

Holford news & views



June 2024

The editorial team

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



Editorial

At last it is beginning to feel like summer is just around the corner. Having been away in Scotland for a break we were both amazed at how the garden has burst into bloom. It feels like we have had enough rain to last for the rest of the season but at least the garden has enjoyed it... and so have the slugs!

I'm sure you will enjoy reading Gareth's account of his London Marathon, a most entertaining tale. Congratulations to him and thanks to all who supported him with donations for his chosen charity Hope for Children.

The General Election date has finally been confirmed as July 4th after a few long months of uncertainty. We seem to have had a lot of campaigning already! As you may know Holford is now in a new constituency, Tiverton and Minehead, due to boundary changes, and I see our (current) MP Ian Liddell-Grainger has also moved along with us as our next Conservative hopeful. Many other candidates are available! Don't forget to register, if you haven't already, and that you will need photo ID to be able to vote.

It is sad to report the death of one of our long standing local residents – Penny Aldridge who passed away recently. Her memorial service was very well attended. Next edition will give a full obituary, if you have anything to contribute please do contact Mo Young.

We hope you enjoy this edition. Please let us have your submissions for the August edition by July 16th. Please send to emmacavendish01@aol.com or hand copy to any of the editorial team. Thanks to all our contributors to this edition.

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

Holford News and Views will also be on the Holford Village website

www.holfordvillage.com

our thanks to David Talling.

HOLFORD PARISH COUNCIL

An Update

You know that the Parish Council exists and does lots of important things but you may have lost the plot a little these days as to exactly what it does and who is a Councillor on it. Or maybe not. Perhaps you access the Parish Council website on a regular basis.

The Annual Village Meeting seems a good time to provide an update.

The Holford Parish Council normally meets in the evening on the second Monday of every other month. It had a meeting in May so the next meeting will be in July. Anyone is able to attend a Parish Council meeting and to “have a say” – but not to participate in the business of the meeting.

As I write the Chairman of the Council is me! The other councillors are Ann Anderson from Hodderscombe, Sarah Nason from Holford Combe and Reuben Morris from Alfoxton. The Parish Clerk is Karen Scott from Kilve. And that’s it! There really aren’t sufficient Councillors. How can we best represent the needs and views of the Parish, and do all the things a Parish Council does, if we don’t have a Council full of lovely people? **We really do need more Councillors. There is room for three more. Councillors can be co-opted to serve on the Council quite simply.**

Holford Parish Council serves the whole community of Holford. It liaises with Somerset Council on planning and service matters and with a network of other local councils and voluntary bodies as well as the Police. It enters contracts for maintenance of the village environment, including the cutting of grass. It maintains assets such as a defibrillator and very recently speed indicating equipment has been installed on the A39 through the village. This initiative is something that the village supported and after much effort, particularly by Mike Copleston, this has been achieved. Mike has resigned his position as Chairman of the Parish Council and many people will be grateful for his work and achievement in that role.

Holford Parish Council can only be at its most effective when there is good communication between residents and the Council. The Council needs to know when things are going well and needs to hear peoples’ views both congratulatory and critical. Tell Councillors your views. They will always listen and let you know what can or can’t be done, and why.

Holford Council aims to operate to a vision, centred on supporting our rural village and its environment, seeing that it is as safe and well-served with necessary infrastructure as it can be.

So, Keep in touch with the Council as much as you wish to do so. **And** think about whether you, or someone else you think could help the village should come forward to serve as a Councillor.

Stephen Campbell 21st May 2024

Holford Parish Council Chairman's Report

This is exciting! 23rd May and my very first note of goings on of the Parish Council.

It is a daunting experience to be Chairman but I know I shall have a lot of support.

Holford Parish Council has been busy. It was last Thursday, 16th May, that the Speed indicating stuff was installed and commissioned on the A39 through the village. Thanks are due to our now-retired Chairman, Mike Copleston and our Clerk for their hard work to achieve this. The equipment works and I think our Community Speed Watch chaps are thrilled that it does seem to have a deterrent effect on speed. Vehicles are observed to slow through the village. We can monitor how it works in future. We can also consider whether the CSW team will volunteer to take a ladder and bucket to clean the screens at 8.30am every Monday morning.

The Annual Parish Council meeting was held last Monday, 20th May. A very full agenda.

It was agreed to repair the village notice boards and also to take on board as council assets the Michael Beaton benches situated in various places round Holford. The benches need repairs and this will be done. The Parish Council is also going to renew the defibrillator so that it remains ready for use, but hopefully not used. The pothole by the Bowling Green car park entrance will be looked into...

The Parish Council recorded its thanks to Sue Edwards for all her work on the rights of way over several years. We need a new Rights of Way Officer, not necessarily a parish councillor. Could that person be you?

The Parish Council is looking to make progress on preparation of a Community Emergency Plan. Not that we expect an emergency, but it will be good to identify what should happen and who would help if there were one.

Much more discussion of other things too at the Council meeting. Oh yes, we have agreed to buy the telephone box by the Plough! Absolute steal, so this will now be a community asset and I am sure it will be used enterprisingly.

Stephen Campbell 23rd May 2024

2024 TCS London Marathon

So what started with a gentle 400mtr jog to a bar on a Florida beach last July ended on the 21st April with a 26.2 mile run with 50,000 fellow runners around the London Marathon course.



I had previously run the 'FLORA' London Marathon on 3 occasions in the 90's but this years run came after a 27 year hiatus and what an absolute privilege it was to take part. The event is open to anyone with applications made through a ballot. You've a 1 in 10 chance of gaining a place in this way or alternatively be invited as an elite athlete, an avenue not open to me !! or as charity runner which is the most popular way of gaining a place and was how I was able to take part. I ran for a charity that I have been involved with over a number of years called 'Hope for Children' and was 1 of 17 'runners' they had taking part.

To give you some idea of the scale of this brilliantly organised event. There are 3 mass starts departing from Greenwich Park, each start is split into 15 waves leaving at specific times to ensure minimal congestion and allowing the faster runners in wave 1 to get out and away from the subsequent slower runners. My departure time was 11:20am and by the time I'd reached Woolwich Dockyard at mile 4 the elite athletes who had left some 2 hours earlier had already finished their run and were no doubt already tucking into a Sunday Roast somewhere in St James'. Meanwhile for us mere mortals at the back and still with several hours to go it was more a case of keeping a steady pace and staying hydrated.

I had decided in the days prior not to chase a time, I was never going to get close to my '1995' best of 4:02 so I decided to make sure to soak up the atmosphere and to enjoy the day as much as possible. The London Marathon is without doubt the best supported, loudest and most colourful in the world. The encouragement shouted to all the runners by complete strangers coupled with some very witty banners is very uplifting and amusing, examples of banners being "Hurry Up NICK the Kids are getting bored", "If Trump Can run so can You" and "Run like your Mum used your full name" plus some very funny ones that are sadly not suitable for publication in HN&V.

Every corner turned on this route brought you into a new area of the city with the local pubs packed to the kerbside with lunchtime drinkers whilst DJ's and live bands ensured a party like atmosphere which gave everyone a boost on their way to the Mall. That said the somewhat perfumed atmosphere of Jamaica Road in Southwark accompanied by wall to wall Reggae Music had the effect of actually slowing down a great many.

By far the biggest visible change for me was the sheer numbers around the Canary Wharf section of the course. Twenty Seven years ago Mile 17 thru Mile 21 was a sparsely supported part of the course with just the Canary Wharf

Tower, unused industrial land and old warehousing. It was by far the loneliest and toughest section to get through. In 2024 Canary Wharf is a vibrant part of London, now served by the DLR and Elizabeth Line and no longer empty at weekends but furnished with new office blocks, apartments, restaurants, shops and full of people. The support was incredible and the sound having nowhere to escape simply bounced from office block to apartment block and back again, I loved this part of the course.

Through Mile 21 I was feeling reasonably ok but very quickly before I reached mile 22 my little legs started to run out of gas and automatically switched to 'Lo Battery' mode, when this happens there is not a lot you can do other than to concentrate on, as the locals would say, your 'plates of meat' and just take it one step at a time.

A few miles on we were on the Embankment and when Big Ben came into view it automatically gives you a lift, I recalled all those winter month training runs, the endless muddy puddles around Dyche, Doddington and Stringston that had to be negotiated and here I was now running past the Palace of Westminster where 650 well paid folk who couldn't organise a 'bun fight in a bakery' come to serve the people !! Just under a mile to go now and whilst in my head I was running like Steve Ovett in the 800 mtr final of the 1980 Moscow Olympics I was actually being overtaken by a man dressed as 'Big Bird' from Sesame Street.

The last section of the course swings right handed in front of Charles' least favourite house and down 385 yards of the Mall. I trotted over the finish line too 'cream crackered' to raise my arms and salute the photographers on the gantry above. A medal, bottle of water and a sheet of Baco-foil were bestowed upon me and we were all told to move along to our respective trucks to collect our bags.

Twenty Seven years is a big gap between marathons and it took me an hour longer than in 1997, I did however managed to beat the time of the 'Super-Vet Noel Fitzpatrick as well as one of the 650, Jeremy Hunt. and they are both 'significantly' younger than me!! Annoyingly the little #@*% Matt Hancock is actually quite good and I was nowhere near his time of 3:55 but then again as was pointed out to me he is currently out of work and as a former Health Minister no doubt has access to some excellent Performance Enhancing Substances!!

What can I say other than a brilliant day out for both participants and spectators alike. I of course would like to thank everyone who sponsored me especially everyone from Holford and surrounding area, you know who you are, and I will of course thank you personally in due course, overall I manage to raise just over £2,500 with a bit more to come in. So thank you all for supporting the 'Hope for Children' charity. Subsequently I have written to Lord Coe, President of the IAAF to formally confirm my retirement from the marathon, going forward 1/2 marathons will most definitely suffice.

Gareth Weed
Marathon Runner (retired)

Combe House Hotel

Trying Something New Today

After a long gap when I seem to have been too busy to paint (apart from the house!) I decided recently that I needed to find a way to chill out when things got a bit overwhelming so I signed up for Zoe Snape's watercolour class at East Quay in Watchet. I have painted with watercolours in the past and was happy learning techniques some time ago with the late Joy London in Kilve along with some other 'Holford Ladies'! As time had gone by I felt insecure about starting up again so I decided to go back to basics and start with a beginners' class.

Being taken back to basics was a great experience as Zoe didn't make you feel bad if you didn't know how to do stuff! There were just two of us so we had a lot of individual attention. We began with an introduction to different types of paper. This was fascinating trying out different papers from East Quay's resident paper makers – Two Rivers Paper. I had previously talked with Jim as I watched the process unfolding. They have recently provided specialist paper to the Saachi Gallery in London and to Jackson's – a major supplier of artists' materials in the UK. Different papers give very different results and as always 'you get what you pay for' and we tried out all kinds of brushes to see the different effects possible.

Next step was making our own colour wheel and learning the art of mixing colours which was great fun. Who knew how to make brown? Not me apparently. We learnt techniques such as wet on dry, wet on wet and dry on dry and most importantly how to lift off mistakes with a dry brush. Finally we had a go at making colour washes to make a landscape. One thing I learnt was that water colour goes its own way and you have to 'go with the flow' literally!

It was a great experience and I have learnt that the only way to begin painting is to begin! Put your paper, paints, brushes and water out on the table so there is no excuse to procrastinate.



If you would like to have a go yourself then have a look at Zoe's website. She will be starting another class in the autumn. You can opt in to her mailing list or contact her on zoe@zoesnape.com

If you haven't yet checked out East Quay in Watchet, it is well worth a visit. Some very interesting exhibitions planned, a café, a little shop and lots of small workshops. Oh, and by the way the free standing bath in the window of the rental unit overlooking the harbour.... ah well, I leave that to you to find out!

Emma

Fennel and Orange salad

Serves 4



- 1 small red onion, or 2 shallots
- 1 large fennel bulb
- 2 oranges
- 50g black olives, pitted, and halved if large
- 50g green olives, pitted, and halved if large
- 1 tbsp capers

A large bunch of parsley, leaves and fine stems only, about 20g, finely chopped

Salt and freshly ground black pepper

For the dressing

2tbsp olive oil

1 tbsp cider vinegar

1 tbsp wholegrain mustard

1. Fill a bowl with some cold water and a handful of ice cubes. Halve the onion or the shallots lengthways and slice thinly. Put the onion/shallots into the iced water for 10 minutes while you get on with everything else. Putting them in the ice bath gives them extra crunch and takes away some of the rawness. Drain them in a colander, wipe the bowl dry and put them back in the bowl.
2. Quarter the fennel bulb lengthways then cut out the core. With a sharp knife, shred the fennel finely and put it into the bowl with the onion/shallots
3. Next. Segment the oranges. Chop off the ends so the oranges will sit securely on your chopping board, then work your way around, cutting away the peel and pith in wide strips, exposing the flesh of the fruit. Next, cut each segment from the membrane and put each one in the bowl with the onion/shallots and fennel. Squeeze any juice from the membrane onto the vegetables in the bowl and drain any of the juices on the chopping board into the bowl too.
4. Add the olives and capers to the vegetables and toss everything together.

5. In a small bowl, whisk together the ingredients for the marinade. Alternatively, you can shake it all together in a clean jam jar. Trickle the dressing over the salad and toss again.
6. Add the parsley and toss to combine. Taste, and add salt and pepper if you think it needs it. Serve straight away, or this will keep quite well in the fridge for 3 hours or so

Super alongside fish fillets or chicken

Thanks to

Lickedspoon with Debora Robertson

June Quiz

1. How many breeds of elephant are there?
2. Which Disney Princess has the least amount of screen time?
3. What is Shakespear's shortest play
4. In Gavin and Stacey, how many times has Stacey been engaged before Gavin, and can you name them?
5. What is Prince William's full name?
6. How many stars are on the national flag of the USA?
7. In terms of volume, which is the largest freshwater lake in the world?
8. What year was Marmite invented? A 1899, B 1902, C 1929
9. What is the average height of males in the UK?
10. Who has won the most Academy Awards?
11. In Harry Potter, where does Vernon Weasley work?
12. What is the capital of St. Lucia?
13. How many letter tiles are there in a game of Scrabble?
14. Who won the first football World Cup and what year was it?
15. Where in the human body would you find the medulla oblongata?

*With thanks to Graham Browning for providing the quiz
Answers on Page 14*





Village Hall News

June 2024

Summer is on us, Swallows and House Martins have arrived and are seen to be hawking for insects over the field behind the Hall and in the skies over the village. The Hall continues to be well used both for regular activities like yoga, meditation, sound bathing, art, table tennis, craft, Gardeners Group, iPad / iPhone training sessions and other hirings e.g. U3a. The return of Alan Falkingham's iTraining has been well attended, not weekly as before, but on the 3rd Monday of each month. Details can be found on the Village and Village Hall's websites. Booking in advance is needed for the 1:1 sessions.

Coffee, Tea and Cake are happily consumed on the 1st Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 12. The Village Hall Lottery is drawn and second hand books on a range of subjects are available whenever the Hall is open.

Our AGM is in the hall on Monday 3rd June.

The overflow car park is in use again with the rain having relented, enough anyway! The grass cutting has resumed and there is a vacancy on the rota for another volunteer. This means that each person would be needed perhaps three times during the year. Please contact me if you are willing to help.

The next Take Art presentation will be in November.

The re-arranged maintenance morning took place on 11th May, with various jobs carried out. Other tasks are covered as and when they arise but more volunteers are always welcome.

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

www.holfordvillagehall.org

Andrew Mew – Chairman





SUMMER
FLOWER FESTIVAL
SATURDAY *Peter's Story*
29.JUNE
at the Church
Over Stowey

.....
MORNING COFFEE 10-12 NOON

CREAM TEAS 2-4 PM
.....

A weekend of celebrations for ALL, at St Peters & St Pauls

Jam 'n' Jamin' 
Cream Teas & Music amongst the Flowers
Fun Activities for Children 

The Flower Display is open throughout the weekend
and there will be Songs of Praise on Sunday at 5pm



**A FUND RAISING EVENT FOR
ST MARY'S CHURCH, HOLFORD**

**Holford & District Village Hall
Saturday 29th June 7pm - 10pm**

**Entry £3 includes a glass of wine or fruit juice & nibbles.
More drinks available by a donation.**

If you would like to donate an auction item, we would be grateful for good quality pieces, (nb: this is not a Table Top or Jumble Sale!)

**If possible, please send a photo of your item by email to:
plomdove4145@googlemail.com
with a brief description and a starting bid or reserve.
This will help us in advance for setting up the display.**

Please bring your auction items to the hall from 5pm.

For further information:

Tel: Sue (01278) 741215 or Ann (01278) 741393



On Thursday 7th of March the West Somerset Mine Exploration Group were informed by a local friend that a hole had opened in the Glebe field near Counting House Cross. The farmer was advised and one of the team attended the following day to make a surface assessment.

A hole 1m in diameter and about 3m deep to a debris pile was found. It was possible to glimpse passages in both northerly and southerly directions.



On Sunday 10th March a bigger team of WSMEG members and friends attended and descended into the depths. From the centre of the hole a mined passage exhibiting pick marks headed south for 2 metres to a solid end, while to the north, a similar passage extended 4m before ending in what was initially thought to be a roof fall. This was further examined. The passage widened beneath the roof fall and the potential for an easterly continuation down towards the field boundary was also investigated. Neither this nor the

suspected roof fall yielded any further passages.



Mineralization, probably in the form of iron and manganese oxides, was evident in the ground but not to any significant extent. The find is a mystery, being on high ground and equidistant distant from the known Buckingham Mine workings and those of the Derbyshire Old Miners adit in the adjacent field. It is not mentioned in the definitive work on Quantock mining history.

The hole will be filled in by the farmer in due course.

On Tuesday May 14th , Nine members of Holford History Society visited Priors Farm at Strington and the Farm Bygones museum.

Chris Bolt gave us an entertaining and informative, historical and current tour of the farm buildings and its past and present occupants before taking us into the museum itself and his basement workshop.

We finished the evening in the farmhouse sitting room chatting and drinking tea and eating some scrummy cakes with Sally and Chris.

HHS members performed reasonably well in the farm tools identification quiz, but not quite as well when it came to historical glassware.

We thank Chris and Sally for having us over for the evening.

The society has recently had a committee restructure and there is no longer a committee member to organise events; that role has been 'farmed' out to our members. This evenings outing was our first member led event and was organised by Jerry Anderson.

Mike Wise

Please look out for the yellow-legged or Asian Hornet!



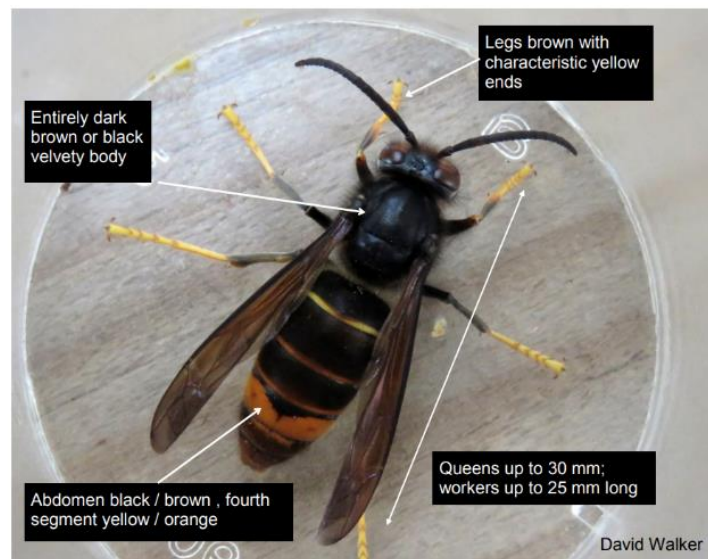
DEFRA has designated the yellow-legged or Asian hornet (scientific name *Vespa velutina nigrithorax*) as a 'non-native invasive species' in the UK. Native to Asia, it was accidentally imported to France in 2004 and has since spread widely in Europe and Jersey. These hornets pose a great threat to a wide range of insect pollinators, honeybees included. Our native insect species have not evolved in parallel with this aggressive predator and can't defend themselves against it.

A single Asian hornet hovering (or 'hawking') outside a hive can catch, kill and eat up to 30-50 honeybees per day. The honeybee colony may die because the foraging bees are picked off by the hawkers so can't collect nectar and pollen, and the bees become afraid leave the hive. There have been serious losses to beekeepers, especially in western France and northwest Spain; we are trying to stop the same happening in the UK.

Since 2016 there have been occasional Asian hornet sightings in the UK and nests have been located and removed, but in 2023 there were over 70 sightings nationally (including Plymouth), with more than 50 of them in Kent. Hornets are like wasps in that they over-winter as a single foundress Queen, rather than as a colony, as honeybees do. This Spring, all over the UK, Beekeepers and Defra Bee Inspectors set up lure traps to catch overwintered Asian hornet queens and some have been found in Kent and East Sussex. Others may have gone undetected. As with wasps and our native hornets, once nests are established workers leave it to forage for protein (eg insects) and carbohydrates (eg nectar) to feed themselves and their developing brood. New arrivals are also probable; the hornets are very good at 'hitch-hiking' and will arrive with cross-channel traffic.

We are all being urged to lookout for the yellow-legged Asian hornet and report sightings of it, with a description and, if possible, a photo. The easiest way to do this is via the phone **Asian Hornet Watch** App, which can be found via search engines or (https://risc.brc.ac.uk/alert.php?species=asian_hornet). Alternatively, please contact me on mcdvanessa@btinternet.com or 07582 813598

How to recognise a yellow-legged Asian hornet



© National Bee Unit

1. They are slightly **smaller** than our native European hornets.
2. They have yellow ends to their legs, an orange face and a dark brown /black body.
3. The fourth abdominal segment is orange. There is a thin yellow strip towards the top of the abdomen.
4. The picture at the top of this article compares Asian hornets, our native hornets, wasps and honeybees to show the differences between them. The '*Asian hornet watch*' phone app shows a wider range of insects that could be confused with an Asian hornet.
5. Please **take care not to approach or disturb a nest**. Asian hornets are not generally aggressive towards people, but an exception to this, as with any stinging insect, is when they perceive a threat to their nest - then they can become highly aggressive.
6. Nests (large and papery, a variant on those of wasps and our native hornets) are usually in trees or hedges but have been found on the ground and on Jersey, even in a cave on a cliff. The hornets will also nest in buildings.

The National Bee Unit (NBU) works with the British Beekeepers' Association (BBKA) and more than 1000 specially trained beekeepers across the country to confirm sightings. The NBU organises removal and scientific analysis of Asian hornet nests. Beekeepers in West Somerset and Exmoor are part of Somerset's well-developed network of Asian Hornet Teams.

Vanessa McDonnell

With thanks to Neil Wellum for allowing me to include some of his text.



Holford Gardeners Group 2024 Dates for your diary

Meetings held 7.30pm, 3rd Tuesday each month at HVH,
other event times stated below

18 June	Intelligent medicine	Maggie Pope, Medical Herbalist
13 June	Burrow Farm Garden coach trip	9.30am – 4.30pm
(£10 members/£20 non members coach and admission included)		
16 July	Members Gardens evening	Corisande & Tim Tennant/Lis Sheppard
3 August	Flower Show	2pm – 4pm
8 August	Forde Abbey coach trip	9.30am – 4.30pm
(£10 members/£20 non members coach and admission included)		
17 September	Care and management of trees	David Usher
15 October	The Adventures of a Seed Detective	Adam Alexander
19 November	Hostas	Peter Savage, Bowdens Nursery
17 December	Christmas quiz and buffet	

For further details or to book your place on the coach trips contact Rachel Lewis 07956 196992

Quiz Answers

1. Three. African bush, Forest, Asian.
2. Aurora from Sleeping Beauty has only 18 minutes of screen time.
3. The comedy of Errors.
4. Five. Hywel, Kyle, Leighton, Ahmed, Cliff.
5. William Arthur Philip Louis Windsor.
6. 50
7. Lake Baikal in southern Siberia.
8. 1902.
9. The average man is 5ft 9in.
10. Katherine Hepburn won 4 Academy Awards with 12 nominations.
11. Grunnings, a drill manufacturer.
12. Castries.
13. 100.
14. Uruguay in 1930.
15. The Brain.

Richardsons' Ramblings

We have just returned from a 3-week holiday and no surprises that we were up in Scotland! It felt like we had driven up in winter and returned in summer – a nearby field only showed scrappy grass growing and walking into Holford I see that it is barley and nearly 2 feet high. Staying overnight in Lockerbie I needed woolly hat and gloves to walk Ella on a very frosty morning. 2 days later in Ballater I woke up to it snowing and roofs covered – Mike missed it by the time he got up! After a few days it did warm up and we did have some downpours as I believe you did here. More of this holiday another time.

Going back to our autumn 2023 holiday we spent our middle week on the Galloway coast in a place called Coo Palace near Kirkcudbright. We had planned on staying there April 2021 (a year after it opened for guests), but the Scottish Government wouldn't let sassenachs in till May, so we ended up in Northumberland (no hardship) before being allowed into Fife. This unusual building was built in the Gothic Revival style with Italian and Dutch influences between 1911 and 1914 by James Brown who had bought Corseyard Farm. It was an exceptional model dairy for his very particular herd of 12 Belted Galloway cows and was the first in the UK to be powered and lit by electricity. Apparently, the interior was in the form of a church nave with side aisles, a terracotta tile floor, Egyptian drinking troughs and Italianate white glaze-tile milking parlour. At 23 metres high the turreted water tower and red roof of the dairy earned it the name 'Coo Palace'.



Come the 1930's the building was getting dilapidated but remained a dairy till 1984. By 1991 it was completely derelict becoming Grade A listed, with Historic Environment of Scotland saying it was an 'important building at risk'. Various owners came and went till it was last sold in 2017 and converted into luxury holiday accommodation.

Disappointingly the only Belted Galloway cow we saw in our time in Dumfries & Galloway was the metal structure outside our apartment along with a photograph of 'Meg Merilee' on the wall – all cows were named by James Brown. But did see 2 Belties this year in Lockerbie.

James Brown was a very wealthy Victorian having been in the drapery business – was a partner and chair of department store Affleck & Brown (Harrods of the north). As a retirement project he bought the nearby Knockbex estate in 1895 which consisted of 8 farms and Knockbex house which he had rebuilt in a plain neo-Georgian style, unlike other buildings in the Gothic Revival style. The grounds were completely re-developed and amongst his other interests of politics and farming Brown was passionate about growing roses. The house is still standing, and I believe it was split into several dwellings.

By a nearby sandy bay Brown had the 'Bathing House' built with separate changing rooms for 'Ladies and Gentlemen' and a big open fireplace. There was a large semi-circular table upon which the butler would set out meals which were brought down from the house by wagonette. What a way to have refreshments after a swim! In the photograph you may see a slipway was built to protect the guests' feet from the rocks.



Kirkcudbright is a working fishing town with several trawlers based at the port and much of the landed catch (mainly scallops) processed locally, making a significant contribution to the local economy. 2 trawlers were lost in the Irish Sea in 1985 and 2000 with all hands lost. In 1994 Charlie Easterfield carved 'In Memory of Loved Ones Lost at Sea' depicting a mother and child looking anxiously out to sea waiting for their loved ones to come home. It is quite a poignant piece of art which fishermen walk past to their boats.




There are several galleries, studios and workshops by its harbour and in the town, giving Kirkcudbright the title 'The Artist's Town'. We went in some galleries chatting to artists with Mike buying a stormy sea – not my choice so it's behind me as I type this! It is a busy place, and we were amused to see Rapunzel releasing her hair down MacLellan's Castle. We will certainly return to Kirkcudbright and the area around it with its friendly residents in the future.

Gae

Pancreatic
Cancer
UK

Taking it on together

15TH JUNE 10.30-12
COFFEE
MORNING
AT THE KILVE
VILLAGE HALL 

Pancreatic cancer is a tough one but we are taking it on.

We are supporting those affected by the disease, investing in ground breaking research, lobbying for greater recognition of pancreatic cancer, and being a voice for everyone involved in the fight.

Together we are taking on pancreatic cancer.

pancreaticcancer.org.uk

Registered charity number 1112708 (England and Wales), and SC046332 (Scotland)

Quantock u3a May Report

The u3a continues to use Holford Village Hall for many of their groups and meetings. Wellbeing has finished until the Autumn and has been replaced by an Ambling Group. Last Wednesday we ambled from the hall car park to the Combe House Hotel for tea and cake and ambled back again. The amble was interspersed with a sprinkling of Holford history. I am so pleased that Quantock u3a is able to use our lovely, refurbished hall. We receive so many compliments about it.

Our monthly film group is still popular on a Thursday afternoon. After the excitement of showing locally filmed 'Pandemonium', we were able to show another local film – 'Tom Jones'. Definitely **not** politically correct but also filmed locally at Nettlecombe with the final gallows scene being filmed in King Street in Bridgwater.

A wonderful new monthly Patchwork group has started in the hall. The talented Meg Smith is the leader. The Genealogy Group continues to discover many interesting stories about our heritage.

Our AGM (members only) will be held on Monday 3rd June with Quantock u3a's very own Rock Group – "Rock of Third Ages" performing, and a Cream Tea will be served. Do think of joining us! <https://quantock.u3asite.uk/events/>
Mo Young, Chair Quantock u3a

The Origin of British Sayings

The dray carrying convicted prisoners to the gallows would stop at a pub and the occupant was offered a last drink . If they accepted it was referred to as **One for the road** , if they declined they stayed **On the wagon** .

Mental hospitals were built well back from the road with a curved tree lined drive so that they were not visible to passers by their patients had **Gone round the bend** .

They used urine to tan animal skins so families used to all pee in a pot and then once a day sell it to the tannery . If you had to do this to survive your family was **Piss poor** . But worse than that were the really poor folk who couldn't afford to buy a pot , they **Didn't have a pot to piss in** .

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water , The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water , then the mother and all the children in order of their age . By the time the last ones got to bath the water was so dirty small children could get lost ! Hence **Don't throw the baby out with the bathwater** !

Thanks to Mike Pearce for this enlightening piece!

Holford Community Speedwatch

The team has been unable to do many Speedwatches in the last few months. Rain! Rain! Rain! We can't do Speedwatches in the rain because of the danger of cars skidding when they see us.

I was able to do a watch with Pete on Monday morning – and what a difference our new Speed Indicator Device has made. With the volume of traffic, we would have expected to report about ten cars speeding. Not one this Monday!

A big thank you to The Parish Council and Holford Community Speedwatch who worked for many months (if not years?) to have the devices installed. A special thanks to Mike Copleston who was the main force behind this initiative. If you have one hour per week to spare, please come and join our team.

Mo Young, Coordinator. Holford Community Speedwatch.





Village Agent Newsletter April 2024

Support for Carers

Caring for another person is very rewarding, but it can be overwhelming and lonely at times. You may not know where to start to find information, or what type of support is available for you. That's where Somerset Carers can help. It is run by the Community Council for Somerset as part of Connect Somerset.

If you're over 18 and you look after someone in an unpaid capacity, you can receive free support from Somerset Carers.

The person you look after could be a loved one, friend, partner, parent or child.

You may support them all the time, or on an irregular basis and you don't have to be receiving Carers Allowance to use the service.

When you register with Somerset Carers, you can choose what type of support will suit you best. This could include:

- Contact with a Carers Agent who can work with you, your GP and hospital and local community services to build a support package tailored to you and the person you care for
- Joining your local Carers Group to meet people to socialise and share ideas and experiences over a coffee – there's an online option too
- Making use of the Carers Hub – a searchable online database, packed with information on support organisations, events, courses and activities
- Downloading useful resources like our Carers Checklist or Emergency Information templates, or useful information on equipment and digital aids
- Joining the Somerset Carers Forum to chat and share information and experience
- Receiving a regular newsletter with all the latest on groups, services, events, resources and more.

The Carer's event in West Somerset is at Williton Pavillion on Saturday 15th of June 2-5pm with a free cream tea!

If you care for someone who is experiencing challenges with their mental health, the Open Mental Health Carers support project may also be helpful. The Community Council for Somerset is working in partnership with Open Mental Health to ensure that friends, family and caregivers of adults experiencing mental health issues, can get the support they need.

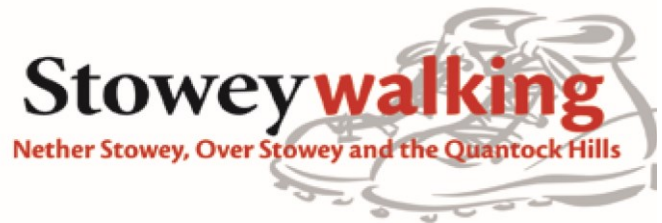
Somerset Carers and the Open Mental Health Carers project value the support of people with lived experience who volunteer to help with groups or offer peer support. If this is something you'd like to consider, please do get in touch: info@somersetcarers.org.uk

You can reach Somerset Carers on 0800 31 68 600 or

visit: www.somersetcarers.org www.somersetcarers.org/who-can-help-you/open-mental-health-carers/

Your local Village Agent is Izzy Silvester 07931 018045 izzy@somersetcc.org.uk

You can also find lots of free energy advice and information on a website www.ccslovesomerset.org



The Quantock Hills Walking Festival

14th – 16th June 2024



Come and join us for our sixth walking festival in the beautiful Quantock Hills and Somerset Coast. We have a variety of walks with something for everyone, nature trails, ancient history walks, high level hikes, mobility scooter rambles and long-distance challenges.



For further information on the various walks and to book your place see:

www.stoweywalking.co.uk or
email: stoweywalking@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

Mondays

17th June, 15th July, 12th Aug, 9th Sept and 7th Oct.

But you can contact David at any time :

David Young on 741249
davidyoung1934@talktalk.net



Lottery
The Lottery is up and running again!

Winners

April

Winner: Glenda Webber
Runners-up: Wendy & Peter Grandfield; Sharon Koppa

May

Winner: Tim & Polly Tilsey
Runners-up:
Sue & Phil Harvey;
Stephen Campbell.

Refuse collections :

Wheely bins very **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 DO CHECK THE VILLAGE HALL WEBSITE FOR THE
LATEST INFORMATION**

Mon	2 nd Monday in the Month U3a Genealogy	2pm
	Yoga	6pm
	3 rd Monday of each month iPad sessions with Alan Falkingham	Booking required
	Short Mat Bowls – Kilve Village Hall	7.00pm
Tue	Meditation Pilates – note : 3 rd Tuesday of the month is Gardeners' Group	12.00 -1.00 5pm and 6pm
Wed	Kundalini Yoga	6.30pm
	Every other Wed U3a Wellbeing	
Thu	Table Tennis	7.30
Fri	Art Group Craft Group	10.00 – 1 pm 1.00 – 4pm
Sat	Monthly Coffee Morning First Saturday in the month	

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 July 16th

Please send items for the next issue to

EmmaCavendish01@aol.com

Publication date August 1st

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.

Emma