

# Holford news & views



April 2023

Happy Easter to you all from the HNV team :  
Mo Plomgren, Mike Pearce, Mike and Gae Richardson and Emma Cavendish

**Editorial** Hopefully by the time you read this the weather will feel a bit more like Spring. Just lately it seems like we have had four seasons in one month. We have been promised a spectacular display of blossom this year as some of the usual early blooms have been held back and will flower at the same time as later ones. It is certainly a wonderful feeling when one can see the first shoots pushing through after what seems like a long winter.



We have an extended weekend to look forward to thanks to the Coronation in May. If you would like some company while watching the event on TV, the village hall will be showing the ceremony at their regular coffee morning on Saturday May 6<sup>th</sup>. Details inside. In view of the big party that was held last June to celebrate the platinum jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II the Parish Council is not planning to arrange a formal party this time but should the weather be fine it would be nice to see families bring a picnic to the Bowling Green for lunch on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> as part of the 'Big Lunch' event.

Just a reminder that the annual Parish Meeting is on April 17<sup>th</sup> in the village hall. This is an open meeting where anyone can voice their views on any Parish matter that interests or concerns them. It does give people the chance to air their opinions. It can get very lively! Do come along. Agenda to be posted.

Special thanks to all of you who sent in some fascinating articles for this edition – a bumper one this time. Please keep them coming. We love to hear from you.



**We are now fully digital** but if you know someone who would like a paper copy you *just have to ask* one of the team and they will print it out for you to deliver. There are also a few copies left in the Church, the Village Hall and the Pub. Send in your submissions to [EmmaCavendish01@aol.com](mailto:EmmaCavendish01@aol.com) – it is lively contributions (on any topic you like!) that make for an interesting and thought provoking newsletter! Deadline is May 17<sup>th</sup>. **Emma**

**Our thanks to Combe House Hotel for sponsoring this edition**

# WHAT WE DO

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*at Combe House Hotel*

**Breakfast-** Served 8 - 10  
Monday - Friday

**Lunches-** Served 12 - 2  
Monday - Friday

**Afternoon tea-** Served 12 - 5  
everyday

**Evening meals-** Served 6 - 8.30  
Monday - Saturday

**Sunday Roast-** Served 12.30 - 2.30/  
5.30 - 7.30 Sunday

**Saturday Brunch-** Served 10 - 2  
Saturday



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Everybody welcome!

Dogs, Children, Bikers, Walkers, Families!

## Coronation - 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1953

At the time of the coronation, I was 8 years old and the build up had been quite breath taking. At school it seemed that all we did was make crowns and EIIR collages and everywhere was festooned with bunting and Union Jacks. I lived in London and my father was always of the opinion that if there was something memorable happening we were taken to see whatever it was. So we were going to see the procession. I had a baby sister under a year old so my mother was not coming with us - she was going to watch it on a neighbour's television (we didn't have one until the following year).

The great day arrived - a bit dull and damp. A newly married cousin had recently joined the Metropolitan police and was to be on duty in Oxford Street. His wife wanted to attend too so we met up with her and duly took up our stance opposite Selfridges. We were there quite early (well, you had to be) with packed lunches etc. and watched all the comings and goings. The vendors hawked their flags, periscopes and fizzy pop and we even had the odd street entertainer. The very friendly policemen ambled about making sure we kept to the pavement and then the guard of honour arrived and we watched quite transfixed while they got into their places. As the time went on it began to rain with vengeance and I was dressed, as were many children in those days, in my navy blue gaberdine mac. with hood, school shoes and short socks. Well, as you can imagine I was quite chilly, even if it was June, but Sylvia (the newly married wife) said not to worry as she had a pair of her husband's hand knitted football socks in her bag and I could put them on top of my shoes to keep my legs warm. Well, it did work quite well until someone else in the crowd noticed and I heard this lady say 'Oh look, that little girl has no shoes on'. Well, I felt a bit like orphan Annie but piped up that it was alright I really did have shoes on. For the remainder of the day various people commented on this phenomenon of a child with no shoes and I got steadily more morose!

At last, I think it was about 2.00 pm we began to hear band music in the distance and everyone perked up. The rain was now coming down in buckets but it didn't seem to cramp anyone's style. The friendly policemen were wonderful and organised all the children to come to the front and stand with them between the guard of honour. I don't know whether any of you can remember but London policemen wore waterproof capes in the rain and one of them (I think he'd heard about my shoes) was particularly kind to me. I must have looked like a drowned rat by this time but he stood with his arm around me covering me with his cape. I had the most wonderful view of the whole procession, everyone in the coaches waved furiously, we all cheered and Queen Salote went past in her coach almost standing up and loving the rain. The golden coach was the real icing on the cake. The Queen and Prince Philip smiled and waved to everyone and I remember thinking that crown she was wearing must be really heavy.

I don't remember much about the trip home, we obviously went by tube but I do remember that later that evening my mother, Sylvia and I went back to see the lights which were quite something (father was obviously babysitting). What I do remember is that feeling of camaraderie, everyone was so happy and in that time of austerity when there were still bomb sites around the capital it really did seem like a new beginning. Sue Ayshford



## Coronation of June 2<sup>nd</sup> 1953



Oh my goodness, seventy years ago almost to the month to the forthcoming coronation, I sat on the floor in my aunt & uncle's sitting room in Balham, South London, with my cousin, grandparents and parents plus neighbours, watching the procession of the Queen in her golden coach to Westminster Abbey, for her coronation ceremony - all on a very small Echo television! We had gone to my mother's sisters' house as we didn't own a television at home! The rain came, but that didn't seem to put a damper on our excitement watching such pomp and pageantry. I don't remember much else about that day, except the sound from the television of cheering

from the crowd outside when the Queen left the Abbey wearing her crown and the miles of flags and hundreds of people lining the route back to Buckingham Palace.



The best thing of course was the street party, held a day later in the road where we lived. Bunting stretched across the road and hung outside houses, posters of the Queen in windows, tables laid out with sandwiches, jelly and lemonade and then in the afternoon, we children joined in a fancy dress parade. I was an Irish Colleen!! (no doubt a nod to my Irish great grandparents!) Friends and neighbours enjoying a jolly good 'ol knees up' in the evening with bottles of beer and people dancing to the playing of a piano, which had been pulled out into the street and lifted on to a 'make-shift' stage and someone playing an accordion. A 'proper' party!

A few days leading up to the coronation, I remember my parents taking me up to London to see the decorations along the mall, and we watched the Horse Guards rehearsing and my father buying lots of flags and red, white & blue balloons to hang on our front gate. The souvenir shops bulging with all sorts of paraphernalia and I remember especially little glass domes with miniature models of Westminster Abbey inside them.

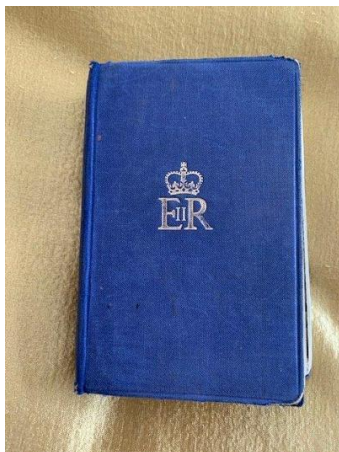
After the coronation, before the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh went off on their commonwealth travels, I remember our primary school classes with all the teachers, marching up to Tooting Bec Common, holding our Union Jack flags, then patiently waiting for what seemed like hours by the roadside, to wave to the royal couple as they were driven along on their tour around South London... although it was all over too quickly - as they sped by!



At some time or other, children were given souvenir Coronation mugs and little replicas of the golden coach, which I sadly have lost over the years, but I still have a souvenir bible, given to me by my parents for my birthday that year.

The rest of that time is a little foggy, but I have always liked to share those little snippets especially

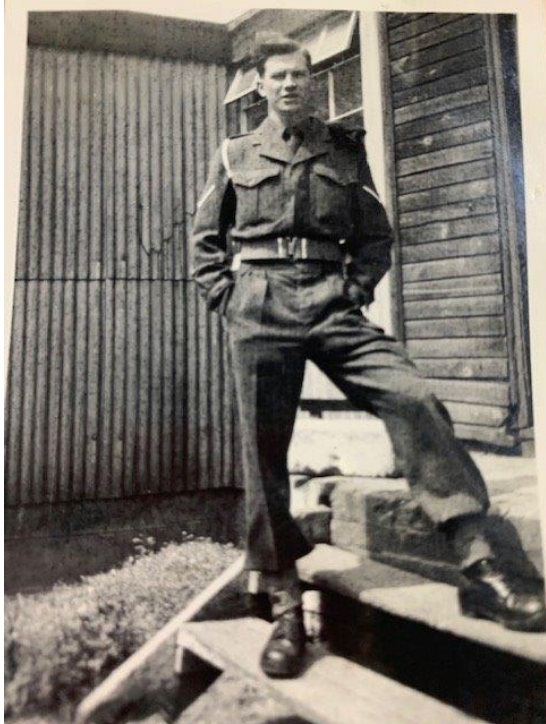
with my children and grandchildren, as I remember so well my own grandmother when as a small child, she was living in London in Westminster, telling me stories of how she would on the odd occasion see Queen Victoria in her carriage and then later, watching the procession of King Edward VII on his coronation day.



A commemorative gift bible from my parents

How time flies!

**Mo (Plomgren)**



## Coronation of 1953 (& before!!)

I was in the Army doing my National Service. I was given the day off to attend any ceremony I preferred which I did by going to the fantastic London one. We did not have a special parade surprisingly. But in my case I also attended the 1937 one of George VI and Elizabeth in May. I was two and a half years old and it was a street party in Sidcup, Kent. I can still recollect the scene of the long table in the road piled high with food and local residents eating/drinking/dancing with music in the background. Them were the days!!

David Young – Holford



'Life is like a piece of string. It has a beginning and an end. We don't get much say about that. But we can make choices about the bit in between. We have the freedom to shape our own lives.'

## A surprisingly heavy snow fall in Holford

Thanks to Jean Pearce for braving the weather to take these for us!





**HOLFORD GARDENERS GROUP**

Holford and District Village hall

**TUESDAY APRIL 18<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm**

*'Bishops Garden, Wells'*

A Talk by James Cross

Members £1.00 Visitors £2.00



**HOLFORD GARDENERS GROUP**

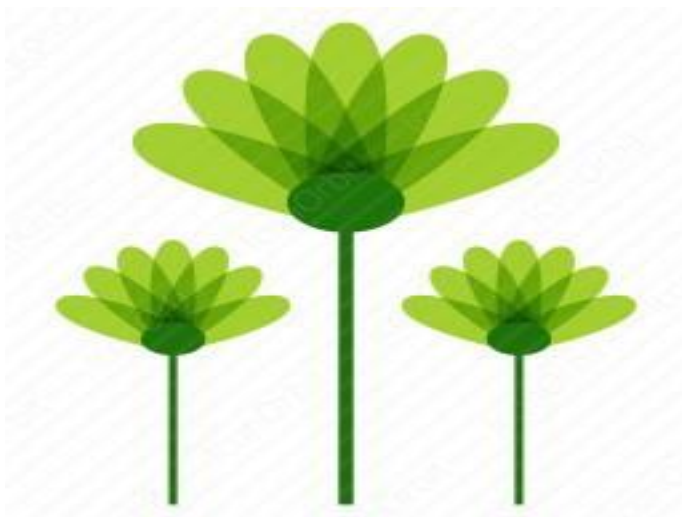
Holford and District Village hall

**TUESDAY 16<sup>th</sup> MAY at 7.30pm**

*'Therapeutic Horticulture'*

a Talk by David Tinsley

Members £1.00 Visitors £2.00



# PLANT SALE

Holford and District Village Hall

**SATURDAY MAY 20<sup>th</sup>**

**10am - 12 noon**

**HOLFORD GARDENERS GROUP**



# Are you in the Holford and District Village Hall Lottery???

Why not join in the fun and help a worthy cause?

- Only £15 for 12 monthly draws with First Prizes of £30 and two Runners-up (£15 ea.)
- The Draw usually takes place on the first Saturday of the month at the Village Hall Coffee Morning and all results appear in Holford News & Views
- With around 100 players the odds are good and the money raised is split roughly 50/50 between the prizes and the Village Hall Fund

Please support us and try your luck.

Contact Steve or Chris on 01278 741752 or any Committee Member

Thank you!

Holford and District Village Hall. Registered Charity No: 304559  
H&DVH Lottery Registered under the Gambling Act 2005. Licence No: 000008188



**QUANTOCK U3A MONTHLY MEETING**  
Monday 24th April 2 pm  
West Quantoxhead Village Hall  
Chris Sidaway

The River Parrett Trail: A "virtual" walk along 50 miles of the River Parrett exploring the Arts, Heritage, Natural History and people along the way.

Members and non members welcome  
**REFRESHMENTS**

**Quantock u3a have booked two bus tours to Hinkley, but may have a few extra seats. We would welcome more members and non members to fill up the bus. The tours start in the Visitor Centre then we are taken by coach round the Hinkley site.**

**[Hinkley Point Visitor Centre](http://hinkleypointvisitorcentre.edfenergy.com)**  
**[edfenergy.com](http://edfenergy.com)**

**These tours have proved very popular, therefore it's not easy to book one. So, do take this opportunity!**

**The dates are:**  
**Thursday, 13th April in the afternoon**  
**Thursday, 11th May in the morning**

**Please email me asap to reserve your place.**

**[Maureenyoung@hotmail.com](mailto:Maureenyoung@hotmail.com)**

Thank you  
Mo Young  
Chair Quantock u3a

## An Evening in Venice



In July last year Don and I spent an unexpected three-day weekend in Venice, almost 40 years since our last visit. We relished the thought of revisiting the Basilica di San Marco and watching the world go by over a drink in St Mark's Square, seeing the Palazzo Ducale and other Gothic splendours, walking the canals and enjoying the Venetian cuisine. This time, we considered, it would be hot, crowded and expensive and would need some careful planning.

I decided to consult a longstanding Italian friend who had honeymooned in Venice, returning many times since, and wondered if she could recommend some bars/restaurants in the quieter back streets of Venice, ideally used by the locals. "No problem", she smiled. "I will send you a copy of **Polpo** which will tell you everything you need to know, and more besides". **Polpo**, written by Russell Norman, is the name of the writer's restaurant, opened in 2009, and this is a Venetian cookbook (of sorts). My friend had met him by chance on a vaporetto in Venice some years ago. Russell had given Marina and her husband a copy of his book, advising them to consult the Gazetteer at the rear, which gave a very subjective guide to some of Venice's *barcas* (wine bars) and restaurants. She confirmed they had tried most of them and they were all terrific.

A copy of the beautiful book arrived, and we duly considered the twelve recommendations, plotting their locations in relation to our hotel, which lay between St Mark's Square and the Rialto Bridge. We agreed the ones chosen needed to be ideally within a twenty minute walk of the hotel.



We were intrigued by **I Rusteghi**, described as a well-hidden wine bar which was particularly difficult to find. "It may only be one hundred steps from the Rialto Bridge, but you have to make sure they are exactly the right one hundred steps". The owner, Giovanni, was known for his imposing physique, forthright opinions, and undisputed knowledge of wines, and could be broody and glowering if people showed a lack of respect for his wines and ways. On the right day, he could also be the most

knowledgeable, entertaining and convivial host in Venice. The bar apparently lay in a simple courtyard where you could hear a pin drop, despite its proximity to one of the busiest tourist destinations in the world, and was known for its fresh seafood and excellent cured meats.

We booked a table for 7.30 pm, leaving our hotel at 6.00, aiming to enjoy a leisurely stroll along the canals and to enjoy a drink on the way. Unlike me, Don always reads maps brilliantly, and we worked out a route from the hotel directly to **I Rusteghi**, but bi-passing the Rialto Bridge. This gave us a lovely walking tour of the canals in the early evening sunshine, but didn't seem to get us to our destination as we hoped. We eventually decided to head towards the Rialto Bridge and then find the "right hundred steps" as detailed in the book. We arrived in the Square, quiet and peaceful, just before 7.30, an hour and a half later. The **I Rusteghi** lay in the far corner, somewhat unremarkable, rows of washing hanging from the balcony above.

We were greeted silently by Giovanni, who waved towards the outside tables, and then disappeared inside. A family of eight occupied one other table, some distance away. He then reappeared with a menu, and Don said artfully that we would take his recommendation on wines which was met with a broad smile. We chose the cured ham to start and a crayfish and monkfish main course. Giovanni then reappeared with two glasses of white wine, which he insisted we tried. "Perfect for the ham", he claimed. Perfect for anything, we thought – quite exceptional and we hoped wouldn't be taken aback on price, as we hadn't seen a price list. It was so good, we had a second glass while awaiting our main course.

The fish arrived, a dish of huge, shelled crayfish and slices of monkfish nestling in a pink cream sauce on a bed of rice. Giovanni then reappeared with a different wine, slightly darker in colour, and poured two further glasses. Again superb! By now, other tables were gradually being occupied. Against the background music, the grandfather from the family table took his grand-daughter by the hand and danced her round the square. We sat and watched as we drank and ate the ambrosial wine and food and wondered if we had time to fit in the other 11 *barcas* recommended in the book. The bill was a remarkable 80 Euros, each glass of wine averaging at 5 Euros a glass.

We managed to include two other recommendations from the book, plus Marina's own special favourite restaurant in Venice, the **Antiche Carampane**. In **Polpo's** own words, Venice is "beautiful beyond words".

**Polpo, A Venetian Cookbook (of Sorts)** by Russell Norman is available on Amazon – recommended price £26 (Amazon price £19.99). Also available on Kindle.

**Sally Hannah**  
**March 2023**

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It is with great sadness that we have to report the death of Alina Wisnicka (McKinley) of Winsors Cottage, Holford, after a long illness stoically born. It is always very sad to see a young woman dying before her time but I am sure that Alina's strong Christian faith will have helped her in her struggle. She would no doubt be pleased that David Talling has taken in her cat, Tinkerbelle who seems to have settled in well. **RIP**



## Richardsons' Ramblings

In my articles I have invariably mentioned our Airedales, Ella and her predecessor Hebe, so this time I will tell you about the dogs we have owned over the past 44 – yes 44 years!

I grew up with Asta, a Wire-Haired Fox Terrier that loved humans and was a right so and so with other dogs. (A perfect example of the breed won the Terrier Group at Crufts this year). Soon after we got married we decided to buy a puppy which would then be company for Mike as he worked from home – I commuted on dear old GWR to Bristol. We wanted a larger breed and a sociable dog, so an Airedale was agreed upon.

We couldn't pick Arwen up until after Christmas 1978, which I think the private breeder regretted as Arwen and her brother had the Christmas tree over twice! It had snowed heavily overnight so only one lane of the M5 was open and our Lancia Fulvia was hardly the ideal car for the journey. I remember Mike having a whisky tot before leaving Tewkesbury – not something he would dream of doing these days. Arwen was so good sitting on my lap taking it all in on the way back to Claverham.

Back in 1988 we had a long holiday in USA and Arwen had a wonderful time staying with a chap and other doggy guests so we went ahead looking at other breeds to get a 'sister' for her. We saw some beautiful Gordon Setters but at the time they had a lot of hip problems and visited a Bearded Collie breeder – that coat in the mud of the fields by us was a no. We went to various Giant Schnauzer breeders eventually having a pepper and salt puppy bitch from Cornwall. People told us you could not have Airedales and Giant Schnauzers together but we proved them wrong time and again. Gritzi (short for Gritzelda Von Grossadung!) and Arwen became great buddies. I don't think I have known any dog to have grieved as much as Gritzi did when Arwen had to be put to sleep.

We very quickly 'booked' an Airedale pup with a breeder in Newbury but it turned out to be a phantom pregnancy. She suggested we contact Mary Swash, owner of the top Jokyl kennels as she probably had a litter due. Our first thoughts were 'expensive', but we were proved wrong. Mary's Champion dog was dad and the mum was with a family in Sutherland. So Kylie (not named after Kylie Minogue but after the Kyle of Tongue in Sutherland where we had stayed) came down to Surrey from Sutherland in the back of a Volvo estate with her 8 siblings – the chap just drove all night and I don't know how he managed to do that.

Gritzi wasn't a fan of puppy Kylie that first week but they were soon great friends. Our first Giant Schnauzer was a big girl (weighing in at 40kg) and an excellent guard dog – I always knew when someone was going up the drive to Cleeve Hall opposite. Reading an article in a magazine reminded me of the time I tied her up to a bike rack outside our local shop in Cleeve only to hear car horns tooting and a strange noise. The shop owner and I dashed out to see Gritzi hurtling down the road followed by the bike rack! Unbeknown to me the rack was not attached to the ground! We soon caught my poor dog, physically unscathed but it was a long time before we walked that way again – Giants are sensitive souls.

Kylie and Gritzi did go on camping holidays with us although Gritzi really preferred kennels to holidays! We have some good photos including them playing with driftwood in a very calm sea off the Mull of Kintyre. Gritzi would sometimes get a bit grumpy and when we had the big tent the dogs would be in their own 'bedroom' but she would refuse to budge away from the

inner wall! I sometimes wonder how we got 2 dogs, big tent, stove, etc all in the Volvo estate – no fun when you have got a wet tent, apart from wet dogs!

At 12½ years Gritzi left us and Giants are only supposed to live to 10 but our second one, Jato went to nearly 15. The kennels near us had a litter of English Pointers – fatal to go and see puppies – so Toran joined us and did spend her last year here in Corewell. She very nearly died after her spaying op and I went to the vets to say 'goodbye' to her before going away on a business trip. The next day Toran suddenly rallied but was always a bit precious after that – from day 1 off the lead she never left our sides, not like 1 or 2 I could mention!

Arwen, Gritzi, Kylie and Toran were all taken to training classes for socialisation as much as obedience. Mike took Arwen to a class where they were walking on mats around the perimeter of the hall and on the command 'come' she was supposed to go in a straight line across to Mike. Arwen thought it was better to keep to the mats and go the long way round to him, much to the amusement of everyone! Gritzi was so good that the trainer wanted her to enter competitions but one of the tasks is retrieving, but she thought that beneath her and no amount of treats would persuade her otherwise!

So 2 Airedales down with another 3 to go plus a Giant Schnauzer – all of them either rescues or re-homers. I will tell you about them another time and sorry there are no photos but this was the good old days of slides and prints.

Gae



Membership to the society is £5 per annum  
Entry to the talks is £2 for members & £3  
for anyone else who would like to attend.  
For further information please contact Mike  
Wise (Chairman) on  
[spike0407@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:spike0407@hotmail.co.uk)

Forthcoming meetings are as follows:

April 11th - Exeter's Tudor and Regency Buildings by Robert Hesketh

May 9th - History quiz and social night

## Chicken with Chardonnay and Chanterelles

**This recipe kindly given to us by Sally Hannah of Brookside Cottage, Holford.**

2 boneless free-range chicken breasts with skin (350-400 g)  
150 ml Chardonnay or white Burgundy  
15g dried chanterelles  
2 tablespoons olive oil  
40g butter  
1 level tablespoon plain flour seasoned with salt and pepper  
3-4 shallots (110g approx) peeled and finely sliced  
A good pinch (about ¼ teaspoon) smoked paprika or ordinary paprika  
2 coils dried *pappardelle al'uovo* (about 95g) or other wide-ribbed pasta  
3 tablespoons double cream  
Freshly grated nutmeg  
Salt and ground black pepper  
You will also need a medium lidded frying pan or small cast-iron casserole



Preheat oven to 200c/180c fan or gas mark 6. Soak the chanterelles in just enough lukewarm water to cover them, leaving them for 10 minutes. Meanwhile, heat the pan or casserole over a medium heat, add 1 tablespoon of the olive oil and half the butter.

Dip the chicken breasts in the seasoned flour and place them in the pan, skin side down. Fry for about 2.5 minutes on each side, remove from the pan, place in an oven-proof dish and cover. Transfer to the oven and cook for 20 minutes.

Meanwhile, discard the fat from the pan, wipe it clean and replace over a low heat. Add the remaining oil and butter and cook the sliced shallots gently for 5-6 minutes, until soft. Drain the chanterelles, carefully reserving their soaking liquid, which you should strain through a fine sieve.

Add the Spanish sweet smoked paprika to the shallots, stir well, turn up the heat for a few seconds then pour in the wine. When sizzling has died down, add 95ml (3.5 fl oz) of the reserved mushroom water. Leave to simmer for 10 minutes and strain into a bowl through a fine sieve. Return the sieved sauce to the pan, add the mushrooms and simmer with the lid on for another 10 minutes.

Check the chicken, and if it's cooked turn off the oven. If not, give it another 5 minutes.

Cook pasta in large pan of boiling salted water. Take the mushrooms off the heat, stir in the cream and check the seasoning, adding salt and pepper to taste.

Replace over a very low heat to thicken, stirring occasionally. When the pasta is cooked, drain thoroughly and season with pepper and grated nutmeg.

Place the chicken breasts on a chopping board or carving plate and cut with a sharp knife into 5 or 6 thick diagonal slices. Transfer them to warm plates, place the pasta alongside and spoon over the mushrooms and cream.

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## **A geography quiz this time!**

1. What country is second to South Africa in gold production?
2. What river has the alternative name of Zaire?
3. What two countries edge the Victoria Falls?
4. What South East Asian country's name means 'land of the free'?
5. What is the official language of Liechtenstein?
6. What is the capital of Turkey?
7. What nation did Niger, Algeria, the Congo and Tunisia all gain independence from?
8. What two countries border the highest mountain the Americas?
9. What African country's name is from the Latin for free?
10. What name comes from the Polynesian Owhyhii, meaning place of the gods?
11. Which Island nation, whose capital is Taipei, was formerly known as Formosa?
12. Which US state is Chicago in?
13. Which desert covers part of China and Mongolia?
14. Which other country apart from San Marino is completely surrounded by Italy?
15. This Italian island shares its name with a model of car, stands at the southern entrance to the Bay of Naples and is famous for its Blue Grotto.
16. What is the former name of Beijing?
17. Where is the home of the Mormon religion?
18. In which city is the Taj Mahal?
19. Which is Australia's largest state?
20. Which is Australia's highest mountain?

Thanks to Mike Richardson – answers on page 20

## **Holford Parish Council – Chair Report March 29<sup>th</sup> 2023**

### **New Somerset Council and Local Community Networks**

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/how-the-council-works/about-your-new-somerset-council/>

By the time of publication we will have become a united New Somerset Council, with the District Councils becoming defunct by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023. The plan is still for Parish Councils to join other local groups as part of Local Community Networks, sitting as a Committee of the Council. As I write, there is still no confirmation of how and when these will be set up or work, so I expect a long and steep road ahead to ensure our voice doesn't get lost.

### **Speed Indicator Devices and Coronation Bench**

At our last meeting we agreed our Budget and Precept, which we were keen to keep low to ensure we didn't add to the burden of the current economic uncertainties. This does mean that we have not allocated any council money towards the Kings Coronation or the A39 traffic measures. However, we do have plans to spend the grant we obtained last year towards speed indicator devices as soon as possible, but also to obtain a grant to install a new commemorative coronation bench on the Bowling Green. As and when this grant is through, we look forward to working with the wider community to sort out the bench design and an inauguration event. Fairfield Estate have confirmed they are happy for us to proceed with this.

### **Car park potholes**

Our car park is also on Fairfield land and we have agreed with the Quantocks AONB that they will use the current Access Grant and their contacts with Fairfield to organise the filling of the potholes at the entrance to the carpark. However, this may not happen this financial year, as they have already allocated much of their project budget.

### **Quantocks Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**

I was invited to take part in the Annual Quantock Deer Count at the beginning of March, which was a very early start but it's something that gets people from all walks of life to work together on a project which offers a little bit of insight into how things are going for the larger mammals on our hills. I will make the result available as soon as I have it. Another project relating to the AONB is their proposed Nature Recovery Plan and I am also attending the workshops they are running for this. There is still a way to go before the plan makes it into their statutory Management Plan in 2025, but the idea is to essentially create opportunities for landowners to help make bigger, better and more joined up areas for nature.



## **A year of change for Holford Parish Council**

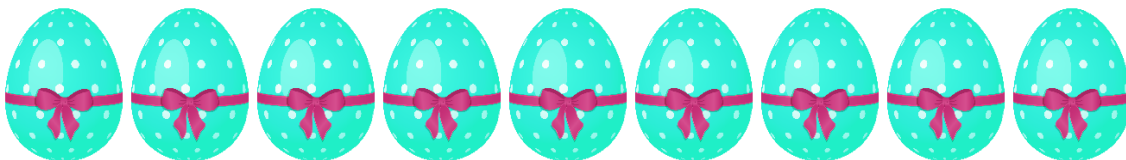
We have held our last meeting of the 12 months since the previous Parish Council stood down in May. It has been a very steep learning curve and only two of us elected onto the council last year remain. It goes to show how much time and dedication this role entails, and I don't think many people appreciate this. Here's hoping we can now move forward with a full complement of councillors who are able to put the effort in to ensure our parish and parishioners are appropriately represented. With so many new councillors on board again, it will be crucial to sort out roles and responsibilities and for the appropriate training to be undertaken.

## **Annual Parish Meeting**

This will take place in the evening of Monday 17th April at Holford and District Village Hall. This is not a Parish Council meeting and hopefully its slightly more informal nature will encourage more parishioners to attend and have their say, as we still have a very small minority of villagers expressing interest in what we get up to on their behalf. We already have many local interest groups speaking at the meeting - look out for the Agenda which will go out in the week of 3rd April and will be on our noticeboards, Website and Facebook Page. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Emily Heckscher  
Chair - Holford Parish Council

Note : The minutes of the meeting held on March 13<sup>th</sup> will be available on the website [www.holford-pc.gov.uk](http://www.holford-pc.gov.uk)



## **Coronation Day Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023** **Holford Village Hall**

**On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May, there will be the usual first Saturday in the month village coffee morning, with the normal refreshments and delicious cakes!**

**During the morning, 'The Bug Hotel in the Hall Cheeks' will be unveiled as an inclusion of the Coronation celebrations.**

**The hall will then remain open for those that would like to stay behind to watch the Coronation procession and ceremony which will be televised on the big screen...everyone is very welcome to stay as long as they like, perhaps bring a picnic lunch and some bubbly to celebrate the occasion!**

**To remind people, notices advertising this will be posted around the village.**

**We hope to see you there!**

**Andrew Mew - Chairman, Holford & District Village Hall.**

## Holford Village Hall performances

From our events critic – Ann Anderson



**Janice Burns & Jon Doran** performed at Holford and District Village Hall on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February. Take Art Somerset once again came up trumps by supporting us to host this Anglo-Scottish duo who came together seven years ago at university after discovering a shared love of traditional music. Janice & Jon's compelling storytelling came alive through their tight vocal harmonies and sensitive interplay between mandolin,

bouzouki, and guitar. They are both delightful singers with wonderfully musical voices and their performance of traditional folk songs had a real authenticity with lovely harmonies. They had a genuine and relaxed way of communicating with the audience and everyone left having had a great evening.

### **Lost in Blue written and performed by Debs Newbold**

The last Take Art production in Holford for 2022/23 was on the 10<sup>th</sup> March and this time offered something completely different. **Lost in Blue** is written and performed by Debs Newbold and is moving and funny, offering a dynamic fusion of spoken word and performance storytelling. Definitely not to be missed!

Debs Newbold brought her one woman story telling show for a tour of Somerset, and we were so lucky to have her in Holford. What an amazing talent she has for bringing a story to life – the whole audience was gripped by the suspense as the story unfolded. Such a talented and poignant performance which I know will stay with me for a long time. One of the privileges of promoting Take Art in Holford is that Jeremy and I (and others around the village) often get to host the artist or sometimes artists overnight. Debs was a delight to have and we would love to host her again in the village hall in the future.

Helen Falconer and I are looking forward to reviewing the programme for the Take Art 2023/24 season and hopefully choosing at least 2 shows, one for the autumn and one for Spring 2024. Please let either Helen or I know if there is a particular genre of music or art you would be keen to see in Holford.

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[www.holfordvillagehall.org](http://www.holfordvillagehall.org)

## Quiz Answers

- |                        |                               |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. The US              | 11. Taiwan                    |
| 2. The Congo River     | 12. Illinois                  |
| 3. Zimbabwe & Zambia   | 13. Gobi                      |
| 4. Thailand            | 14. Vatican city              |
| 5. German              | 15. Capri                     |
| 6. Ankara              | 16. Peking                    |
| 7. France              | 17. Salt lake city, Utah, USA |
| 8. Argentina and Chile | 18. Agra                      |
| 9. Liberia             | 19. W.A.                      |
| 10. Hawaii             | 20. Mt Kosciusko              |

## **KHARS**

The Kilve and Holford community car scheme was conceived on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2004 and we have now done over 5,000 trips.

Volunteer drivers use their own cars and get a mileage allowance. We cover the areas of Kilve, Holford, Dodington, Dyche, Stringston and East Quantoxhead, to give independence to those in our rural community who are unable to drive or do not have access to public transport. If a car owner cannot drive for some reason, then they are still eligible.

All passengers must be registered with the scheme and 48 hours' notice is required for a requested journey. To register and/or request a trip contact Brian House on 741384.

If you have any worries about suitability or eligibility, then contact Brian.

Holders of a valid concessionary bus pass are entitled to a 50% reduction on the fee, up to a maximum of £20.

Examples of new costs (which will be reviewed quarterly) are -

Taunton £9 (or £4.50 with pass)

Bridgwater £4 (or £2)

Williton surgery £4 (or £2)

Nether Stowey £4 (or £1)

New drivers are always wanted and welcomed. Currently Holford has a small number of active drivers. Volunteers get notified of requested trips via email from Brian, usually sent out on Thursday with details of the following week. If a driver wishes to offer a lift then they reply to the email saying which trip they could do and will get a reply telling them the details if their offer is accepted (by Brian, not the passenger). Conversely if a volunteer cannot do a trip then all they need to do is not volunteer! This method works well, because only Brian knows who, or how many, offers are made. Although the fees have been altered, drivers' recompense remains the same.

If you are interested in the scheme as a new passenger, then contact Brian. If you are interested as a volunteer driver, then contact Brian or me.

Keith Edwards 01278 741183

## **PRESS RELEASE: CARING FOR CARERS**

**CAN YOU HELP BY OFFERING A WELL BEING TREATMENT TO A CARER?  
OR OFFER SOMETHING FOR A RAFFLE OR GOODY BAG?**

ORGANISATIONS and individuals are being invited by Somerset Carers Service to participate in an event for those members of our community who devote their time to supporting others, during National Carers Week in June. The event will be held at Williton Pavilion on Saturday 10 June, from 2pm to 4pm. It aims to provide Carers with goody bags and information on support services available to them, an opportunity to meet with other Carers, and to take part in interactive demonstrations and features.

Local charity, the Community Council for Somerset (CCS) are commissioned to run Somerset Carers Service. This support is delivered by the Somerset Village Agents on a 1:1 basis to Carers at any and every stage of a person's caring journey. Members of the team will be on hand at the event to showcase how they can help unpaid Carers.

West Somerset Village Agents are helping to organise the event alongside West Somerset Healthcare's Patient Participation Group (PPG).

Local CCS Village Agent, Izzy Silvester, said: "Unpaid Carers are unsung heroes of our community who often make sacrifices to look after loved ones whether that's a partner, parent, friend or child, on a daily basis.

"This event aims to give carers in our community an opportunity to take some time out to find out more about the services available to them, including practical and financial support, self-care and therapy, arts and crafts whilst meeting others in similar situations.

"Being a carer can be difficult and lonely at times, and just having time to meet and talk to others can make such a difference." Foxes Academy will provide tea and cakes during the event and the organisers hope this will be an informal, interactive and enjoyable opportunity for visitors. Entry will be free of charge, and Somerset Carers are very thankful to the many volunteers they already have to help the day run smoothly.

Organisations interested in taking part and anyone who can provide interactive demonstrations are welcome to participate. To book your place please contact PPG chair Dr Elizabeth Grigg on 01278 741645 or 07765 994013 or email [grigg.84@btinternet.com](mailto:grigg.84@btinternet.com), or Dr Jane Armstrong at [jcb773737@outlook.com](mailto:jcb773737@outlook.com).

Takeaway goody bags and a raffle are also planned to treat visitors to the event, and local companies who would like to donate can contact Dr Grigg or Dr Armstrong.

Financial donations can be made to the West Somerset Crisis Fund operated by the Community Council for Somerset, please contact Izzy Silvester or Steve Grice for bank details or donate via Local Giving:

[" HYPERLINK "https://localgiving.org/charity/somersetcrisisfund/project/westsomersetcrisisfund/"](https://localgiving.org/charity/somersetcrisisfund/project/westsomersetcrisisfund/)

You can also **Text WESTSOMERSET to 70460 to donate £10**

For free help and support please contact either Izzy Silvester on 07960029780 [izzy@somersetccc.org.uk](mailto:izzy@somersetccc.org.uk) or Steve Grice on 07958 415270/[stepheng@somersetccc.org.uk](mailto:stepheng@somersetccc.org.uk)



## Church News

### **Changing Times for Holford Church & the Quantock Coast Benefice.**

Within the next few months, those visiting the Parish Church in Holford will see a document pinned to the door outlining proposed changes to the parish groupings in Quantock Deanery. The PCC, and I, would be very grateful if you could take a moment to consider the proposals once they are published.

In the challenging financial environment it faces post-Covid, the Diocese of Bath and Wells has taken the difficult decision to reduce its number of paid clergy. Every area of Somerset will be affected by these reductions and in our area (Quantock Deanery), we are required to reduce our number of those clergy from 5 to 4.

We have considered very carefully how this could happen whilst ensuring that the church continues to serve our rural communities such as yours, maintain regular worship in our church buildings, and provide pastoral care for those in times of sorrow and joy. There were no easy answers but after a great deal of consideration by representatives from across the Deanery, and consultation with all the church councils, the following proposals are being made.

- Quantock Coast Benefice (the grouping of parishes of which Holford is currently part) will be disbanded and the parishes moved to new groups.
- Holford parish will form a new grouping with Kilve and Strington and the parishes currently known as the Quantock Villages Benefice.
- Revd Eleanor King (based in Nether Stowey) will be the new Rector of these parishes, including Holford.
- Revd Nicky Morgan will move to Bicknoller. She will remain the Rector of East and West Quantoxhead, and will also serve the parishes currently known as Quantock Towers.
- Stogursey and Fiddington parishes will become a new benefice with Cannington, Stockland and Combwich, with Revd Alison Waters (me) as their Rector.
- Watchet and Williton Benefice will remain as it is.

In addition, all the parishes of our Deanery will form a new Group Ministry. This is a means by which we can work much more closely together as clergy and church communities, supporting one another, and especially those invaluable and incredibly hardworking wardens and volunteers who keep our churches open and available to villagers and visitors.

The consultation period, once it begins, will last for six weeks during which all residents are welcome to respond to the proposals. If you would like to know more please do not hesitate to contact a Churchwarden or other member of the PCC and you are welcome also to contact me direct.

Getting to the point of this proposal has been difficult, and we are very aware that it will be painful for some. We are glad, though, to have been given the opportunity to put the plan together ourselves, knowing as we do the needs of our churches and our communities, and we believe that this proposal does offer the best potential for our churches going forward.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Revd Alison Waters, Area Dean 01278 652953

[cannington.benefice@gmail.com](mailto:cannington.benefice@gmail.com)



## 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 order dates on your calendar  
April 17<sup>th</sup>, May 22<sup>nd</sup>,  
June 19<sup>th</sup>, August 21<sup>st</sup>

Contact : **David Young** on  
**741249**

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



## Lottery The Lottery is up and running again!

### Winners February

Winner David and Ann Steer  
Runners-up. Philip Brimson & Dick Webber

### March

Winner Fran Jeanes  
Runners-up. Richard and Niki Reynolds & Neil Barrington

### Refuse collections :

Every **three** weeks on Fridays  
Collections a day later after Bank Holidays

### Recycling collections

every Friday  
Collections a day later after Bank Holidays

## Holford and District Village Hall

### What's On? – Dates for your Diary



**Now covid restrictions are lifted regular events are starting again.**  
For full details 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	Yoga with Sooki Table Tennis	11 – 12 noon 7.30 – 9pm
Fri	Art Group Craft Group	10.00 – 1 pm 1.00 – 4pm
Sat	Monthly Coffee Morning	
Sun	Yoga with Sooki	5pm – 6pm

### **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 May 17<sup>th</sup>**

Please send items for the next issue to

**EmmaCavendish01@aol.com**

**Publication date June 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Digital issues only at present**

**Please don't send pdf files or images and text directly from your phone– these are very time consuming to edit.**

**Save your photos to a jpeg file.**