

# Holford

news &  
views



November - December 2019



## Editorial

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from everyone at News and Views.

I would like to remind everyone that the editor of the next edition of News and Views will be Christine Mew, e-mail address – c.mews@outlook.com. I would like to thank all the contributors, sponsors and well wishers for their help and co-operation during my time as editor. I wish Chris well as the next editor, I am sure she will bring a fresh view to the newsletter and I will give her my support as long as she needs it. Thank you to Bryan Warren for his time as treasurer and to Mike Pearce for taking on that role.

## Diane Gunner

It is extremely sad in this last edition of News And Views under my editorship that I have to report the sad and untimely death of Diane Gunner following a tragic accident. In addition to her family many villagers and friends attended her funeral and £652 was raised for the local Air Ambulance Service, with grateful thanks from husband Steve.

## Lottery

More people are needed to join our Village Lottery. The cost is £10 a year which is collected in January. One prize of £20 pounds and two of £10 are paid out each month and the rest of the money raised goes to the Village Hall. Elaine Tavner 741129.

## Holford Art and Craft Group Christmas Fair

Following a very successful Fair in Kilve last year the Holford Art and Craft Group are delighted to be holding the next one in the refurbished Holford Village Hall. The Fair will be held on the evening of November 29<sup>th</sup> at 6-8pm and Saturday the 30<sup>th</sup> from 10-4pm. Please come along to look and buy, everyone welcome, refreshments will be provided.

## Bridgwater Choral Society Concert

The concert is being held in St. Mary's Church Bridgwater on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm. It includes music from Vivaldi, Haydn, Mozart and Boyle. For more details consult the Society's website.

**Christmas Post** Well the evenings are starting to draw in and yes Christmas is just around the corner. So yet again we will be running the Christmas card delivery service. The box will go into Holford Church on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December and be removed on 16<sup>th</sup> December. There will also be a box at Lady Charles House between the same dates. The deliveries will take place around the village over the following few days. There is no charge for this service and all donated monies go to the

Air Ambulance. Please can you make sure that the full name and address is on the cards as last year, for the first time, two cards could not be delivered. Liz Guttridge

This edition of Holford News and Views has been kindly sponsored by  
**Holford and District Village Hall Committee**  
*A full colour version is available on the Holford Village website*  
*www.HolfordVillage.com – Thank you to David Talling*







## Reports

In September **Greg Morter** gave a fascinating talk entitled ***From Seed to Fork – How plants evolved and How humans adapted them***, which really got members thinking. He started by sticking a tape measure across the hall to illustrate the age of the earth, being 4.5 billion years represented by the 4.5 metres.

Life in the oceans probably started 3.5bn years ago but it took over 450 million years ago for primitive plants to emerge on land, which is in just the last 10% of earth's history...or 45cm on the tape. The first plants were stoneworts, followed by mosses and liverworts. It was another 50 million years before the first tiny vascular plants appeared

With 100ft tall horsetail and clubmoss 'trees' about 370m years ago. Then 130m years ago (13cm on the tape) the first flowering plants came along, which provide all our vegetables today. Plants have co-evolved with animals and insects adapting to avoid being eaten or get help to distribute seed. Humans started to cultivate plants just 11,000 years ago (1.1mm on the tape). As hunter gatherers 250 different wild foods were eaten, but agriculture was geared to staple foods such as rice and wheat. As there was a relatively tiny range of other vegetables in the diet and humans had to work harder to grow food they became shorter and less healthy.

**John Addison**, a past lecturer at Cannington College came along in October to give a very lively talk about creating all kinds of water gardens as any form of water feature brings wildlife into gardens. He gave some very useful pointers about creating a good pond – flexible liners are best; should be at least 2'6" deep with fairly steep sides; provide shelves for planting and some kind of ramp so wildlife has access in and out. Ponds can be created from large containers and John has made one from a galvanized cattle drinking trough, planting a low hedge around it to provide shade as it is above ground. John went through the wide range of plants to choose from, picking the right plant suitable for depth of water and size of the pond. He recommended planting in baskets using low nutrient compost and buy from reputable suppliers, with a final warning not to dispose of excess plants in the countryside so as not to introduce an invasive species but to compost them.

***The best time to plant a tree is twenty years ago. The second best time is now.***

### "Tigers" film

The showing of the 'Tigers' film eventually got underway on the 6th November after some technical difficulties!

The film is a dramatization of the true story of Syed Amir Rafa a former Nestlé formula milk salesman in Pakistan who takes on the baby food industry when he discovers that babies are dying as a result of his work pressuring (and bribing) doctors to promote the formula feeding of babies. Pakistan has the highest infant mortality rate in South East Asia. This is mainly attributed to diarrheal diseases due to bottle feeding infants. In a country where the poor have little or no access to clean water, feeds are not only made up with dirty water but also diluted to save money. The promotion of breastfeeding is therefore even more vital in poverty stricken countries.

The film was well received and gave us all much food for thought, prompting the question of whether we should boycott companies who produce and sell products unethically. The film also highlights the power of multinational corporations and made us think about how we personally would have reacted in similar circumstances as Ayan (the character representing Syed). Thank you to those who attended and for your generous donations. We were able to pay for the hall hire and raised £72 for Baby Milk Action (an organization which is part of a global network to stop misleading marketing by the Baby Feeding industry).  
Ali and John Carter.

***There's very little point in looking back. You're not heading in that direction***

Holford Art & Craft groups present

**Handmade  
Craft, Art & upcycled Vintage  
Christmas Fair ...**

If you love local handmade gorgeous items and appreciate unique artistic creations, then our Handmade Fair is just for you! ...wonderful unique gifts, vintage treasures & local creative Art...

FREE Entry .....  
.....FREE PARKING

All welcome

...we will be serving delicious cakes, Tea & Coffee.....

**Holford  
Village Hall (A39)**

Preview Evening ALL WELCOME

**Friday 6pm - 8pm  
29th November**

**Saturday 10pm - 4pm  
30th November**

HOLFORD GARDENERS GROUP

Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm

**CHRISTMAS  
SOCIAL EVENING**

Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>  
7.30pm

**'Back from the Brink'**  
*Simon Blackley*

*All welcome*

Members £1, non-members £3.50

(01278 741173)



**Christmas Coffee Morning**  
for

St Mary's Church Strington.

A special Christmas Coffee Morning at the Castle of Comfort Hotel by kind invitation of the Venner family.

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December  
10 am to 12 noon.

£2.00 entry to include unlimited coffee and mince pies plus a variety of stalls selling homemade cakes, preserves and inexpensive Christmas Gifts.



**Macmillan Christmas Concert**

The West Somerset Brass Band

Crowcombe Village Hall

Sunday December 1<sup>st</sup> at 2.15pm.

During the interval there will be a  
Craft Fair.

Tickets cost £6.50  
to include tea and cakes,  
from Elaine Tavner 741129.





## NEWS FROM YOUR VILLAGE HALL

### WILDLIFE PLANTING

The view out towards the Bristol Channel and Wales is among the great gains of the Hall refurbishment. The newly planted hedge is growing well with the area between that and the green of the new winter crops being taken over by a variety of plants, grasses and cereal including barley. As these decay there will be seeds for various birds to feed on through the winter, especially the myriad of House Sparrows present all the year round. Some occupied the nest boxes on the end of the Hall during the summer and may take shelter there during any extreme cold weather which may be coming our way. Small White and Red Admiral butterflies, Green Shield Bugs, Dark Bush crickets and various spiders were among creatures present before hibernation. Andrew Mew

### LIBRARY

The Green Reading Room will be open from 1.15 until 2.15 **every** Wednesday from 20<sup>th</sup> November until 18<sup>th</sup> December for anyone to drop in to choose a book, magazine or DVD and have a cuppa and cake.

### TAKE ART

The audience of 90 loved *Mountain Music*.



"a brilliant concept so expertly and beautifully performed"  
"Mountain Music couldn't have been more wonderful. The talent of all the performers was outstanding"  
"it was so funny and moving"  
"A special evening".

Future **Take Art** diary dates:  
*Paprika* 30<sup>th</sup> January.  
*Pip Upton's Will Shakespeare* 22<sup>nd</sup> February

### QUIZ

A big thank you to those who supported our Quiz night. We all had a good time. The change to the typical format of quiz questions was well received. The competition was tough and the 'Pussy Cats' were deserving winners of the Karen Keane Cup. We will see them on the stage next year. The evening raised £120 for the village hall. Alina McKinley



### EXERCISE!

We have two great exercise classes in the hall now:

**APS** with Sian, Mondays 6.30 – 7.30 Aerobics, Pilates and Stretch

**Music and Movement** with Michelle Wednesdays 2.30 – 3.30. Gentle movement to music with strengthening and stretch. Both classes are great fun.

Laughing can be good exercise too!

## ipad ART

The participants thoroughly enjoyed this day and were all surprised at the quality of the art they were able to produce using an ipad. Alison Jacobs is an excellent tutor. Hopefully she will return next year to do another session.

## BURNS SUPPER.

Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> January. Four courses with a nip for the toast. Entertainment, Music and Scottish Country Dancing. BYOB. Tickets £25

***Please check [Holfordvillagehall.org](http://Holfordvillagehall.org) for more information on all events***



## Lemon Gingerbread

**The following recipe I thought would be in keeping with the festive season, a slant on the usual gingerbread! From Mo (Plomgren) with thanks to Emma Cavendish.**

You will need a 2lb loaf tin, greased, base and ends lined with a single strip of non stick parchment.

Preheat the oven to 160°C Fan before you start



### Ingredients :

75g soft butter  
3 tbs golden syrup  
75g caster sugar  
175g self raising flour  
1tsp bicarbonate of soda  
2 generous tsp ground ginger  
1 generous tsp mixed spice  
1 egg  
50g chopped stem ginger (2 or three pieces from a jar in syrup)\*  
1 tbs lemon juice  
120ml milk

### Method

Put the butter, syrup and sugar into a pan and melt gently over a low heat. Sieve the flour, bicarb and spices into a mixing bowl and stir in the chopped ginger. Add the warmed melted mixture and beat well. Scrape down the sides of the bowl with a spatula to ensure that everything gets well mixed. Beat the egg lightly, add the lemon juice to it and beat into the mixture in the bowl. Again, scrape down the sides to incorporate. Warm the milk to lukewarm, 20 seconds in the microwave is an easy way. Stir thoroughly into the mixture.

Pour the mixture into the loaf tin and give a quick stir around to make sure the ginger is spread evenly through the mix. Cook for about 45 minutes. Check with a thin skewer after 40 minutes – the cake is cooked when the skewer comes out clean. Cool in the tin for 10 minutes then loosen around the edges with a thin bladed knife and lift out with the paper, on to a rack to cool.

\* The syrup is great at the bottom of a steamed ginger sponge pudding!

## **Parish Council meeting – November 11<sup>th</sup>2019**

### **Chairman's Report and plans going forward**

Since the previous meeting repair work has been undertaken at the Dog Pound including the re-painting of the Brereton Shield. The registration of the legal title to the Dog Pound has been sent to the Land Registry. Thanks are due to Councillor Copleston for his excellent detective work in tracking down the information needed for the registration to take place.

At a meeting of the Watchet, Williton and Quantock Vale Area Panel, Somerset West and Taunton council introduced the new Principal Planning Specialist – Rebecca Miller. There appears to be progress in the organisation of the new joint council however all councils are now in purdah until after the election and the next meeting has been moved to January for this reason.

Nether Stowey has produced a comprehensive document of more than 50 pages 'The Neighbourhood Plan' which is available online. Some of these plans may affect Holford and District residents. Since the publication planning permission has been given for 109 houses on the Cricketer Farm site so inevitably there will be updates in time. The provision of extra school places in the future will be an issue and there is a plan to provide a crossing from the village across to the Church.

**Councillor Copleston** attended the JAC meeting and presented a report (see official minutes). It was agreed at the previous meeting to set up a committee to look into the issue of traffic speed within the village and on the A39. **Councillor Young** reported on progress. The issue of signage for roads within the village continues to be unresolved. SWT will not move, replace or install any new signage unless they receive a safety request from Highways. Councillor Copleston suggested that the PC looks into getting village roads designated as 'Quiet Lanes'. This was agreed by the councillors. **Councillor Plomgren** has attended regular meetings at Hinkley as reported no particular issues at present.

**Councillor Talling** has been investigating the legal position regarding maintenance of the Play Area at Portway. An informal meeting was held November 20<sup>th</sup> with Falcon Housing to discuss a way forward. Representatives from Falcon Housing and a member of SWT planning were present. It was agreed that the hard court would be opened up again as there were no safety issues. Falcon Housing will propose a way forward for the derelict playground to be improved. There have been no more suggestions from local people regarding the provision of the playground to date.

A site visit to Alfoxton Park regarding the issue of deterioration of a listed building has been made by the Heritage at Risk specialist. Repair work is currently being carried out.

### **An amended planning application has been received for Strawberry Fields, Holford. Interested local people may wish to attend the forthcoming meeting on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

Sadly the planting of new saplings at the memorial has been unsuccessful. The NT would only allow planting within the existing tree area and there was too much competition for light and water to sustain the new plants. The council agreed to attempt a second planting but with older, more robust specimens and better tree guards.

There have been reports of anti-social behaviour by the Hunt. This has been reported to the police after an incident. Councillor Copleston is the councillor tasked with liaising with the Hunt. Hopefully there will be some action by the Police to curtail inappropriate behaviour by some.

#### **Holford Parish Councillors are:**

Emma Cavendish (Chair) 741 435  
Stephen Campbell 741 329  
Mike Copleston 07711 985320

#### **Clerk : Hema Stanley 07818 015956**

Angela Drummond 741 648  
Erl Plomgren 741 152  
David Talling 741 116  
Mo Young 741 249

Feel free to contact any of the councillors if you have issues to raise.

The full detailed and official Parish Council meeting minutes are available on the website.

[www.holford-pc.gov.uk](http://www.holford-pc.gov.uk) If you do not have access to the internet you can request a paper copy from the clerk or any councillor.

## CONUNDRUM



As I write this it's absolutely pouring down so you may not be wandering around the village at present! Hopefully by the time you read this those lovely frosty days will be with us and you can get some exercise and try to find this picture. Last edition's pic was a side view of the Crucifixion to the left of the church entrance and well done to Mike Pearce for spotting it. If you spot it give me a call on 741130 for a mention in the next edition. *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 Monday for deliveries in the following week, usually on Wednesday

*Please put these dates on your calendar*

Mondays : 2<sup>nd</sup> , 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> Dec, 20<sup>th</sup> Jan and 10<sup>th</sup> Feb

Contact :

**David Young on 741249**

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



### Lottery Winners October

1st Kate Hammond  
Runners up  
Pauline Tilsley,  
Peter and Carole Waters

## What's On? – Dates for your Diary Events in

### Holford and District Village Hall

Unless otherwise stated

Bookings : Emily Hecksher T : 741694

or on line at [www.HolfordVillageHall.org](http://www.HolfordVillageHall.org)

Events in **The Plough Inn** will be advertised around the village

#### November 2019

Fri	29th	Craft Fair	6.00 – 8pm
Sat	30 <sup>th</sup>	Craft Fair	10 – 4pm
		Bridgwater Choral Society Concert St Mary's Church	7.30pm

#### December 2019

Sun	1 <sup>st</sup>	Christmas Brass Band Concert and Craft Fair Crowcombe Village Hall	2.15pm
Sat	7th	Coffee Morning	10.00 - noon
Tue	10 <sup>th</sup>	History Society Members Christmas Dinner	
Thu	12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>General Election Day</b>	
Tue	17 <sup>th</sup>	HGG Christmas Social Evening	7.30pm
Sat	21 <sup>st</sup>	Carols in Holford Church	4.30pm
Tue	24 <sup>th</sup>	The Crib Service Holford Church	3.00pm
Wed	25 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Communion Holford Church	9.30am

#### January 2020

Mon	13 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Council meeting	7.00pm
Tue	21 <sup>st</sup>	Holford Gardens Group 'Back from the Brink'	7.30pm
Sat	25 <sup>th</sup>	Burns Night Supper	7.30pm
Thu	30 <sup>th</sup>	Take Art 'Paprika'	7.00pm

#### Weekly regulars

Mon	Computer Club	10.00 – 12.00
	Short Mat Bowls – Kolve Village Hall	7.00pm
	Aerobics, Pilates and Stretch	6.30pm
Tues	Karate – (ex 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues in month)	6.30 pm (1hr)
Wed	Music and Movement	2.30pm
Thu	Coffee and Play Table Tennis	9.30 – 11.30 7.00pm
Fri	Art Group Craft Group	10.00 – 1 pm 1.00 – 4pm

#### Recycling collections every Friday

Collections a day later after Bank Holidays

**Refuse collections** : Dec 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, Jan 4<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, February 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

Collections a day later after Bank Holidays

### **We hope you have enjoyed this edition**

If anyone has any articles, ideas, news, snippets etc please do let us have them

**before the deadline Mon 13<sup>th</sup> January**

Please send items for the next issue to

Christine Mew, Ramblers

T: 741437 c.mews@outlook.com

**Please don't send pdf files – they are designed so that they CAN'T be edited.**

**In future these files will be returned to sender!**

