub is proving more popular now and we are looking forward to it restarting on 12<sup>th</sup> January at 2pm. It will then continue every Wednesday until 30<sup>th</sup> March when we will be cheered by warm sunshine and Spring flowers! Our community car scheme can provide free transport. Give it a try – you don't have to come every week. Please spread the word. We promise that it will make your Winter seem shorter!

QUANTOCK u3a is still in the process of being set up. There is a meeting at 2pm on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January. Please come along if you would like to join a friendly and enthusiastic steering team. Please don't be put off by the 'University' of the Third Age! There are no assessments, tests or exams. <https://www.u3a.org.uk/> There are so many local groups that can be set up. Something for everyone. Heaven forbid another lockdown, but u3a could provide a social platform *and* stimulate your grey cells. There are so many activities and talks on line. For more information please contact [maureenyoung@hotmail.com](mailto:maureenyoung@hotmail.com) 741249

The Craft Group (1pm-4pm on Fridays) continue to produce some lovely things – cross-stitch, felting, quilting, crocheting, stamping, card making, the choice is yours. £3 a session including tea/coffee and the occasional cake!

### **EAST QUANTOXHEAD VILLAGE HALL**

Coffee Morning with Café and Bric-Brac

Saturday February 19<sup>th</sup> 10-12 noon

East Quantoxhead Village Hall



## So What is a Parish Council ... and what does it do?

The Parish Council exists to help residents (sometimes called Parishioners) of a government designated area (in our case in and around Holford). It is designed to be a point of contact for ideas and suggestions for improvements in the Parish. The minimum number of councillors in all Parish

Councils is 5 and at least 3 must be present for meetings to go ahead. Holford Parish Council has 7 councillors and as such is relatively small. Councillors give their time on a voluntary basis and are not paid. This may be a two or three hours a week although at busy times it might be considerably more. Occasionally councillors attend conferences on matters relating to local government and the environment either in person or on line. The only paid employee is the Parish Council Clerk. Councillors and the Chairman cannot act or make unilateral decisions on behalf of the Council. Decisions are made by vote within council meetings. Holford Parish Council has representatives on the Quantock Joint Advisory Committee, the Hinkley Point C Community Forum and is also currently planning a joint consultation with other local Parish Councils to explore co-operation as we approach the new Joint Unitary Council where we move towards an amalgamation of five previous local councils.

Parish Councils are an essential part of the structure of local democracy and have a vital role in acting on behalf of the communities they represent. They give views, on behalf of the community, on planning applications and other proposals that affect the parish. It is the first tier of the local government system and as such has legal '*duties*' and responsibilities. It also has '*powers*', the things that it **can** do, essentially related to local matters which might include looking after community buildings, open spaces, play areas, street lighting, bus shelters and more.

One of the key areas that the council is involved in is local planning applications. It is the council's remit to visit any proposed developments and to give their opinion, with due regard for the views of the local people, including close neighbours, on whether or not a proposal should go ahead. It is **not** able to make a decision about an application but the planning department has a legal duty to notify the council so that it can represent the local views and this may influence the final decision made. The Parish Council's role is mostly to try and influence organisations like the planning authority who ultimately have the final say. Holford Parish Council was very vocal on behalf of our community in the rejection of the Silk Mills development.

The council also has the power to raise money through taxation, the Precept. Parish Councils may spend money on any purpose, which in its opinion is of direct benefit to all or part of its community. You may recall that your Parish Council was able to borrow money to enable the upgrade of the Village Hall to go ahead. The Parish Council has funded, in association with Kilve Parish Council, the planting of new trees (very small whips) to eventually replace the War Memorial trees that are showing signs of decline. It has also undertaken repairs to the dog pound, pot hole filling requests to the Fairfield Estate and replacement of posts around the Bowling Green. Have a look at our website for insight into what goes on! We are currently looking into some proposals for celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June. We can also apply for financial help / grants to assist local projects of benefit to the Parish.

The public are very welcome at Parish Council meetings, in Holford this is generally the second Monday in the month on alternate months. Notice of these meetings are posted on our website and put into the two village notice boards. Meetings of the Parish Council are public meetings and members of the public have a statutory right to attend meetings of the Council as observers. They have no legal right to speak during the meeting. However, as part of its community engagement, Parish Councils can set out a time for public participation at an agreed time when members of the public can raise concerns. In our case we have allocated 15 minutes before the meeting begins for local people to speak, generally for not more than 5 minutes each! In addition any emails received by the Clerk before the agenda is published can be discussed during the meeting at the discretion of the Chairman. Please do come along and air your views – they do matter.

For clarification the annual **Parish Meeting** is an open meeting where any or all local people can come along and speak. Although the Parish Council usually organises this it is **NOT** a Parish Council meeting as such and any discussions held do not have any bearing on the workings of the Parish Council which is entirely independent of the this meeting. It does, however, give the Parish Council insight into local concerns. Councillors may express their own personal views as this is not an official Parish Council meeting and does not require a united front! The Clerk will usually take minutes of the meeting and publish them otherwise they would not appear until the next meeting – twelve months later!

This is a brief introduction to some of the things your Parish Council does. You will find much more information on the Parish Council website and you can contact any of the Councillors or the Clerk to raise issues that affect the Parish or to make suggestions for improvements.

[www.holford-pc.gov.uk/](http://www.holford-pc.gov.uk/)

Who are the current Parish Councillors? Click here to find out

[Council Members – Holford Parish Council \(holford-pc.gov.uk\)](http://www.holford-pc.gov.uk/)

**Now for something a little more light hearted**

### **Riddles**

1. What part of the chicken has the most feathers?
  2. A plane crashed between the border of France and Belgium. Where were the survivors buried?
  3. What word is pronounced the same if you take away four of its five letters?
  4. I am weightless but put me in a bucket and I will make it lighter. What am I?
  5. A Somerset farmer owns a beautiful pear tree. He supplies the fruit to a nearby farm shop. The shop owner calls the farmer to see how much fruit is available for him to buy. The farmer knows the main trunk has 24 branches. Each branch has exactly 12 boughs and each bough has exactly six twigs. Since each twig bears one piece of fruit, how many plums will the farmer be able to deliver?
  6. Which word in the dictionary is always spelled incorrectly?
  7. How can you physically stand behind your father while he is standing behind you?
  8. I will always come, never arrive today. What am I?
  9. Which travels faster? Hot or Cold
  10. You draw a line. Without touching it, how do you make that line longer?
  11. What question can you never answer yes to?
- The last one, and it might give a clue what to do next!*
12. I start off dry but come out wet. I go in light and come out heavy. What am I?

**Good Luck! Answers on Page 9**



## **HOLFORD HISTORY SOCIETY**

**On Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> 2021** Holford History Society hosted an illustrated talk by Dr Peter Glanvill FRGS, LRPS titled 'Swildons Hole – A history'. This was the first event we had held in the Village Hall for some considerable time and was attended by 12 brave souls.

Peter is a seasoned and entertaining presenter and described how the drama and excitement involved in the cave's exploration parallels the development of cave exploration in the UK.

The evening was a great success with good audience engagement and plenty of questions; we even discovered some members of the audience had themselves ventured underground in their youth !

### **January 11<sup>th</sup> 2022**

Stewart Richards, Chairman of the Friends of the Blake Museum, gave an interesting talk on the Lytil Mill adjoining the museum in Blake Street, Bridgwater. This street was called Mill Tail until 1842.

A mill on this site is mentioned in the Domesday Book for grinding wheat, corn etc. The site went through many changes of use over the centuries being at times a saw mill (1865), a flour mill (1861), Kitch's Baby Carriage Building (1902), timber merchant's, water pumping station (1694), wicker works and was in use until 1927. The current buildings date from 1784. A project, delayed by covid, is under way to develop the area to incorporate the mill with the Blake Museum to form a visitor and education centre which will further highlight the rich history of Bridgwater. The work will largely be carried out by volunteers.

Patsy Robinson is the Schools and Group visits coordinator and I have already spoken to her and she would be pleased to help you arrange a group visit to the museum. Her contact details are :

e-mail [mspatsy.robinson@gmail.com](mailto:mspatsy.robinson@gmail.com) Mobile 07527 766762

Also for people that would like to join the friends  
e-mail [secretary@bridgwatmuseum.org.uk](mailto:secretary@bridgwatmuseum.org.uk) Tel 01278 456127

Bridgwater Heritage which may be of interest <https://bridgwaterheritage.com/wp/>

### **NEXT MEETING**

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February "The Lime Industry and Kilns in this area" 7.30 p.m. Holford & District Village Hall**

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### **Holford Village Hall 2022 Lottery News Happy New Year to everyone!**

We just wanted to let you know that there are some changes afoot with the Village Hall Lottery. First, there's going to be a short break (probably until March/April) before we resume the Lottery. We know you'll miss the sheer excitement of the monthly draw made whenever possible at the Hall Coffee Mornings so please bear with us. December/January has never been a good time of year for collecting subscriptions and a couple of months break will give us time to gather any thoughts you may have about the Lottery. It'll also allow for the accounting of it to align with the financial year.

Since 2016 (when the subs were £6) the annual amount has been £10. The Hall Trustees felt that an increase to £15 was reasonable for 2022. What do you think? If you have any views on how the Lottery is run and/or on how it might be managed in the future, please get in touch - it'd be great to hear from you - all ideas and suggestions on any aspect of the Lottery are most welcome. Drop us a line at [skeirl@btinternet.com](mailto:skeirl@btinternet.com).

(In case you didn't know, the money gathered by the Lottery (£960 in 2021) is distributed approximately 50/50 between prizes and the Hall Fund. With 96 participants last year the split was straightforward with £40 in prizes each month.)

Finally, two votes of thanks - first, for our wonderful team of collectors (ten in all) who come to persuade you to part with your cash and, second, to all who join in the fun by contributing to this worthy cause. We hope that as many people as possible will subscribe this year to make the Lottery both fun and successful. Please spread the word! **All the best, Steve and Chris, The Lodge**





## Lemon Shortbread

### Base

4oz Butter  
6oz Plain Flour  
1oz Icing Sugar

### Topping

2 Eggs  
6oz Caster Sugar  
2 tablespoons Lemon Juice  
Grated rind of 1 lemon  
2 Rounded tablespoons Plain Flour  
½ teaspoon Baking Powder

### For the base

Melt butter and stir in flour and sugar. Put the mixture into a buttered square 8in shallow tin, level and bake at 170° C for 15 minutes.

### For the topping

Add all the ingredients together and mix well till smooth. When the base is cooked, pour on the topping and return to oven for another 20 minutes until the topping is firm to the touch. Dust with icing sugar and leave in the tin to cool and then cut into squares.

**Thanks to Ann Steer, Holford.**

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### From Anne-Marie Russell

I have today received official approval to change the name of Glenside to Fox and Goose Cottage

An ale house, the Fox and Goose, was established in Holford before 1716, and is thought to have survived until after 1754. By 1980 it was two private houses, one of which one was known as Glenside. As the current owner and custodian of this grade II listed cottage I would be delighted to hear from anyone who knows more about the history and evolution of the house pre 1716 and post 1754.

There is a wooden carving within the house of a fox and goose which connects Glenside with its history. To strengthen this association, permissions have been granted by Somerset West and Taunton council to rename Glenside, Fox and Goose cottage. I do hope the renaming will raise a smile (if not a toast given that January is often a dry month!) for all Holfordians and visitors.

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### Riddle answers :

1. <i>The outside</i>	8. <i>Tomorrow.</i>
2. <i>They weren't. Survivors don't need to be buried.</i>	9. <i>Hot is faster because you can catch a cold.</i>
3. <i>Queue</i>	10. <i>Simply draw a shorter line next to it. The first line will now be the longer line in comparison.</i>
4. <i>A hole</i>	11. <i>Are you asleep yet?</i>
5. <i>None—a pear tree doesn't grow plums.</i>	12. <i>A teabag</i>
6. <i>"Incorrectly."</i>	
7. <i>You are standing back-to-back with your father.</i>	



## Holford Parish and Deer Hunting in 2022

I thought I would write about hunting from an "outsider"'s point of view. I would welcome any honest feedback this may generate. Whether you are "pro" or "anti", it is essential to have your facts straight and know whether a particular behaviour is lawful or not, especially when legislation clashes with tradition.

Clear and simple advice about hunting mammals is available on the government website:

<https://www.gov.uk/hunting/mammals>

The Hunting Act 2004 text in its entirety can be found at:  
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/37/contents>

The traditional pursuit of a wild mammal across the countryside, with hounds, horses, and the associated vehicles and radios is widely no longer accepted as a sport. The aim of the law is to prevent undue suffering to a mammal hunted out of necessity. Pursuit and killing by a pack of hounds has been banned based on scientific evidence. Chasing for prolonged periods of time is legally agreed to cause suffering so, in any hunt situation, guns should be positioned so that the wild mammal can be shot dead as soon as possible after being found and flushed from cover. Dogs must not continue to pursue the wild mammal once it has left cover or has been found.

### **The following is a criminal offence:**

1. Hunting with more than two dogs
2. Hare coursing
3. Deer hunting
  - a. during the closed season (stags May 1<sup>st</sup> - July 31<sup>st</sup> / hinds April 1<sup>st</sup> - Oct 31<sup>st</sup> )
  - b. at night (any time year)
  - c. without a license
  - d. pursuit with a vehicle
4. Hunting on land where rights are reserved such as National Trust land. See the map of local designated areas on the Holford Parish Council website:  
<https://holford-pc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/202001-Map-of-areas-in-Holford-where-hunting-rights-are-reserved.pdf>
5. Following the hunt in a vehicle off road without permission. Much of the Quantocks are part of a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and there are rules of vehicular access during a hunt agreed between the landowners and Natural England in order to protect

the biodiversity. Breaking these rules of vehicular access is a criminal offence. A useful map of the trails allowed for this purpose can also be found on the Holford Parish Council site:

[https://holford-pc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Hunt-Quantocks-Permitted-Routes-whole-SSSI-2019\\_2020.pdf](https://holford-pc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Hunt-Quantocks-Permitted-Routes-whole-SSSI-2019_2020.pdf)

6. Trespassing with a firearm

### **Hunting legally**

Red deer hunting on the Quantocks is used as a form of pest control.

**Flushing a wild mammal out of cover** is permitted under the Hunting Act, for the following activities:

- a. to prevent or reducing serious damage to livestock, game birds or wild birds, food for livestock, crops, growing timber, fisheries, other property or biological diversity of an area.
- b. to recapture a wild mammal which has escaped
- c. to capture a wild mammal that the hunter reasonably believes is or may be injured and it is necessary to relieve the wild mammal's suffering.
- d. hunting is undertaken for the purpose of or in connection with the observation or study of the wild mammal.

Hunting of a wild mammal is subject to the following **conditions**.

- a. Permission of the landowner or occupier is required
- b. No more than two dogs may be used
- c. Each dog is kept under sufficiently close control to ensure that it does not prevent or obstruct achievement of the objective
- d. The wild mammal must be captured **as soon as possible** or shot dead by a competent person
- e. The wild mammal must not be harmed, released or permitted to escape for the purpose of being hunted

Illegal behaviour frequently encountered on the Quantocks:

- Prolonged pursuit of deer by horses and hounds
- Quad bikes, motor bikes, 4x4 vehicles driving beyond the tracks permitted, including NT land
- Dogs pursuing deer uncontrolled
- Hunt personnel trespassing on private land to flush out deer
- Armed hunt personnel trespassing on private land

These incidents are regularly reported to the Police, National Trust and Natural England, and the Parish Council is putting pressure on them to ensure that hunt members and followers respect the framework within which they are allowed to operate in.

Feel free to get in touch with me if you have any queries or concerns about the above information.

Emily  
Copse Cottage  
01278 741694

**Editor's note** : The National Trust has recently banned drag hunting on its land and you can find more information at [Read our position on trail hunting | National Trust](#)



## 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](mailto:somersetbuspartnership@gmail.com) or follow us on Facebook: or via our website: <https://www.somersetbuspartnership.co.uk>

John Hassall

Co Chair – Somerset Bus Partnership

## **Holford Parish Council Meeting Chairman's report – January 13<sup>th</sup> 2022**

Welcome to 2022. I think we are all glad to put 2021 behind us and look forward to getting back to some sort of normality in 2022. Unfortunately the arrival of Omicron, brought disappointment and gave all of us a swift realisation that Covid-19 is by no means over but we are determined to resume normal life as soon as is possible not least because the majority of people are now fully vaccinated. Here's hoping...

It has been a quiet couple of months since our last meeting partly because of Christmas and the New Year although celebrations were mostly restrained. Unfortunately the Omicron infection has spread rapidly through our communities and so many projects that were beginning to show progress have suffered from staff sickness or isolation. We still wait for new road signage which we are promised before the end of April. Happily Falcon Housing is making progress on the refurbishment of the Portway playground. A report will be made during the meeting.

A letter of complaint about the local police inaction against poor Hunt behaviour was sent and a response received which will be discussed during the meeting. Councillor Campbell will give an update on the proposed meeting with the hunt organisers.

The Chairman will take part in a one day meeting on Carbon Literacy Training on January 17<sup>th</sup>. Councillor Copleston will also take part in the second session on January 25<sup>th</sup>. This conference is supported by Somerset County Council.

Local Government re-organisation goes ahead, slowly, and the new unitary council will be in place in 2023. The Chairman will update on this within the meeting. The council elections have been brought forward to May 6<sup>th</sup> 2022 and the Parish Council has agreed to have their elections at the same time to avoid a very large bill. It will still be extremely expensive at £1500 unless the councillors are returned unopposed. In spite of the cost implications of this we nevertheless welcome new prospective councillors to apply!! Local Community Networks will be set up so that Parish and Town Councils can join together to take on services formally part of the main council. The financial and workload implications of this are considerable. Parish councillors are unpaid and are unlikely to be willing or able to take on extra hours of unpaid work to shore up the new Unitary Council when they cut back the workforce considerably in 2023. We need to plan ahead so that we can avoid (some) nasty surprises. With this in mind a group of Chairmen from various local Parish Councils are meeting up shortly to share proposals.

There will be a new recycling system coming into place in the Spring when considerably more plastics and tetra paks will be collected by Somerset Waste Partnership. We have been asked if anyone will 'test drive' the bags by filling them with recycling materials not currently collected. The sting in the tail is that these bags will not be emptied until the new system is in place (probably April). One imagines they will be overflowing long before then.

The Chairman attended a meeting 'Rewilding in Somerset' which had some relevant information but some topics related to much larger Nature Reserves in the UK with only a small mention of the Steart Marshes project. The whole meeting is on UTube for those with a special interest. SCC has set aside various areas for rewilding on council owned land. A debate on the Holford Rewilding of Verges project is on the agenda. Since the UK left the EU the government's plan is to switch farming subsidies from food production to grants for improving the natural environment. We wait see **if** or **when** this is implemented.

I'm sure you are all aware that there will be a four day holiday in June to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We will discuss how the Parish Council and all our Parishioners can contribute to this event. Emma Cavendish

*This is for information only. The official report Chairman's report and the meeting minutes are available on the Parish Council website [www.holford-pc.gov.uk](http://www.holford-pc.gov.uk)*

## Richardsons' Ramblings

A happy New Year to everyone – things can only get better!

To continue with our Welsh holiday in October we took the opportunity on a lovely sunny day to go to Portmeirion – somewhere I have wanted to visit for a long time. I am sure many of you will know it from the 'Prisoner' series on the TV back in the 1960's with Patrick McGoohan. I can only remember the big white ball with '6' on it following him – only black and white then! Portmeirion is a holiday village built by Sir Clough Williams-Ellis from 1925 to 1976 in an Italianate style. All the buildings are registered as Grade 1 or Grade 2 historic buildings – they are either self-catering apartments/cottages or hotels. Portmeirion is now owned by the Clough Williams-Ellis Charity. It was interesting to walk round and would have lingered longer if Ella had been allowed in – a steel band came in whilst I was there which rather disturbed the peace!



Mike and I went to Hestercombe's very first Illuminate on a rather damp (and when isn't it?) evening – dogs were allowed but as it was wet we left Ella at home to have a peaceful evening listening to Classic FM. It was very well done and well managed and I wonder how many light bulbs were needed? Luckily there was a steward at one junction otherwise we would have gone the wrong way round their one-way system! Here are a couple of photos to cheer you up.

Gae



## 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**

21<sup>st</sup> Feb, 14<sup>th</sup> Mar and 11<sup>th</sup> April  
but please pass orders any time at present as deliveries still taking at least a week.

**Contact : David Young  
on 741249**

[davidyoung1934@talktalk.net](mailto:davidyoung1934@talktalk.net)



## Lottery

**December draw :**

**Winner (£20):**

Mr & Mrs Browning

**Runners-up (£10 each):**

Brian & Diana Hartfield;

Clive & Annie Hoskisson

### **A note from an animal lover**

#### **FIREWORKS!**

Fireworks seem to be louder than ever!

If you decide to let off fireworks (at any time of the year) please consider local pets, horses and farm animals as the noise can be very stressful and upsetting for wildlife too.

Please let neighbours know what you are planning so they can take any appropriate action such as giving their pet calming medication. A note through doors may suffice.

There are always silent fireworks – just as spectacular!

## **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](http://www.HolfordVillageHall.org)

**Bookings :** Emily Hecksher T : 741694  
or on line at [www.HolfordVillageHall.org](http://www.HolfordVillageHall.org)

### **VARIOUS EVENTS PLANNED NOW THE VILLAGE HALL IS OPEN.**

#### **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

Collections a day later after Bank Holidays

#### ***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 March 15<sup>th</sup>**

Please send items for the next issue to

**The Editor :**

**Chris Mew : [c.mews@outlook.com](mailto:c.mews@outlook.com)**

We regret due to the long term policy of HNV we do not publish letters from readers.

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