

Holford news & views



August 2023

The editorial team

Mo Plomgren, Mike Pearce, Mike and Gae Richardson and Emma Cavendish

Editorial



I hope some of you will have the chance of a holiday this year, without any dramas. The staycation looks like being back in fashion next year after the heatwaves in Europe but the UK weather lately hasn't exactly encouraged us to do just that. Still the gardens are blooming and burgeoning with early sunshine and now lots of showers. I have discovered just how many hours are required to 'grow your own veg' and it has definitely been boom or bust in my little plot. I now realise you don't need a lot of bean plants to feed two people!

On a more solemn note - what strange times we are living in. It can sometimes feel a bit overwhelming. The news is full of disasters, wild fires, war and the effects of climate change on our planet. I suppose all we can do is **Keep Calm and Carry On...** and do our very small bit to ameliorate some effects. The latest advice seems to be have a meat free day at least once a week. If the rising prices in the supermarkets are anything to go by I imagine quite a lot of us are cutting back on meat already!

Encouraging biodiversity in our Parish has caused quite a stir lately. The two camps are 'keep it wild' and 'what a mess!' Let your Parish Council know your views. Their updates are included in this edition. If you would like more information on Plantlife's promotion of leaving roadside verges uncut you can find information on their website : [Road Verges - Plantlife](#)

Other news : The Holford Village website has had an impressive make-over - check out the changes at [Holford Village - Home](#)

Do send us your submissions to EmmaCavendish01@aol.com It is lively contributions (on any topic you like) that make for an interesting and thought provoking newsletter! Deadline is Sept 17th for the October edition. Please note changes will not be made after publication. **Printed copies available on request**



**Our thanks for sponsorship of this edition from
Nelson's Decorating**

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Going Green

As an environmental project
children from a local school
decided that they'd like to build
a super wildlife pool

They dug a hole and lined it
so it would fill with rain
built an overflow with filter
(to stop dirt washing down the drain)

Made an island out of rocks
bought in by parents in their cars
stocked the pond with newts and tadpoles
which they had caught in jars

But they felt it lacked a focus
and weren't sure what to do
'til one had an inspiration
(whilst sitting on the loo)

Now on the island proudly stands
a present from their teacher
A Charlie Dimmock statue
with a working water feature !

Mike Pearce



FLOWER SHOW

HOLFORD AND DISTRICT HALL

AUGUST 5th 2 - 4PM

HOLFORD GARDENERS GROUP

For entry forms visit

www.holfordvillage.com



HOLFORD GARDENERS GROUP

Holford and District Village Hall

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 19th 7.30pm

'Gertrude Jekyll – Her Plants and Designs'

A Talk by David Usher

Members £1.00 Visitors £2.00



HOLFORD GARDENERS GROUP

Holford and District Village Hall

TUESDAY OCTOBER 17th 7.30pm

'Dark and Desirable'

A Talk by Paul Green

Members £1.00 Visitors £2.00

For Group Information Tel 01278 741173

Richardsons' Ramblings

Recently we met a Dartmouth friend and her Sheltie at an NGS garden on Dartmoor before spending a few days with her. The last time we met up at two lovely gardens near Moretonhampstead in 2020, but back to our own houses as covid restrictions decreed we could only meet outside.

This time we visited Greatcombe after driving through narrower and even narrower lanes from Ashburton – Mike declared it was the first and last time we go to this garden! (Sue was late as a man collapsed in front of her in Totnes but fortunately it was right outside the police station – now that's a different excuse)!

Greatcombe was well worth the trek – the owners (Richardsons no less) had worked hard the past few years creating further areas and many steps, lots of them as the house was built into the hillside. Although plenty of people were enjoying the grounds it was still a very peaceful spot helped by its situation at the end of a tiny lane. The Holne Moor Leat flows through the garden providing that delicate background noise along with a welcoming plunge pool for hot days.



The owners had been inventive with their use of colour and salvaged items in the various garden rooms – see the use of horseshoes supporting the rope along this pathway as Mr Richardson had been a farrier. There was such a range of different hydrangeas with some wonderful lacecaps and very full perennial borders (great for pollinators), which were home to some unusual plants, such as the silver leaved Senecio 'Angel Wings' (above right).



It was worth climbing up the steps to look over the property and beyond to Dartmoor especially seeing these clipped conifers and yews. After all that exercise it was time for a delicious cream tea under the vine covered verandah – cricketing fans could keep up with Ashes score at the same time!



For the steam train aficionados here's Hercules at end of the line at Dartmouth station.

Gae

A quiz for the younger members of our community!

1. What type of animal is a Komodo dragon?
2. Which planet in our solar system is known as the "Red Planet"?
3. What do bees collect to make honey?
4. Which bird can run the fastest: ostrich, penguin, or flamingo?
5. How many legs does a spider have?
6. What is the name of the biggest animal and loudest animal in the world?
7. What is the largest planet in our solar system?
8. What house is Harry Potter in?
9. Which bird can fly backwards?
10. How many bones are there in the human body?
11. What is the smallest planet in our solar system?
12. What type of animal is a koala?
13. Which animal has the longest neck?
14. What is Mickey Mouse's beloved dog called?
15. What is the name of the tallest mountain in the world?
16. What is the name of the biggest ocean in the world?
17. Which animal is often called the "king of the jungle"?
18. What is the name of the biggest continent in the world?
19. Which bird is the symbol of peace?
20. What is the name of the first man to walk on the moon?

Answers on P14 Thanks to Mike Richardson!



Village Hall News

It is Annual Flower Show time again. There was a large turnout from exhibitors and visitors last year after its return. The 2023 Show is on Saturday 5th August from 2pm with the set up on Saturday morning, entries having been received and registered by Wednesday the 2nd.

Some of the regular activities have taken a break over the summer including the Art and Craft groups but there is plenty going on.

Swallows, House Martins and Swifts have been hawking over the wild meadow behind the hall but will be migrating back to Africa soon.

Quantock University of the Third Age (U3a) have been using the Hall for among other things a Vintage Cinema Club in the afternoons, "Destry Rides Again" was the last offering. For further information on U3a and its activity groups go to [http://:U3asites.org.uk/quantock/events](http://U3asites.org.uk/quantock/events).



There was a good turnout at the Village Hall on June 30th for a concert by the quartet Zeffe, who treated us to a lively evening of Klezmer Music (song and dance from the Balkans).

The next entertainment in the Hall features SAX 22, a saxophone quartet plus electric base. Doors open 7pm for a start at 7.30 p.m. Bring

Your Own Bottle and Nibbles.

Tickets are £10 with all proceeds going to CANCER UK. Please contact maureenyoung@hotmail.com if you would like to attend.

Further information on activities, dates etc. is available on the Village and Village Hall websites :-
www.holfordvillage.com and www.holfordvillagehall.org

Don't forget the first Saturday of the month is our coffee morning. A Parish Councillor will be there to listen to your concerns or you can raise issues.

Andrew Mew

Holford Parish Council

This is Karen, your Parish Council Clerk with an update on the activities of the Parish Council.

It is with great regret that I have to announce that during the last few weeks, 3 Councillors have resigned. First Terry Hayes, then our chair Emily Heckscher followed by Emma Cavendish. The remaining councillors and I want to thank Terry, Emily and Emma for all they have done whilst being a Parish Councillor, especially Emily who put a great deal of time and energy into her role as chair whilst in post. In the mean-time Mike Copleston has agreed to undertake the Chair role until September 2023.

However, that means that we have 3 vacancies. We will not know until the beginning of August whether we can co-opt or not, but if you think that you may like to contribute and get involved by being a Parish Councillor, please just drop me a line.

We also need your help in other areas.

Traffic Issues

As you know the Community Speed Watch (CSW) are regularly out on the A39 and that they recently conducted a survey around the village. The results were presented to the Parish Council this month and they indicate that there is quite a bit of concern about the general traffic issues in Holford so a working group (Holford Road Safety Group) is being set up to look at the wider issues. Perhaps there is something that specifically bothers you, or maybe you have a quite creative idea for a solution?

The working Group will identify the issues and explore possible solutions and then report their findings to the Parish Council. They will not have any decision making, or money spending powers, it is an information gathering group. Please let me know if you are interested in contributing some time to explore the issues and I will pass your details on.

Environment

This subject appears to be very decisive to say the least. The Parish Council is keen to know where you sit on the issue. Are you wanting a neat and tidy village or one where biodiversity is actively pursued? As a Parish Council, we have a statutory duty to conserve biodiversity and where possible follow the policies laid down by Somerset Council.

If you have a view, please email me or speak to a councillor at the next coffee morning. I will not respond to them all, but they will inform the Parish Council when we look at the grounds maintenance agreement for the next few years.

There are other projects in the pipeline, but if I add any more here, you will be bored.

To contact me, my email is: clerk@holford-pc.gov.uk

Holford Parish Council

During the last year the majority of councillors elected to the Parish Council have resigned leaving only one original member. The transfer from Somerset West and Taunton to a new Unitary Authority, Somerset Council, has not been helpful in planning for the future but due to the efforts of the councillors and our new Clerk we now have a very structured financial and reporting system ready for the future. Our Parish is now part of the new Local Community Network (LCN) of Dowsborough together with our neighbouring parishes of Kilve, Stringston, Over Stowey, Nether Stowey and Stogursey.

The LCN is our voice to Somerset Council and to enable us to fully represent the views of parishioners and to make sure our views are taken into account it is really important that we have a full Council. At the moment we have vacancies for three councillors and we would be delighted to welcome anyone who feels they have a contribution to make to our village for the future. As long as you have lived in the Parish for twelve months you are eligible to apply.

As you will see from the Parish Council report we have taken the first major step in managing traffic speed on the A39, and supporting our CSW group, by purchasing two Speed Indicator Devices and we are currently discussing their location with Somerset Highways so they can be installed as quickly as possible.

Since we instigated the policy that a member of the Parish Council attends the very successful monthly coffee mornings in the village hall we have received some useful face to face feedback and look forward to this continuing.

Best wishes

Mike Copleston – Chairman



A rare opportunity has arisen for someone to take on the position of Events Coordinator in the Holford History Society committee.

This exciting role is an executive position and will involve organising and coordinating our annual garden party and Christmas meal and eight other events of interest to our members per annum. The other events will be a combination of talks in the village hall and visits to sites of local interest.

The successful applicant will be expected to attend the occasional committee meeting as part of the role. The anticipated latest start date is January 1st 2024.

If you are interested in applying for this position or know of anyone else who might be interested, please contact myself in the first instance

Mike Wise
Chairman, Holford History Society
Whistlers Hollow, Holford TA51RY

T : 01278 741051 M: 07985 697271

Holford Community Speedwatch update

The Holford Community Speedwatch team continues to be on the roadside three times a week weather permitting. In the last couple of months we have recorded a good number of vehicles driving through the village in excess of the 30 mph speed limit and this information has been forwarded to the police for them to issue warning letters to the drivers. Our presence does slow down many potential speeders and our dedicated team will continue to monitor traffic on the A39 throughout the summer.

Many thanks to all the residents who responded to the recent road safety questionnaire we sent out. A summary of the responses is below and this has been passed on to the Parish Council. Hopefully we will be able to take co-ordinated action to address the concerns felt by many people in the village.

HOLFORD ROAD SAFETY QUESTIONNAIRE SUMMARY –

CONDUCTED BY HOLFORD COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

82 households delivered to by hand – 63 respondents, 19 non-respondents

The questionnaire required simple yes/no responses with a space for any other comments/suggestions.

	YES	NO
1. Are you concerned about the speed of vehicles on the A39?	60	3
2. Are you concerned about the speed of traffic on our lanes?	54	7
3. Would you consider joining Holford CSW for 1 hour a week?	5	58

Would you support the following?

4. A speed limit of 40 not 50 from the lay-by at Stowey Lane?	50	13
5. A speed limit of 40 from the lay-by, 30 through the village, then 40 all the way to Kilve?	48	15
6. Reducing the speed to 20 in our village lanes?	55	8
7. The installation of 2 Speed Indicator Devices at each end of the village to show drivers their speed?	59	4
8. CSW using police approved digital speed cameras on the A39?	49	14
9. White gates and flower containers as in Cannington to draw drivers' attention to the fact that they are driving through a village?	53	10

Please contact me if you would like to join the team – training and a fetching high-vis jacket are provided, plus you have the opportunity for a roadside social time (much chat and joking) and the possibility of a drink in The Plough afterwards. What is there not to like?

Mo Young

741249

maureenyoung@hotmail.com

An article from James Richmond



"I strongly believe that fears can be overcome, even at the age of 59¾.

Gliding is something I would never have considered doing if I hadn't been gifted the "experience" by my offspring for my last birthday. Normally when I receive a gift I'm delighted. This time, however, when I'd opened the blue envelope, I looked down at

the palms of my hands and saw that tiny beads of perspiration had formed. I was delighted. Thank you truly kids. My son even gave me a "get out" – namely "If you don't want to do it, then I will." But no. I held on to that voucher.

Now, I've flown many, many times for both work and holiday in the past and even been up in a small plane a couple of times. And I'm really not good with heights.

Well last week I finally did it.

First off was awareness and parachute training (all one minute seventeen seconds of it).

Parachute training was:

"We've never had to do this, but pull the handle by your left shoulder with your right hand – hard. If the lines are twisted, turn yourself about until they're unravelled and bend your knees and roll on landing."

Fast forward to take off...

The glider pilot and I were literally slung up into the sky by a modern form of trebuchet. Not just once, but twice.

The first flight was definitely sweaty palms and white knuckle. Adrenaline pulsed through my veins at every bump and I was glad to be back on firm ground. And then the discomfort started again. The second time though, was, dare I say it, fun.

Actually it was amazing. We could see for miles and miles from Dartmoor down to the coast. And it's so quiet.

All of this would not have been possible without the help and support of my pilot, who was, despite the above, brilliant. It all goes to show what you can do with the right support behind you. You literally can reach for the sky".

Ed : Thanks James – a object lesson in 'Feel the Fear and do it anyway' !!

Erl's Favourite Chicken!

This is a firm favourite with Erl and our family; quantities of ingredients are to taste (except for the chicken) so adjust for your own preferences. I do not use salt at all in this recipe as there is enough in the cheese (and bacon if used!)

Ingredients (Serves four)

4 large chicken breast fillets
Tomato Puree
Sun Dried Toms (in oil) approx. 8 medium pieces
Grated Mozzarella Cheese
Potatoes (new are best!)
Dried Dill & Mint
A few Basil leaves
Ground black pepper
Bacon 4 rashers (optional)
Leeks (2 or 3 large ones)
Butter & oil for frying



Peel and par boil enough potatoes to suit Leave to cool, then dice ready to sauté. Slice thinly all the leeks and put aside.

With a rolling pin or a heavy hand, flatten the chubby parts of the chicken breasts into flat pieces. It is ideal to wear 'rubber' gloves for the next step!!

Paste each chicken breast on one side with dollops (about a tablespoon for each) of tomato puree, then cover each with a couple of the sun dried tomatoes, (there will be enough oil to moisten from the pieces.) Sprinkle over a good tablespoon or more of the grated cheese and put a couple of basil leaves on top. Then comes the messy bit, roll each chicken breast up as tight as you can, if using, you can now wrap the bacon rashers around each one. Pack tightly together in a baking dish (no need to grease and a slightly small pan or dish is best as the chicken will shrink in cooking) and sprinkle more cheese on top with just a little of the sun dried tomato oil drizzled over them. Marinate for about half an hour and then bake in a med/hot oven for about fifteen minutes, and then lower the temperature, covering with foil. The slower and lower the temperature - the more juicy the chicken will be...! (I cook in the lower part of our aga, for about 45 mins.)

Before chicken is finished cooking, test for juices and take out of the oven to rest somewhere warm, keeping them covered with the foil.

Heat some butter and oil in a frying pan and sauté the diced potatoes, until they are turning slightly brown, then add a small teaspoon each of dried dill and mint, toss and leave to cook gently - you can add more if required. In another pan, fry (or steam) very gently the leeks in butter with a little black pepper.

To serve, I sometimes slice the chicken, but each breast can also be served whole. Fresh peas are also a nice addition, coriander leaves too - and there should be enough oil 'gravy' to pour over... enjoy!

Mo (Plomgren)

Conveyancing Conundrums

Welcome to a new regular column where I will answer reader questions on all manner of conveyancing matters!

What is conveyancing? Conveyancing is the legal transfer of property or land from one owner to another.

What is a conveyancer? A Conveyancer is someone who can help you through the process of selling, buying or mortgaging a property.

Who needs a conveyancer? It is recommended that sellers and purchasers appoint a conveyancer to deal with their matter, they can provide expert legal advice regarding a range of property related services.

If you have a question about a property sale or purchase, please email it through to the Editor emmacavendish01@aol.com and one question will be chosen to respond to in the Holford News and Views newsletter. This is, of course, no substitute for obtaining legal advice and can only give generic advice that may be of use and interest to a number of readers.

Starting us off this month: **What does “registered land” and “unregistered land” mean?**

HM Land Registry was set up in 1862 to record the ownership of land and any interests affecting the land (such as a mortgage). Until then, buyers and sellers had to rely on physical title deeds and mortgage deeds to prove that the person selling a piece of land had the right to do so and this, of course, could lead to all sorts of complications if deeds were lost or not disclosed.

Registration was initially voluntary, but by 1990 it was made compulsory for any piece of land sold (or mortgaged) in England or Wales to be registered with HMLR. Currently around 88% of the land mass of England and Wales is registered with HMLR, so there are still a significant number of properties that are unregistered. Within our local villages there are a lot of unregistered properties, as many houses have been owned by the same individuals for decades.

If you own a property that is unregistered, it is worth considering getting it registered now as the process can take up to 1 year to complete. If you then decide that you want to sell, it will make the sale process much quicker if it is already registered. Also, for those who will inherit the property, it will make the process much easier for them if they don't need to hunt for title deeds as part of a probate sale. You can check on gov.uk to see if your property is registered or not.

I look forward to reading your property-related questions,

Ruth Richardson



STOP PRESS!

Saturday 21st October – Holford & District Village Hall

'Table Top/Good as New Sale' 10am - 4pm

**Look out for notices with further information around the village
and forthcoming publications!**

Tables for hire, raffle prizes required, volunteers required....

All proceeds from table hire/raffle etc., to Holford Church Funds.

**Contact: Mo (Plomgren) 01278 741152
email: plomdove4145@googlemail.com**

Quiz answers

1. A lizard	11. Mercury
2. Mars	12. A marsupial
3. Nectar from flowers	13. Giraffe
4. Ostrich	14. Pluto!
5. Eight	15. Mount Everest
6. Blue whale	16. Pacific Ocean
7. Jupiter	17. Lion
8. Gryffindor	18. Asia
9. Hummingbird	19. Dove
10. 206	20. Neil Armstrong



DAY & EVENING EVENT

HOLFORD FESTIVAL
@ The Plough Inn

Dog Show

Charity Stalls

Live Music

Charity Auction

Big Local Bands, inc International

Tribute Act Headliner

Food

Bar

CALL US TO RUN A CHARITY STALL, DONATE YOUR TIME,

GIVE A PRIZE FOR THE CHARITY AUCTION

OR JUST ASK US QUESTIONS

01278-741624

SAX 22

FRIDAY, AUGUST 11TH 7 FOR 7.30

at

HOLFORD VILLAGE HALL

Come and enjoy an evening of musical entertainment provided by Sax-22 (saxophone quartet plus electric bass). Bring your own nibbles and BYOB. A summer evening with French doors open and the sound of the sax drifting over the fields to The Bristol Channel as the sun sets!!!!!!!!!!!!

Tickets £10 with all proceeds to Cancer Research.

[tickets - maureenyoung@hotmail.com](mailto:maureenyoung@hotmail.com)



Hanna-Luise Charlotte Hezlett

Woodlanders joined other local friends from Dodington, Stringston and Holford along with friends and family from all over the UK and Europe to the Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Hanna at St Mary's Church in June.

Hanna had a long and interesting life having been born in 1931 in Northern Germany and brought up in Hamburg. In 1951 she married her first husband, an officer in the British Army stationed in Germany. He had to seek the King's permission to marry a German national. After a son and twin boys were born the marriage did not last and they separated. Hanna then became a matron in a private boy's school – a role she would have been well suited to.

A friend persuaded Hanna to go skiing with her and her brother Nick, who was a solicitor in Windsor. When the friend went home after a skiing accident, Nick was asked to look after Hanna, which he certainly did as wedding bells rang. They settled in Ascot. Nick was heavily involved with the Windsor Horse Show, as Vice Chairman and Hanna enjoyed interpreting for the German and Dutch competitors. Hanna continued to attend Windsor Horse Show after Nick's death and enjoyed meeting up with all her Ascot friends even after moving to Somerset.

Whilst living in Ascot Hanna's love of horses flourished and she bought her first Arab cross which she loved riding in Windsor Great Park and surrounding areas of Berkshire. At this time, Hanna became interested in Endurance Riding which took her to Somerset and the Quantocks. She competed in the Golden Horseshoe on Exmoor and many Endurance Rides which she loved. With Hanna and Nick's love for Somerset it was no surprise when a friend sent them particulars of Woodlands House, they fell in love with it and moved there in 1997. Sadly, Nick passed away after a few years. Despite her loss Hanna kept busy with her horses and dogs. She would be seen riding her Arab, Able and in recent years on her mobility scooter, with a loyal Labrador by her side, checking on her remaining 2 horses. Hanna was certainly a remarkable person, and she will be missed by all.



Village Hall Volunteers wanted

Holford is so lucky to have a modern village hall equipped with the latest technology.

We are now seeking someone to help Hall users get the most out of this technology, especially the Audio Visual and Lighting facilities. You will help / show users how to set up / turn on and put away the PA and lighting controls, and manage the central heating controls.

You do NOT need to be a "geek" or "nerd". You just need to have a logical brain and be able to explain things clearly to users and be willing to support the Events Team at gigs.

You get a Free ticket!

Full training / instructions will be given.

This is a volunteer role.

Please contact maureenyoung@hotmail.com to discuss further.



QUANTOCK U3A MONTHLY EVENT
MEMBERS AND NON MEMBERS VERY WELCOME

THE NATURE OF SOMERSET'S COAST

A TALK BY

NIGEL PHILLIPS
Somerset Wildlife Trust

2pm Monday 25th September

STOGURSEY VILLAGE HALL

32 Tower Hill, Stogursey TA5 1PL

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

August 21^s, Sept 11th and Oct 2nd

Contact :

David Young on 741249
davidyoung1934@talktalk.net



Lottery
The Lottery is up and running again!

Winners

June

Winner (£30): Stephen Campbell
Runners-up (£15): Keith Edwards; Richard McDonnell

July

Winner (£30): Debbie Salvidge
Runners-up (£15): Pat Thatcher; Andrew Mew

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



For full details see the
Holford and District Village Hall website
www.HolfordVillageHall.org

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

VARIOUS REGULAR EVENTS PLANNED BUT CHECK DURING THE SUMMER BREAK

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 Sept 17th

Please send items for the next issue to

EmmaCavendish01@aol.com

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these are very time consuming to edit.

Save your photos to a jpeg file.

Please note that corrections to copy will not be accepted after publication **Emma**