

Holford news & views



March - April 2018

Editorial

At last we seem to be heading towards Spring (we hope it hasn't snowed again by the time you receive this). We have received a great deal of new information to put in this edition which is great. But unfortunately a lot of the write ups of past events have had to be drastically cut short. So we apologise that we have not been able to use the whole of the items that people have spent a lot of time and trouble to write.

Livestock worrying is a big issue especially as we approach the Spring. We are seeing an increase in such reports and would like to take this opportunity to politely remind dog walkers to keep their animals on leads around livestock. If your dog attacks livestock, you could end up being responsible for offences including criminal damage and sheep worrying, as well as potential prosecution for offences under the Dangerous Dogs Act.

We have been reminded of an anniversary that occurred on International Women's Day. 70 years ago Gladys Mantle (who lived at Glenhayes - now called Mare's Pool) saved a young deer from a stag hunt and became one of the first animal rights activists on the Quantocks. An inspirational woman who is still remembered by some of the older members of our community. If anybody has any memories of Gladys and Lionel Mantle please send them to us for future reference.

The future of Nether Stowey library is in question. There is a period for public consultation and you can find full details on the website if you wish to contribute to the debate <http://netherstowey-pc.gov.uk/somerset-libraries-review-and-consultation-update/>

Welcome We would like to welcome Niki and Richard Reynolds to the village, who have recently moved into Green Close. They have already found the Village Website and News and Views helpful and frequented the Plough Inn and Kilve stores. We hope they will be very happy here.

Employment Hubs

These have been set up to help anyone looking for work. Our nearest is at "The River", Williton Children's Centre, every Tuesday 9.30 – 12.30pm. Drop in for free friendly help and support. For further information tel. 01984 635980. There are other hubs at Stogursey, Watchet, Dulverton and Minehead on different days.

Wishing you all a very happy Easter



This edition of Holford News and Views has been kindly sponsored by Combe House Hotel

***A full colour version is available on the Holford Village website
[wwwHolfordVillage.com](http://www.HolfordVillage.com) – Thank you to David Talling***



HOLFORD HISTORY SOCIETY

Reports

On Wednesday 31st January Holford History Society met in Holford Village Hall at the new time of 7pm. The chairman, Stewart Tavner, outlined the plans for the coming year. In the event of the hall being reconstructed he said at present the committee had decided to suspend meetings unless a really suitable alternative was found.

The guest speaker at the January meeting was Tony Bagwell, who gave an illustrated talk on the historical sites of Somerset. In February David Beach told us about Salvin (1799-1881), who reconstructed and modernised Dunster Castle for the Luttrell family.

Next Meeting: Wed, March 28th at 7pm

A marriage made in heaven - A history of Cheese and Cider making in Somerset

Other Group Meetings

Art and Craft Groups

These groups are proving so popular they are now full. Anyone wishing to join either of these two groups should contact Sue Wicks e-mail, susan-wicks@tiscali.co.uk to see when a space is available.

Coffee and Play

This group is hoping to hold an Easter Egg Hunt on the Bowling Green on Easter Sunday. All welcome! Look out for the posters!

Holford and Kilve Play Reading Group

In October the group opened the season by reading "Annie-One, Two, Three", a murder mystery. At the January meeting "Ask For The Moon" showed the plight of women workers in the rag trade, in two eras separated by 150 years . A very thought provoking play.

Community Bus

The free Community bus will continue for the time being. But if we don't use it we will lose it! Timetable :

| | | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|----------|---------------|----------------|------------|
| Bridgwater | Holford | Minehead | Minehead | Holford | Bridgwater |
| 10am-----> | 10.42am-----> | 11.25am | 10am-----> | 10.43am-----> | 11.25am |
| 11.30am-----> | 12.12pm-----> | 12.55pm | 11.30am-----> | 12.13pm -----> | 12.55pm |
| 1pm-----> | 1.42pm -----> | 2.25pm | 1pm-----> | 1.43pm-----> | 2.25pm |

Customer Helpline 01278 557001 (10am-3pm Mon to Fri)

Stringston News

A Spring Event in Holford and & District Village Hall on the 21st April, 10 am

Back by very popular demand, another night with Clinton Rogers and his brother as "Cleverly Everly" in Nether Stowey Church Centre on the 12th May.

A musical evening with the "Rivertones" in Nether Stowey Church Centre on October 20th . Look out for posters and large signs.

Kilve Village Hall News

Film Nights doors open 7.00 for 7.30pm start £5 adult

Wed April 4th "Goodbye Christopher Robin" Wed May 2nd "Wonder"

Lunch Club Wed April 11th tel. Pat 741157 for tickets

Why Holford is such a great place to live - a birder's take on the subject

I moved to Holford over six years' ago from London and I like living here more and more. Whilst people probably make the biggest difference to living happily somewhere and my close firm friends and excellent neighbours in the village are testament to that, I wish to highlight the role nature has played in making my seventh decade possibly the best one so far. Connection with nature is said to enhance mental and physical wellbeing and I'm sure that's the case for me. I know how a walk up one of our marvellous wooded combes to the open hills with their fantastic views and feeling of being out in the elements is restorative and life enhancing. Taking a pair of binoculars adds another dimension in closer views of everything from Wales and the estuary to the feathered denizens of scrub, tree and sky.

Birds are pretty ubiquitous and an interest in birdwatching can add to the quality of a sit in the garden, a gentle local potter, a hike over hill and dale, a trip abroad or just looking out of the window from a comfy chair. They are the most visible and varied of creatures with which we share our planet, perfectly adapted to their environment, particularly their food source and need to avoid predators. They have very varied beak, leg and feet shapes, their size ranges from tiny to pretty huge, some hardly fly while others hardly ever don't, and their feathers include all the colours of the rainbow. They have remarkably different calls and songs, some amazingly beautiful, some evocative of a loved landscape like a wild open marsh. Holford has a fantastic range - just a few yards up the Great Road you can enjoy a tiny goldcrest flitting through ivy like a green mouse while a massive-headed black raven croaks overhead and a black, red and white great spotted woodpecker drums on a tree. Along the streams the undulating flight of grey wagtails flashing canary yellow is a frequent sight and in the woods a slate-blue and orange nuthatch might be spotted running head first down a trunk in search of insects while up to five species of tit showing blue, green, even pink enjoy the canopy around it. And those are just some common ones. In my back garden I have seen tawny owls calling to each other as dusk approaches and dippers whizzing along the stream and my feeders attract little green siskins, yellow and red goldfinches, and twenty blue tits at a time.

Spring is coming and that's when Holford birds come into their own and you'll start to see more bearded chaps with binoculars and cameras walking up the combes. Green woolly hats and beer bellies are not de rigeur any longer though as women, children and even the cool take to this most satisfying of interests! Our wonderful native sessile oak wooded combes are the home of several scarce species that are summer visitors with a westerly distribution, notably the pied flycatcher, the wood warbler and the redstart. They are small and take some finding but the nesting season is the time to look particularly May/June. The wood warbler's trilling where his whole body shakes can give away his presence and its thrilling to catch site of the dapper black and white suit of the male pied flycatcher as he takes food to his young or stands about on mid height branches singing softly for a mate. As you go up higher onto more open country you can hear and sometimes see a cuckoo and if you are really lucky maybe even a diminutive dark grey and burgundy Dartford warbler in the heather. Summer nights bring churring nightjars on the edge of the woods. If you don't manage to catch one of these rarer species you wont miss the smart stonechats sitting on top of gorse bushes and buzzards wheeling overhead.

My love of nature has led me to become a trustee of Somerset Wildlife Trust which is a great advocate for nature in the county, promoting policies which will bring back nature to more of our countryside and enable more people to enjoy it. Somerset's best "Living Landscapes" include our marvellous Somerset coastline, another fantastic asset which enhances Holford as a place to live. The new Steart nature reserve has easy access paths and hides, and the world famous Avalon Marshes, a birder's paradise, is not much further away on the Levels. But as that song thrush takes up position in tree or hedge loudly repeating extraordinary notes, or the blackbird flutes from the roof top staking his territory, the anticipation of special late spring arrivals in the combes makes it Holford that is the place to be.

Sarah Nason



Holford Church News

The Church's Financial Foundation Is?...Well, actually, the burden of maintaining Anglican Christian witness in the Parish community, and maintaining the fabric of the Church building, lies with those who are Church members because they have put their names on the Church electoral roll. There are no financial handouts from the government nor from the Diocesan higher authorities, nor from quangos, which specifically deny funds to religious bodies. So the money comes from the bottoms found on seats in the Church, week by week, and they are everywhere, including Holford, becoming older, fewer and poorer, while the expenses become greater year on year.

How much does it cost to keep St Mary's Church open? In broad terms, about £1,000 each month. That much?! Yes. Receipts come from donations at services - "the collection" - and regular giving, with gift aid augmenting that. Fundraising helps, too. Jumble sales, cream teas and the like. Sometimes the Church is grateful to receive a bequest from the estate of a deceased.

"That goes far enough, surely? It's not as if you have to pay for the vicar." Oh yes, we do! The cost of clergy in the Diocese is about 70% of the Diocesan budget and our share of that cost and of the other items in the over £11 million pound annual Diocesan budget is met through what is called "the Parish share of the Common Fund". In practice that means we pay about £7,000 a year. For 2018 we have been told that, to provide additional funds for Mission, the Diocese is increasing the Parish Share by around 10%.

This is not a tale of unmitigated doom and gloom. We usually manage somehow to make ends meet. But it never gets any easier. And you now know we have to do it all ourselves. Just think, though, if the Church did have to close in the future, where would that marriage or christening or funeral take place? If you know anyone with a million or two to spare, let us know.

Election of Churchwardens

On Sunday 15th April at 12 noon in Holford Parish Church, following the Family Service, the vestry meeting for the election of Churchwardens will take place. This is an annual event and all residents of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Holford with Dodington are welcome to attend and, if necessary, vote. At this event parishioners are able to raise any questions relating to the Parish. This year we will be serving aperitifs for you to partake and so we hope to see you at this important meeting.

David (on behalf of Holford PCC)



Holford Recipe Book

Since 2001 when we had the Millennium Book of Holford printed, it was always at the back of my mind to create a Recipe Book for Holford. I know I am not alone in considering this, it has been bandied around on and off with a couple of ladies in the village, for some time! We have people in our village who are amazing cooks, who provide tasty buffets for our Harvest Supper, fine dinners for special events in the village hall, teatime (and morning coffee) treats, the list goes on and on, including those who also like to entertain friends and neighbours on occasions, dishing up excellent suppers. Now after all this time, the opportunity has arisen due to the need of boosting funds for a very worthwhile cause, to spur me on and finally go ahead with this project!



If you would like to contribute, do please send me any recipes, from preserves to winemaking, cakes, pies, canapes, starters, soups, main meals, desserts, biscuits, sweets, casseroles, in fact anything you'd like to share, especially favourite or handed down recipes (the oldies are always the best!) But please avoid major media cookery personalities' recipes! -cont-

Proceeds from the sale of the books, which I anticipate being ready in late autumn will go to Holford Church, where funds are greatly required - we desperately need more coppers in the coffers to help maintain our place of worship here in Holford. All recipes will be acknowledged, and it is my intention to plead, beg and pester for sponsorship, so if you don't want to send me a recipe, a couple of £'s. towards the printing of the book would be extremely welcome.... your thoughtfulness and generosity will also be acknowledged.

Thanks for your consideration... I hope I may hear from you.
Mo (Plomgren) 01278 741152
Email: plomdove4145@googlemail.com
Lady Charles House, Holford TA5 1RZ



Report

In January members were treated to a fascinating talk on the healing properties of plants and kitchen spices by Helen Kearney. She runs Elder Farm, a herb farm near Holcombe Rogus. There Helen makes organic herbal remedies, runs courses and practices herbal medicine. In the summer the Group is planning a visit to her farm and also to nearby Holcombe Court.

In February Mike Smith came to talk about the Keukenhof Gardens- the design and vibrancy of the gardens is quite something. An informative question and answer session followed with Mike, tapping into his wealth of horticultural knowledge.

Holford Flower Show – with regret it has been decided not to hold the Show this year due to the probable closure of Holford & District Village Hall. This will give the organizers a much needed break and the Group looks forward to hosting the Show in 2019 in a lovely refurbished and extended hall.

Future meetings will probably be held at Kilve Village Hall whilst Holford & District hall is closed.



HOLFORD GARDENERS GROUP

April 17th 7.30pm

'Bees'

Brigit Strawbridge

Members £1, Non-members £3.50

May 15th 7.00pm

Plant Auction

Doors open at 6.30pm, auction at 7pm.
Very much a 'fun evening' with some great bargains to be had.

Members £1, non-members £1.50

All welcome



NEWS FROM YOUR VILLAGE HALL

A bump in the road - so we may need your help

Your Village Hall committee has worked incredibly hard over the last four years to raise money to refurbish the Village Hall. The intention was to do this without incurring cost for local people. We are grateful for the recent Holford Parish Council support and concede this has resulted in an increase in the precept. To date, £482,000 has been pledged from various charitable trusts and other funds. Our target remains £551,076. We await a decision from the Steel Trust on a sum of around £15,000 sometime in March. The refurbishment can only go ahead if funding for the whole project is secured.

During late February, we received some disappointing news. Our request for £55,000 from the Garfield Weston charitable foundation was declined because of insufficient community support. We may be awarded a smaller amount from Garfield Weston, but not exceeding £20,000 – and only if we undertake more local fund raising. The committee met on 14 March to discuss the project, and a “buy a brick scheme” or “loan scheme” may materialise for those wishing to help the project towards a successful conclusion. Expect to hear more from us soon.

| Source | Amount applied for | Result | Amount approved |
|----------------------------|--------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Big Lottery: | £207,000 | awarded 1/11/17 | £207,000 (+ £4,000 'marketing') |
| EDF – Hinkley Point C CIM | £125,000 | awarded 22/11/17 | £125,000 |
| Viridor Credits | £100,000* | awarded 25/1/2018 | £100,000 |
| Trusthouse | £50,000 | awarded 21/2/18 | £50,000 |
| Garfield Weston Foundation | £55,000 | Declined 20/2/18; kept open for 2 yrs. | £0 |
| Steel Trust | £14,076 | awaited | awaited |
| Total required | £551,076 | | |
| Grants awarded by 9/3/18 | | | £482,000 |
| Shortfall at 9/3/18 | £69,076 | | |

* Supported by £10,000 payment from Holford Parish Council

The building project went out to tender in early March; results will be available in early April. We will then know the actual cost of refurbishing the Hall and any amounts we may need to raise.

Alan Falkingham – Chair

Wanted!

Switched on people with pizzazz who would like to join a small team to promote the village hall at this exciting time! Please contact Mo Young. maureenyoung@hotmail.com

Burns Supper An excellent evening was enjoyed by all. £300 was raised for the Village Hall. Thank you to all who attended and a very big thankyou to all who helped to make it a successful evening.

Coffee Mornings The Saturday Coffee and Cake mornings raised £1,390.67 last year for the Village Hall. Congratulations and many thanks to those who made this possible.

Extraordinary Meeting of Holford Parish Council 29th January 2018.

Following the request from Holford and District Village Hall Trustees for support for refurbishment, through a Public Works Loan, the HPC issued two consultation letters to Parishioners, the first being inadequate as to content and following complaints a second letter was issued with better particulars and seeking opinions.

This meeting was called to consider opinions received; notwithstanding comment as to fairness, balance, lack of a Public Meeting and lack of thought as to the position of the District Hamlets 142 letters were issued, 64 were returned of which 48 were in favour and 16 were against.

The Parish Council voted and the motion to take up a Public Works Loan was carried.

(Member of public present at meeting)

Parish Council Meeting 12th March 2018

www.holford-pc.gov.uk

Present: Chairman Debbie Salvidge, Cllrs. Terry Ayre, Emma Cavendish, Chris Hayes, Emma Prince, Gareth Weed, Mo Young SCC Cllr. Hugh Davies, Clerk Hema Stanley and 6 members of the public

Holford and District Village Hall

Alan Falkingham, Chairman, reported that work on funding of the proposed renovation of the hall is ongoing. He thanked the PC for their decision, following an Open Council meeting, to apply for a Public Works loan of £10k. Unfortunately a recent grant application to Garfield Weston Foundation for £55,000 was turned down so alternative sources of the remaining funding will be sought.

Parish Maintenance

It was decided to advertise and ask for firms' quotations to be submitted for the work of maintaining the tidiness of the roadside verges, etc. for the forthcoming year rather than continue to look for a Lengthsman. The closing date for tenders is 15th April. The full details of the specification can be found at : <http://holford-pc.gov.uk/notices/holford-parish-council-seeking-grounds-maintenance-contractor/>

The post to which the barrier to stop vehicles driving onto the Bowling Green is rotten and has fallen. It will be replaced.

Highways and Rights of Way

Some gorse has been removed from the edge of the field at Kilton Corner which has improved visibility. The Clerk will contact WSDC with regard to the road signs which are due to be replaced at the two ends of Back Lane. Fly tipping at Nomansland continues and both the National Trust and SCC have been contacted to try to resolve this matter.

Memorial Trees on Longstone Hill

The National Trust have done a little work to improve this but they will be asked to remove the piles of logs which have been left and more work needs to be done on the trees - possibly replanting some. The wording on the memorial stone is improved but needs more work. Some members of Holford PC and Kilve PC are to inspect the site this week to decide on the next course of action.

SCC Matters

There is now a dedicated website to help plan weddings and civil partnerships:

www.somersetweddingservice.org.uk

Deer Reflectors on A39 in Shervage Wood

These were installed approximately 15 years ago and many have stopped working. The Clerk will ask the opinion of Jochen Langbein of the Quantock Deer Management Group.

Nether Stowey Library

It costs SCC £15,000 per year to keep this library open. Members of the public are asked to contact a Parish Councillor if they feel very strongly about the SCC decision to close it. The relevant website with full details at :

<http://netherstowey-pc.gov.uk/somerset-libraries-review-and-consultation-update/>

PARKING IN PORTWAY LANE CONTINUES TO BE A BIG PROBLEM. EMERGENCY SERVICES DO NEED TO GET THROUGH AND RESIDENTS AND THEIR VISITORS ARE STRONGLY URGED TO KEEP THEIR VEHICLES WELL OFF THE ROADWAY.

Next Parish Council Meeting

Monday 14th May 2018

This report was submitted by a member of the public who attended the meeting.

Holford Parish Councillors are:

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| Debbie Salvidge (Chair) | 741 578 |
| Chris Hayes (Vice Chair) | 741 652 |
| Terence Ayre | 01823 432 439 |
| Emma Cavendish | 741 435 |
| Emma Prince | 741 009 |
| Gareth Weed | 741 382 |
| Mo Young | 741 249 |

Clerk: Hema Stanley 07818 015956

Parish Council Website: www.holford-pc.gov.uk

Email for Chairman: chairman@holford-pc.gov.uk

Email for Councillors: councillors@holford-pc.gov.uk

Email for Clerk: clerk@holford-pc.gov.uk

CONUNDRUM



Nice to see several people spotting the previous subject, although there were also a few wrong answers. Those spotting the notice board on the bowling green were Sue Edwards, Brian Gay, Jean & Mike Pearce, David Steer and Sue Wicks. I'm not entirely convinced by the last two as they were in a group with Brian (and his dog Nana) and when he gave me the answer as I joined them they also claimed it. Hmm? This edition's subject is quite small so may take a bit of spotting. If you do, call me on 01278 741130 for a name check.

Mike Richardson

Oil delivery

Time to stock up again?
For those wishing to make use of the community oil delivery scheme—orders will need to be placed by:
April 9th, May 14th & June 18th for deliveries in the following weeks usually Wednesday

Please put these dates on your calendar

Contact :

David Young on 741249
davidyoung1934@talktalk.net

Happy Feet Garden Tours

Trip to Northants: we have one twin room left.

If interested call
Mo Plomgren)
Tel : 01278 741152.

What's On? – Dates for your Diary

All events unless stated are in Holford and District Village Hall

Holford Village website www.HolfordVillage.com

Booking Officer for the Hall – Andrew Mew 01278 741437

Email : Life2sail@hotmail.co.uk (details on website)

Events in the Plough will be advertised around the village

March 2018

| | | | |
|------|------------------|---|--------|
| Tues | 20 th | Gardeners Group – 'Hedgehogs' | 7.30pm |
| Wed | 28 th | History Society 'Cheese and cider making in Somerset' | 7.00pm |

April 2018

| | | | |
|------|------------------|--|-------------|
| Wed | 4 th | Kilve Film Night | 7.30pm |
| Sat | 7 th | Coffee Morning | 10 – 12noon |
| Wed | 11 th | Lunch Club Kilve Village Hall Ring Pat 741157 for tickets | |
| Sun | 15 th | Election of Church Wardens Holford Church | 12 noon |
| Tues | 17 th | Gardeners Group 'Bees' | 7.30pm |
| Sat | 21 st | 'A Spring Event' by Stringston | 10.00 am |
| Wed | 25 th | History Society – 'Inn Signs' | 7.00pm |

May 2018

| | | | |
|------|------------------|---|---------------|
| Wed | 2 nd | Kilve Film Night | 7.30pm |
| Sat | 5 th | Coffee Morning | 10 – 12noon |
| Sat | 12 th | 'Cleverly Everly' in Nether Stowey Church Centre | 7.30pm (?) |
| | 12 th | Art and Textile Exhibition | 10 – 4pm |
| Sun | 13 th | Art and Textile Exhibition | 10 – 4pm |
| Mon | 14 th | Parish Council Meeting | 7.30pm |
| Tues | 15 th | Gardeners Group Plant Auction | 7.00pm |
| | | Kilve Lunch Club | |
| Wed | 21 st | 'A Spring Event' by Stringston | 10.00 am |
| Wed | 28 th | History Society | 7.00pm |

Weekly regulars

| | | |
|------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Mon | 'Fun with computers' Short Mat Bowls – Kilve Village Hall | 10 – 12noon 7.00pm |
| Tues | Karate (Except for Gardeners Group meetings) | 6.30 pm (1hr) |
| Wed | Exercise Class | 2.30pm |
| Thur | Coffee and Play Table tennis Support Group at Quantock House (1 st and 3 rd Thursdays) | 10 – 11.45am 7.30pm 10 – 12noon |
| Fri | Art Group Craft Group | 10.00 – 1 pm 2.00 – 5 pm |

Recycling collections every Friday

Collections a day later after Bank Holidays

Refuse collections :

March 31st , April 13th and 27th, May 12th and 25th

Lottery Winners

1st Prize Jan : Diana Hartfield

Runners up Philip Brimson and Fran Jeanes

1st Prize Feb : Sheila Bateman

Runners up Peter and Carol Waters and Clive Hoskisson

The cost of joining the village lottery is now £10

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 5th**

Please send them to Wendy Grandfield, The White Cottage
(741233 or wendy@grandfield.eu)