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From the Editor

Did anyone read the story in the papers recently about Hayley Webster, who shared on Twitter the memory of her best Christmas present ever? The gift, a piece of sheet music, was simple and inexpensive but, as an unexpected thank-you from her father's girlfriend who had spotted Hayley's own, quiet kindness, it left a lasting impression. It taught her "what it means to be noticed for who you are," and it made her very happy. Hayley's tweet, it seems, had the same effect on thousands of others. Within 24 hours it had attracted 40,000 likes and 12,000 retweets.

After the carnival of consumerism that was Black Friday (not to mention Small Business Saturday and Cyber Monday), and my own children's disappointment at finding a mere chocolate in a homemade advent calendar, I found welcome relief in this story. Every year, it becomes ever more difficult to argue with those who declare that Christmas has changed from a moment for family and reflection into a month-long pageant themed around shopping. Somehow we've taken the story of Christ's birth and turned it into a parade of conspicuous consumption on which each one of us can apparently expect to spend £54,000 over the course of a lifetime. Wonderful as it is to receive lovely gifts, in a country where hundreds of thousands depend on food banks and where one in five people are reported to live in relative poverty, it's not hard to wonder whether we have our priorities straight. How about those unable to afford much of a celebration? What happened to charity at this most Christian time of year? How much more special to give something with true meaning, like Hayley's sheet music, rather than the latest iPhone?

However you're planning to spend Christmas, I hope you have a chance to sit down and flick through our magazine. It's packed, as ever, with stories of the goings-on in this remarkable village and its busy residents. Find out how you can join a trip to the WW1 battlefields. Get the latest news from the schools, the farm and our fabulous sports teams. See stunning photos of the Remembrance parade and catch up with Holybourne's secret celebrity bell-ringer, Sir Alan Titchmarsh.

Our enormous thanks to everyone who has contributed to the magazine this year, especially to our faithful regulars. Your efforts are very much appreciated. Do keep the stories and photos coming in.

With best wishes for a wonderful Christmas and happy New Year from all the team. See you in the spring.

Tessa Laughton, Editor

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River Wey, Upper Neatham, by David Godfrey

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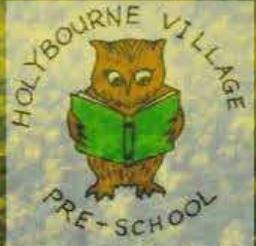
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Holybourne Village Pre-School



With 18 of our pre-schoolers moving up to 'big school', we were pleased to welcome lots of new faces at the start of the Autumn term, including Kristy, our new practitioner. We are also thrilled to announce that Gemma, who was part of Holybourne Village Pre-School for ten years, gave birth on 6th October to a healthy baby girl, Evelyn. We wish her all the best and look forward to enrolling Evie at the Pre-School in a couple of years' time! Liane, who has worked here for six years and is well-loved by the children, will continue Gemma's great work as Deputy Manager, alongside the rest of our fantastic team. We are also pleased to say that, following positive feedback from parents, we have now extended our opening hours, so more children can benefit from the nurturing and stimulating environment offered in Holybourne.

We are very lucky to be situated in such a beautiful village and the children have been enjoying venturing out in the mild autumnal weather; crunching through leaves and collecting conkers. They've also been getting creative on the new leaf shaped chalk boards in the playground, as you may have noticed whilst walking by. We have had a very busy term and the pre-schoolers have enjoyed making lanterns to celebrate Diwali, the festival of light, dressing up for Halloween, commemorating Guy Fawkes and Remembrance, as well as raising money for Children in Need. They have also been making the most of the new resources we received as part of the Sainsbury's Active Kids initiative. We were so grateful that so many of you collected the vouchers for us; as you can see in the picture, the children have been having great fun playing with them! Our resources this year included: a tricycle, the leaf chalk boards, floor cushions, alphabet and shape bean bags, healthy eating puzzles, a herb garden kit, watering can and a vegetable garden grow box.

With Christmas just around the corner, the pre-schoolers have lots more to look forward to. They will make their annual trip to Andrews' Endowed CE Primary School to watch the children perform their nativity play, as well as joining in with their Christmas craft morning. These are fantastic opportunities for our pre-schoolers to see what life is like at big school and to become familiar with the surroundings, as many of our children will go on to attend Andrews' Endowed. We will then be ending the year on a festive high, with our Christmas party on Thursday 21st December promising lots of festive activities, our annual Christmas raffle and a visit from Father Christmas himself!

Thanks to great support from local businesses, we have some fantastic raffle prizes this year, including a week's worth of hot drinks at Holybourne shop, vouchers for Birdworld, Pretty Woman, Finkley Down Farm, Jump Factory, as well as a table lamp from Elstead Lighting, a full vehicle valet from Town & Country Cars and a Magimix, to name just a few! Please pop into the Holybourne Shop now to get your raffle tickets; all funds raised go towards vital new resources for the Pre-School. If you would like to donate a prize, it's not too late; please get in touch to find out how. Full details about our Christmas raffle are also available on our Facebook page.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all of your support this year, and to wish our families and the residents of Holybourne a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Gemma Urquhart, Deputy Manager

Holybourne Village Hall, 9am-3pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and 9am-12pm on Thursday and Friday. We accept children from 2 years 6 months and are taking applications. For enquiries please call Sue on 07748824942 or email holybournevillagepreschool@yahoo.co.uk. You can also find out more about us by liking us on Facebook!

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❖ What facilities will I need to provide?

- ☑ A private furnished bedroom with a desk, chair, wardrobe, mirror etc.
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❖ How much does it pay?

- ☑ £400 per month, inclusive of bills
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- ☑ The employee will then be responsible for paying their rent directly to the host

❖ Is the income taxable?

- ☑ If this is your only/main home, income up to an annual limit of £7,500 is not subject to tax

❖ Are there any conditions?

- ☑ All interested hosts will be interviewed and a representative from Treloar's must be able to view the property before committing.

❖ How do I find out more?

Contact Jana Owens on 01420 547423 or
jana.owens@treloar.org.uk



Treloar student Andre is a winner in the Facebook World Cerebral Palsy Day Challenge.



Wendy Palmer, Lady Mayoress of the City of London, and head girl Phoebe, cut ribbon to open Forte Forest

Treloar's
 Enabling Education
**Treloar School
 & College**

Treloars rated as Outstanding

The Care Quality Commission has awarded Treloar College an overall rating of 'outstanding'. The published report, based on a full inspection which took place in June, focused on Treloar's residential accommodation, healthcare provision and support for students outside their educational curriculum. Nationally, only 2% of providers are rated as outstanding so this is a tremendous accolade for Treloar's. Earlier this year, OFSTED also rated all aspects of the educational provision of the college and the residential provision of the school as outstanding.

Forte Forest opened

At the beginning of the term Wendy Parmley, the Lady Mayoress of the City of London, opened the 'Forte Forest', an area of campus which houses wonderful new outdoor musical instruments. The Lady Mayoress cut the ribbon with head girl Phoebe, before students, visitors and staff tried out their musical abilities. This interesting and unique area will enhance Treloar's outdoor space. The musical instruments have been carefully designed to encourage interaction, particularly by the disabled, bringing benefits for both motor skills and physiotherapy programmes. Mainstream schools are encouraged to stop by when they visit Treloar's to make music alongside Treloar's students and learn more about disability and inclusion.

Dummer Fair raises money for Treloar's

This October the Dummer Fair returned to Dummer Cricket Club and so far has raised over £28,000 in aid of Treloar's. The annual fundraising event, which welcomed over 1,000 attendees over two days, is a firm favourite for shoppers from near and far.

The Friends of Treloar's held their very popular annual Tea for Treloar's Christmas Fair in November at Froyle Village Hall. On sale were the usual beauty products as well as vendors selling Christmas gifts and festive cakes and sweets.

World CP Day Challenge Winner

And last but not least, school student Andre took part in the #WorldCPDay Facebook challenge – and won a £50 amazon voucher!

Resolving to help our students

Are you planning to make a New Year resolution? Will you give something up for the whole of January? Would you be willing to give up something in aid of Treloar's? Thousands of us make a New Year's resolution and give something up (well, for a week at least!) but how about we give you some extra motivation to keep going? And in return you can help change our student's lives... to find out more visit www.treloar.org.uk/fundraising/resolution.

Carolyn Warnne carolyn.warnne@treloar.org.uk



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Eggars School

It's beginning to feel a lot like Christmas!

Christmas will soon be upon us with pantomime visits, the shoebox gift house challenge and our senior citizens' Christmas party. It is a busy and thoroughly enjoyable end to the term. You are warmly welcome to our Advent Carol Service this year at Holybourne Church on 19th December at 7.00pm. Come and join our students and staff for the annual festivities.

Starting Out...

Our new Year 7s have settled in brilliantly and have already made a big contribution to Eggars in their first term. On Founder's Day on 3rd October, in a service which happens every year at Holybourne Church, the Year 7s remembered our founder, a local farmer named John Eggar. Under a Trust Deed dated 21st March 1638, Mr Eggar realised his idea of providing a school to serve the needs of its community. The students walked in a crocodile to Holybourne (another tradition of the day) and then enjoyed a lovely service led by the Reverend Chris Bradish. The whole morning helped the students really appreciate the long history of their new school.

And Finishing...

For those Year 11s who left us in the summer there was another outstanding set of GCSE results with 80% of our students achieving grade 4 and above. This year saw the introduction of a new assessment regime with English and Maths now being reported on a 9 - 1 scale for GCSE (as opposed to A* to G). In mathematics 82% achieved grade 4 plus and in English 80% achieved grade 4 plus. Their success was celebrated in style at the presentation evening in November. Head Teacher, Patrick Sullivan, commented:

"We are delighted that yet another group of talented students leave Eggars with bright futures ahead. Our results are a reflection of the commitment and ambition of both staff and students. Results in English and Mathematics were outstanding, as were results in the foundation subjects, including French 88% A*-C, History 85%, ICT 81%, Spanish 74%, Graphics 75%, Music 95% and Textiles 91%."

Fantastic Campus Developments

Alton's Town Mayor, Cllr Dean Phillips was delighted to attend the grand opening of our new recreational area 'the pavilion' in September. It was funded by an amazing £5000 grant from the Tesco Bags of Help community scheme. Year 7 students were asked to come up with a name as the structure sits in the area of the school specifically designated for that year group.

The second ribbon for the Mayor to cut was for the new fitness trail supplied by Fresh Air Fitness after the school received an £8,000.00 Big Lottery Grant. Durable and easy to use, the five different pieces of gym equipment have already been a big hit before, during and after PE



Alton Town Mayor, Cllr Dean-Paul Phillips, opening the new pavilion

lessons. In fact, two students were recently seen exercising their bodies and brains at the same time! The biggest construction is currently ongoing and is scheduled to be operational in the spring term. At the time of writing, our new refectory has just arrived on site. A complete building due to be externally finished by the end of the day, it will boast a brand new kitchen and seat approximately 300. We have also just heard that a new astro turf hockey pitch has been approved for the school which will be a fantastic facility, to be enjoyed by our students and the community.

Year 9 boast a World Karate Champion and a National Sailing Champion

Jacob Fairhead returned from the World Open Karate Championship in Budapest, Hungary with gold in kata - a system of individual training exercises - and silver in kumite which is freestyle fighting or sparring.

Ralph Neville excelled at the RS Tera sailing event held at the Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy. There was some great sailing in difficult and challenging conditions but, despite some extremely close racing in Ralph's particular category, the Pro Fleet, he emerged as the new National champion!

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Ralph Neville with his award



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Andrews' Endowed CE Primary School

We are in the swing of our Children in Need fundraiser today and everyone is dressed in pjs or onesies. It seems a little surreal to be putting the finishing touches to this article whilst wearing a dressing gown, slippers and Pudsey ears – there's never a dull moment when you are fortunate enough to work in a school!

It is always our intention to make learning as memorable as possible for our children. Our Year 6s are putting the finishing touches to a unit of work on identity. They have studied the remarkable book 'Wonder', by R J Palacio. As well as considering the viewpoint of the boy in the story, they have thought about what makes each of them unique. They have constructed masks of themselves from willow and tissue paper and are now designing costumes which reflect their own unique character. Later in the term they will be putting on a fashion show for their families in which they will showcase their designs.

Many of our classes have been out and about this term, enriching their learning by visits to castles (Windsor and Highclere) and museums (Winchester Science Centre), or to study early settlements at Queen Elizabeth Country Park.

We always like to welcome visitors to help us with our learning. Perhaps our most unusual visitors this term are the ones which arrived during half term and are still with us: our friends at Mill Cottage Farm have been kind enough to loan us two KuneKune pigs, named George and Peppa, for the winter. Our secret garden at the back of the grounds tends to become very overgrown during the year and the pigs are helping to tackle the vegetation for us in return for treats



such as the scraps from the school gardens and from our fruit snacks at playtime. The children are enjoying having opportunities to visit the pigs and help look after them and, as one of them said: 'It's much better to use nature instead of a strimmer to clear the brambles and weeds!'

We are lucky to enjoy the support of the school and village community in many ways here at Andrews' Endowed. The Parents, Teachers and Friends Association (PTFA) have been busy again this term organising events to raise funds to buy the 'extras' for the school which further enhance our pupils' learning experience. These events included a very popular Children's Pet Show, a foreign/old coin collection and our ever popular Christmas Fayre on Saturday, 25th November.

The PTFA would like to thank all the parents, families, friends and villagers who have supported these events. They would also like to thank Holybourne Village Shop and Post Office who kindly agreed to display one of our coin collection bottles, and MJ Hughes Coins of Alton, who generously sorted and exchanged the coins for us.

We are also grateful to the Holybourne Village Shop for selling the fruits and vegetables from our school allotments for us over the summer when we couldn't make use of all the crops ourselves.

Remarkably, the school has been a central feature of village life in Holybourne for almost 300 years. During the academic year 2019/2020 (just two years away) we will be marking the fact that it will have been 300 years since Thomas Andrews left provision in his will for the foundation of a school for the children of Holybourne and the surrounding villages. We will share some of our plans for our year of celebrations with you soon, but in the meantime, if you have any old photos of the school, memories of time spent here as a parent or pupil, or would like to get involved in our celebrations, please let us know.

You can contact the school office on 01420 83094, or you can follow the school via our website www.andrewsendowed.co.uk, on Facebook www.facebook.com/andrewsendowed or via our Twitter feed: @AndrewsSchool1. However you choose to keep in touch with us – we look forward to hearing from you!

Mrs Maria Lloyd, Headteacher





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Mill Cottage News

It shouldn't happen to a smallholder

Part of being a smallholder, or farmer, are the difficulties of working with unpredictable weather and unpredictable animals. Smallholders, being thrifty sorts, are also always keen to save a couple of quid here and there, even if false economy is really what is involved. As each year draws to a close, it is always a good time to look back and see what disasters and successes have befallen us. Sometimes trying new things leads to success, other times it all ends in failure. It is always cheaper, not to mention easier on the pride, to learn from other people's errors. The secret, we find, is not to repeat your own mistakes!

This issue we take a candid look at the problems and mishaps which have befallen us, at some of the lessons we have learnt and things we will not be repeating in a hurry. There was the time when the sheep required cordoning off from everything and everybody at the height of the foot and mouth outbreak in 2007. For some reason, by the time we got round to the fairly routine task of putting up the electric fencing, it was dark. Anybody who has put up flexinet will know that dragging reels of the stuff out of the barn where it has been gathering dust, attempting to put it up in the dark with a flock of reluctant sheep inside, will know that it's not something a marriage counsellor would recommend. The resulting knots and tangles would make any seaman groan!

Another story involving electric fences was when we had some piglets with their mother contained just outside our house, underneath the windows. You will have heard the saying 'squealing like a stuck pig'. Well, late one evening I was relaxing in a hot bath when I heard what sounded like a pig being murdered. Thinking something was attacking or stealing one of the piglets, there was nothing for it but to leg it outside in only coat and wellies to find the source of the squealing. To our surprise, we found the problem was not the pigs at all but a hedgehog stuck in the electric fence. We switched the fence off and released the poor creature. Thankfully our neighbours are very understanding.

Escaping animals are also a common problem. In 2009, when working full-time in Guildford, I had just got to work when I had a call from a very jovial policeman, asking if I was a pig farmer. I said no, but did admit to owning a few very friendly pigs. To which he replied that he had one which was probably ours (called Borat) cornered in Mill Lane Industrial Estate. Racing home as fast as I could, I grabbed a bucket of food and managed to track Borat down. He had escaped and wandered into Focus' (now Wickes) car park. Seeing nothing that took his fancy, he had moved on towards the lighting showroom and had been stopped from continuing his tour by warehouse staff, cowering behind some pallets. Under police escort we led Borat home, following the bucket of food along Mill Lane as all good pigs should, much to the amusement of



all passers by. My employer was not quite so impressed. Borat is now 11 and thankfully no longer displays the same wanderlust he had in his youth!

The list of stories is a long one, but despite all the fun and games, it is now ten years since we started the mobile farm and the Mill Cottage Farm Experience came into existence, and we have loved almost every minute. Also, while many people in the village know what testing things livestock can be at times, many of you are now keeping animals yourselves. In the last month or so it has come to our attention that around the village there are several folks who have started their own foray into smallholding with chickens, pigs, goats and sheep. Surely this all goes to show the countryside wouldn't be the countryside without livestock around and we are delighted that others are inspired to try the 'Good Life' too!

Tom and Sarah Main www.mcfefarm.org.uk

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The White Hart

As we approach this magical time of year, Carey and I are preparing to have a little celebration of our own. It's the end of our first year at the White Hart! We would like to thank everyone for being so welcoming throughout the year. This is a community we are proud to be a part of.

We're delighted to have hosted, or been part of, some really great events. Our quizzes have raised over £600 for local organisations including Treloars, Bushy Leaze and the village hall. If you haven't been to one of our quizzes, they are held every other Monday (see website/Facebook). The quiz will start running again in the new year so grab some friends and join us for a night of fun and challenges.

Bonfire night was a huge success this year with money from the catering now going towards next year's fireworks, to make it an even bigger event. We had a fantastic turnout thanks to the efforts of the HVA and numerous volunteers from the village. We partnered up with one of our suppliers to deliver a large, well-stocked bar and fresh pizzas. The same pizzas are available at the pub, so if you haven't tried one yet, what are you waiting for?

We have some great things in the diary for the rest of December, including a Karaoke night on December 16th, so if you are up for a bit of fun then please do join us. And to bring on the festive feeling, there'll be carol singing around the tree on the evening of 20th December, with mulled wine and mince pies aplenty.

We will be open on Boxing Day and New Year's Day with a special menu that will include some seasonal brunch favourites such as kedgeree, bubble and squeak, smoked salmon with scrambled eggs and of course all of your favourite pub classics. On New Year's Eve we will have an early evening 'a la carte' menu, which is still available to book, followed by a disco that is open to all. No ticket is required and we will provide a glass of fizz for everyone at midnight to ring in the new year.

On Christmas Day we are fully booked for lunch but the bar will of course be open at lunchtime for anyone who wants to join us for a bit of Christmas cheer and share in the festive spirit with their friends and neighbours.

As we are now well into winter, you will find a great warm super-food salad on the menu, bursting with beetroot, kale, cabbage, toasted almonds and a sumptuous tahini inspired dressing. We also have a lovely Goan curry, a butternut squash risotto, and in the New Year we will treat you to a host of new dishes and healthy options. We are now also doing takeaway pizzas.

Last but not least: we have brought back the famous White Hart Christmas cards. When you dine with us you will receive a card that you can open at the pub in the new year and receive anywhere from 20% to 100% off of your bill. Remember, they are only valid if unopened, so no peeking. We look forward to seeing all of you soon, and to helping to make your holiday season the best of times for all.

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Mon-Sat
8am - 11pm
Sun
8am - 10.30pm

FOOD

Mon-Fri
8am-3pm / 5 - 9pm
Sat 8am - 9pm
Sun 8am - 8pm



Holybourne Service of Remembrance

At 10.45 on the morning of Saturday 11th November, just as the rain started, an air-raid siren sounded over Holybourne, calling villagers to gather around the war memorial on London Road. A parade, led by the Cambrai Company Corps of Drums from Surrey army cadets marched from Andrews Endowed School car park. It was a fine effort from this young and talented band, led by SSI Fiona Watson, many of whom were on parade for the first time. Parade Marshall, Sgt Tom Bagley from the Air Cadets, coordinating the standards of the British Legion and RAF Association standards, led the parade troops from the army and air cadets, the scouts and both Eggars and Andrews Endowed schools.

The invited dignitaries and speakers gathered at the memorial, having assembled in the Old Prince of Wales, where Roger and Gwyneth Eldridge offered their customary stirrup cup. The organiser, Major Adrian Stratta, introduced the event, emphasising the village focus and inclusion, no matter the weather, and welcomed our friend, Padre Wendy Mallas, to conduct the service.

Our speaker this year was Brigadier Tim Carmichael, a resident of Holybourne. He spoke eloquently about his remembrance reflections from his 32 years' service; reminding us that in conflict, no matter the reason or justification, people predominantly fight for their fellow man, the soul beside them. His speech illustrated by personal examples of former enemies that had since become firm friends, Tim proposed that without effective post-war reconciliation, no conflict can ever really end; that we should each strive to contribute to our own version of harmony and reconciliation.

David Tomlinson, Chair of the Holybourne Village Association, read the names of the fallen from WWI, followed by Cdr John Fitzpatrick RN, who read the Exhortation. Local trumpeter Tony Wilman played the Last Post, as the standards were dipped at 1100hrs for the 2 minutes silence, resolute in the rain. The Union Jack was raised as Tony played Reveille.

Capturing the moment, the Deputy Lieutenant of Hampshire, Alan Titchmarsh, delivered a moving rendition of Rupert Brooke's poem, 'The Soldier'. Placing the poem into context, Alan asked us to think about the meaning of conflict, to reflect on the possible thoughts of soldiers from past wars, perhaps expressed and felt in letters home from the front, to loved ones, against the juxtaposition of conflict.

Alan Titchmarsh laid the first wreath, followed by our local MP, Damian Hinds, civil dignitaries, the Mayor, Cllr Dean-Paul Phillips, local councillors for the county and district, Cllrs Andrew Joy and Glynis Watts, and finally David Tomlinson for the HVA. On behalf of the armed forces wreaths were laid by Cdr John Fitzpatrick RN, Brigadier Tim Carmichael and Wg Cmd Tess Petridge, SMO RAF Odiham. Derek Mome represented the Royal British Legion and Pop Chandler the RAF Association. The scouts and the schools laid their wreath for the village. For the church, warden Keith Arrowsmith-Oliver followed by David Andrews from Holybourne's Masonic Lodge. Finally, Reginald Cuff was assisted in laying his wreath by Sally Green for The Lawn, Friends of the Elderly Residential Home.

CPO Ian Shepherd, RN read the Kohima Epitaph, before the Rev Andrew Mickelfield conducted the Act of Commitment and the Blessing. Sgt Bagley marched the parade off down London Road, past the Lawn, where the residents were sitting patiently, to



pay their respects and remember. And finally to the White Hart, for a wonderful reception and remembrance punch, a lunch offered by our friends, as old comrades recalled past glories and new friends were made; clearly 'we will remember them'.

Maj (Retd) AM Stratta PARA

Holybourne Theatre presents...

Dick Whittington and his cat

by Ben Crocker



Individual tickets £8.00 (Family tickets £28.00/£32.00)

6:30pm Evening shows: Jan 27; Feb 3 and 10

2pm Matinee shows: Jan 27, 28; Feb 3, 4 and 10

**Box Office: Wildly Upbeat Printers, John Trimmer Walk, Alton
or online at holybournetheatre.co.uk**

*Directed by Alix Cazalet Forshaw. Produced by Hilary Brown.
Poster courtesy of Burnside Amateur Theatrical Society*



www.holybournetheatre.co.uk

Holybourne Theatre



Dick Whittington comes to Holybourne

It's panto time again at Holybourne Theatre (oh yes it is!) and this season we have a real treat for you - the classic Dick Whittington and his cat. Join us on a fast and furious romp through old London town to mysterious Morocco via exotic Basingstoke (and a shipwreck in shark infested waters), in the company of a glamorous hero and heroine, saucy dame, singing mice, thieving rats, a mad Empress and the best villain of them all... King Rat! Tickets available from: www.holybournetheatre.co.uk/boxoffice.html

Holybourne Singers



You may have seen local publicity about Holybourne Singers changing our name. We now have a new name to take us into the bright and busy future: Luminosa.

We wanted to tell everyone in Holybourne that we are still around in the village, for example singing carols around the tree and at the Lawn this December. It's been a while since we were able to fit into any venues in the village, but on 23rd June 2018 we are delighted that the Chamber Choir will be performing in Holybourne Church to celebrate the new facilities that hopefully will be in place by then.

These are exciting times for us. The choir, founded only six years ago by our Artistic Director Rebekah Abbott with just five singers in the Theatre at Holybourne, has a new name and identity, and we've gained generous support from two companies which will enable us to go on building our capabilities and giving ever more exciting performances. Sponsoring the choir is BaByliss, the market-leading maker of hair and beauty products, while our Young Voices youth choir will be sponsored by Sheen Stickland, the Alton and Chichester-based firm of accountants.

The choir now numbers over 60 singers and incorporates a smaller chamber choir, as well as the youth choir. This year we were delighted to sing at St Lawrence to help in the fundraising effort for the Church of the Holy Rood, a concert where we performed the famous Eternal Light requiem by Howard Goodall with dancers from Alton College. More recently, on 25th November, we performed at the wonderful St Andrew's Church in the centre of Farnham, where we supported Alton Food Bank and the Southern Domestic Abuse Service. The programme included Carl Orff's Carmina Burana, with international concert pianists Nico de Villiers and Chad Vindin, as well as the lesser known works: Elgar's Songs from the Bavarian Highlands and Chilcott's Songs and Cries of London Town. The concert was a sell-out!

Other highlights of this year have included a tour to Bristol and a summer concert performing Will Todd's famously exciting Mass In Blue with the composer himself accompanying us.

For further information about Luminosa, see our website www.luminosamusic.com or contact us by email at: enquiries@luminosamusic.com

Sue Hubbard

What's On

9th, 10th December

10am – 4pm Saturday, 12pm – 4pm Sunday

Christmas Tree Festival at St Lawrence Church

Sunday - children's Christingle service at 4.30pm.

Admission free, refreshments available for a donation.

11th – 13th December

Wreath-making Workshop at the Field Farm project

Field Farm Lane, Colemore, GU34 3PX

Just for adults, using locally-sourced willow, make your own wreath for decorating your door or use as a beautiful table display. www.fieldfarmproject.com

16th December, 2pm

A Christmas Carol

At the Phoenix Theatre and Arts Centre, Bordon

www.phoenixarts.co.uk

16th December

Jane Austen's House Museum Annual Open Day

Part of their annual open day to mark Jane Austen's birthday, giving free house admission to all visitors. Mince pies will be served and there will be free Christmas craft activities.

16th December, 7pm

Wonder of Christmas Concert, Alton Maltings Centre

A free concert by Alton Concert Orchestra, Alton Choral Society and Ancora (followed by mulled wine and mince pies), with a charity collection for Homestart, WeyWater.

www.altonconcertorchestra.org.uk

2nd – 24th December, 10am – 4.30 pm

Christmas at Birdworld, Farnham

Children can meet Santa's reindeer and other friendly farm animals in a winter wonderland setting.

www.birdworld.co.uk/christmas/

2nd – 23rd December

Fairy Tales at Hinton Ampner

Rooms at this beautiful country house have been transformed into scenes from classics such as Rapunzel and Red Riding Hood. Includes a secret fairy tale trail.

26th – 27th December, 10am – 6pm

Christmas Leave on the Watercress Line

Experience the atmosphere of a WWII Christmas on the railway. All-day travel and you can hop on and off at all four stations to enjoy the '40s entertainment on offer.

27th Jan 2pm & 6:30pm; 28th Jan 2pm; 3rd Feb 2pm & 6:30pm; 4th Feb 2pm; 10th Feb 2pm & 6:30pm.

Dick Whittington & his Cat, Holybourne Theatre

www.holybournetheatre.co.uk



Local Star: Alan Titchmarsh

A life of surprises

After nearly 40 years of broadcasting and with 50 gardening books, 10 novels, four memoirs and several anthologies under his belt, you might expect 68-year-old Sir Alan Titchmarsh to be looking forward to some gardening leave. In reality, the nation's favourite gardener, MBE, Deputy Lieutenant of Hampshire, president of more than 50 societies and associations – and occasional Holybourne bell-ringer – tells **Tessa Laughton** he is still in search of 'interesting things,' and often finds them right here in Holybourne.

Alan Titchmarsh chuckles when I tell him I've heard a rumour he's been filming a certain show in the jungle. "I'd rather have root canal surgery," he says. "Not my bag at all." His bag, it turns out, is far more taxing than attempting to escape Ant and Dec in the Australian outback. "I've just finished filming a series called *Secrets of the National Trust* for Channel Five" he says. "I did six last year, and 12 this year. I was in Northern Ireland last week, at Mount Stewart and Castle Ward. Before that I was in Cheshire, Staffordshire, Wales – all over the place. I've just got back and I've got to start writing my next novel now. That has to be done by the end of March."

He's also just been asked to do another two years of the universally popular *Love Your Garden*. "That would take me 'til I'm 70, which is a bit scary."

So when does he get the time to write? "Writing's my winter job," he says. "I like the solitude and I like the contrast between the social aspect of broadcasting and the solitude of writing, I couldn't really do one without the other. I'm quite comfortable on my own."

This will be his 11th novel. He's moved, apparently effortlessly, between the genres of fiction and non-fiction, and finds inspiration from 'heaven knows where'.

"People always ask: 'Where do you get your ideas from?' As if you have a kind of drawer with ideas in, you open it up to see what's in there." Alan laughs. "I don't know where they come from. I don't plot as such, I put characters in a situation and see what happens. So the characters drive the plot. Because that's how life is, isn't it?"

Alan's life seems to bear that out. Once an ordinary lad from Ilkley, Yorkshire, he describes himself simply as lucky to have found opportunity where he did. "I left school at 15, with an O'Level in Art, to work as an apprentice in the local nursery, because I just wanted to grow things. I was a bit of a late developer, not thick, I hope, but talked too much in class probably. My reports said things like, 'Alan has very good intentions, what a shame they're not always fulfilled'."

On the contrary, Alan's intentions 'just to grow things' were about to be fully fulfilled. After his apprenticeship, he went on to train full time at horticultural college in Hertfordshire and later at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew, where he studied for his diploma before supervising staff training. He then moved into journalism, first as gardening books editor and then as deputy editor of a gardening magazine. When the magazine moved, he decided to go freelance, "with a baby on the way, which was very rash." He started doing some radio and a bit of TV and had enough writing commitments to keep him afloat. "I thought: I'm going to go for it."



And he did. Alan has now been freelancing for nearly 40 years. Catapulted to horticultural stardom as presenter of *Gardeners' World*, he went on to front the hugely popular *Ground Force*, numerous other garden-focused programmes, as well as his own daytime TV show and a Saturday morning radio show on *Classic FM*. He is a regular contributor to a plethora of gardening magazines and national newspapers and author of books on subjects as diverse as British natural history, English rivers and royalty. In addition, he supports about 50 charities.

It is an extremely full career, one that offers Alan the ability to pick and choose from a huge variety of work. But there was never exactly a plan, says Alan. Rather, he says, "all I've done was to be lucky enough to find out what I was passionate about and to stick at it. I'm a firm believer that everybody's best at something. I've been nudged by two or three really helpful people during my life to find those areas that really are fulfilling, and if they're

fulfilling you tend to be good at them.” Even in gardening, he says, “there are more than 60 careers to be had, from media, landscaping to green keeping and arboriculture. Find one you like and go for it.” Riding his own enthusiasm in this way, he says, means “I don’t know if you ever feel in control. I’ve been very lucky in that people keep offering me work. But I’m quite realistic about this: I’m not young any more. In TV, particularly, they seem to like young faces. Of course, the writing carries on because they can’t see how crumbly you’re looking!”

Asked what his latest novel might have in store, he plays his cards close to his chest. “This time I’m musing on writing about a character I’ve already included in the last book, but I’m not certain if it’s going to come to anything,” he says. “I’m just at that stage of hoping this is going to work but I need to clear the decks before I really get down to it. The decks are covered in post at the moment! I’d like to see more floor! Once I can see more floor, I’ll have cleared my head as well.”

Alan works from his home in the centre of the village near the church of Holy Rood, where both his daughters married. “My wife, Annie, and I have a house on the Isle of Wight as well, so we divide our time between the two. But we spend the majority of our time here. We’ve lived in Holybourne for 15 years now, so it’s very much home.” It’s his favourite spot in the village, he adds. “I love my patch. We’ve got four acres with a wildflower meadow in the back and a mound in the corner. I walk up the mound and have a look around and see all the surrounding countryside. I love just surveying the Hampshire downs.”

He is involved with village life “to a degree that’s comfortable for us and hopefully for the village,” most visibly at the Remembrance parade in November. But home, and Holybourne, is for the private side of a public life. “We’re quite quiet, private people, which sounds odd for someone who’s on television. But I tend not to do red carpet things or *Hello* magazine. My job takes me into the public eye but fame is a by-product, not a goal. I’ve got four grandchildren now and I have to have time for them.”

Alan will admit there are few things he still yearns to do or people he longs to meet. (Even royalty? “Met them all,” he replies.) But his motivation remains the same as it ever was: “To keep being interested. [It’s not] like I’ve done it all, and now I’m going to get my pipe and slippers and curl up by the fire. I suppose what I really love is being surprised.” Often, he says, that simply means meeting new people. “I don’t mind if people are well known or not as long as they’re good company,” he says. “Most people have a story. And often those who think they’re not very interesting actually turn out to be fascinating.”

As for his own garden, Alan seizes every opportunity to nip and prune when the urge takes him. “Oh yes! Always, every day I’m here I do something. I just don’t double dig much any more.” Any tips for the winter? “It’s a good time to move things,” he says. “When they’re dormant, most plants don’t notice. Unless you put them into cold wet mud. They don’t like that and they rot.” For those thinking of investing in new plants there’s also news. “You don’t have to buy everything in containers. You can buy bare root plants, particularly roses, and they transplant beautifully in winter.”

The secret to gardening, he says, is to remember that a garden is never finished: “It’s always a work in progress” he says. “Just keep looking at it, critically but not with frustration. Try to go gently, gently. Do it slowly and if a bit doesn’t work, unpick it and start again.”

Sound advice for a full garden, and a full life.



Alan at Mount Stuart House (National Trust) in County Down, N Ireland

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From the archives

A Dangerous Stretch of Road

The road through Holybourne village was once a very dangerous place to be. Older residents will remember when it was the main trunk road from Southampton to London, carrying a huge amount of motor traffic, which caused residents to 'take their lives in their hands' when crossing, and led to a number of serious accidents.

The Gloucester Citizen of 1st January 1937 reported this head-on collision between two cars (see right). Two years later, on 10th August 1939, Leslie William West, aged 23, of Malvern Road, Gillingham, Kent, received severe injuries and was taken to Alton hospital in a very grave condition, he died the next morning. He had a broken leg and shoulder and his skull was fractured. When driving through Holybourne towards Alton he was overtaking two cars. The car skidded and was completely wrecked in a head-on collision with a lorry. The driver of the lorry, which was extensively damaged, was James Harbour. He was not injured, but was severely shocked. The Chatham News reported the inquest: West was driving at 50 miles an hour, the road was on a slight curve and he steered round the overtaken cars too sharply, and skidded on the wet surface 'with a terrific bang' right into the front of the lorry.

Occupants of motor vehicles were not the only people at risk. The Portsmouth Evening News of 15th July 1943 (right) reported the death of cyclist Leslie Colin Edwards after being struck by a coach. Pedestrians too were victims to passing traffic. A Mr Houghton of Holybourne was hit by a car by the Queens Head when delivering hot cross buns on Good Friday morning, he never fully recovered.

The inquest on the death of Ernest Wilfred Holford was reported in the Portsmouth Evening News of 30th July 1955. Mr Holford, 73, of Holybourne received fatal injuries when he was struck by a car on stepping into the road from the pavement opposite Anstey Park. A witness stated that Mr Holford 'took only one step onto the main road when he was struck by a car. He looked only straight across the road. The car driver had no chance of avoiding him.'

FOUR INJURED IN HEAD-ON CRASH

TWO VICTIMS BROTHERS

Four motorists were severely injured in a head-on collision between two cars on the main London road at Holybourne near Alton, Hampshire, to-day.

The cars were wrecked.

The motorists, Albert Edward Davis and his wife, Marjorie Davis, of Privett-road Gosport, and two brothers John and Brian Field, of Sandy-lane, Cobham, Surrey, were taken to Alton Hospital.

Davis received chest injuries and an extensive cut on the throat, and he and Brian Field are stated to be in a critical condition.

The extent of the injuries of Mrs. Davis and John Field are not yet known.

Coach Driver Sent to Prison

William Ernest Vernon Smith, of 17, Centaur Street, Portsmouth, was sentenced to three months' hard labour, and suspended from driving for 12 months by Alton magistrates on Tuesday, on a charge of dangerous driving.

The charge followed a fatal accident at Holybourne in which a crippled cyclist, Leslie Colin Edwards, of 23, London Road Holybourne was knocked from his machine by a coach driven by Smith, who was returning from a Farnham Wings for Victory parade with a party of Royal Marines.

To the relief of Holybourne residents, the Alton bypass was opened in 1970, taking all through traffic away from the village, and leaving it a quieter, cleaner and safer place.

Linda Habberfield



Holybourne Village Association

It's been a busy month for the HVA. Rob Law organised a fabulous fireworks event on 4th November attended by 800 visitors. He was ably supported by Tim Carmichael as leader of the 'mortar platoon', letting off a concentrated and intense series of fireworks, while Lorne Robertson and the White Hart staff organising the food and drink. The food of choice this year was freshly cooked pizzas served from on site pizza ovens which proved very popular.

The following week, the annual Holybourne Remembrance service was held at the Roll of Honour in London Road. Ever since I have been Chairman of the HVA, it has rained at our Remembrance and this year was no different. It was dry before and afterwards and it was dry in London at the same time, and dry in Alton for the

Sunday commemoration. But, as usual, it rained in Holybourne. Would it be the same if it did not rain? Despite the weather, it was extremely well attended with dignitaries and villagers alike. The guest speaker was part-time mortar platoon firework firer, Brigadier Tim Carmichael, who spoke very eloquently about war, peace and remembering. As usual, to finish, the band led a procession past the Lawn, ending at the White Hart where Lorne and Carey welcomed us with mulled wine.

The next HVA event will be held around the Christmas Tree at the White Hart at 7pm on 20th December: singing carols and drinking mulled wine. Do come along and join us if you can, bringing your best carol-singing voice.

David Tomlinson Chair, Holybourne Village Association

First World War Battlefields trip



Tyne Cot – the largest British and Commonwealth war cemetery in the world

Not just for children

Will our fascination with the First World War ever cease? As a nation we no longer commemorate in any national way the Battle of Waterloo, for instance, and now that the horrors of Passchendaele and the Somme are a hundred years away, will those times in history also vanish into our collective amnesia? I hope not, as once we start forgetting events like the world wars or the Holocaust, it opens the door to denial and repetition.

Perhaps for this reason the events of the First World War have become entrenched in the academic curriculum of our schools and colleges. Schoolchildren are frequently offered the opportunity to visit First World War battlefields, given that our geographic location puts them within an easy day's reach. I have led scores of such trips with children in schools or young adults at college and have often been struck by the comments of parents as they collect their offspring that they wish they had had the opportunity to make a similar trip.

For this reason, I wonder if there would be any interest in the village to undertake such a trip for adults? I am currently exploring the cost of taking a small luxury coach to the battlefields and sights of Ypres and the Somme over a two day period. I visit local groups to talk about what is for me a passion and from those talks have arisen numerous requests to lead a trip. It would be wonderful to be able to offer friends from the village the chance to join us.

Did you know that within a ten mile radius of the Belgian town of Ypres there are 150 British and Commonwealth First World War cemeteries but only four German ones? Losses were comparable so where are the missing 85,000 German soldiers? Did you know that if all the deaths of the First World War are averaged out over the length of the war, a man was killed every 15 seconds? Did you know that more men were killed in the opening few hours of the Battle of the Somme than in the total of any battle involving British

troops in the Second World War? Did you know that the only remaining mine crater used to initiate the Battle of the Somme is owned by a man in Farnham? Did you know that if they never find another gas shell, it will still take the Belgian army thirty years to deal with the ones they have already found? The legacy goes on.

So how about it? I would suggest an early morning start from Alton, to be in Poperinge in Belgium by mid-morning, a tour around Ypres during the day taking in the largest British and Commonwealth war graves cemetery in the world at Tyne Cot, the German equivalent at Langemark, numerous sites of special interest before ending the day with dinner and the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate in Ypres. Then on to the Somme, spending the night near Arras before touring the moving sites of the Somme on the second day. Home late evening on day two.

Should anyone have the remotest interest in joining such a trip please email me, jerrymjj@tiscali.co.uk and I can gauge interest and let you know about cost. I think we have a debt to those who died for us, to continue to remember them and this is one way of doing that.

Jerry James



The Caribou monument in the Canadian national memorial, Newfoundland Park on the Somme



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Holybourne Shop & Post Office

This is the third Christmas since we took over and we are looking forward to seeing how the new shop layout will enable our customers to queue more easily for Post Office services and to pay for shop purchases since the refit in March. We have had a huge amount of positive feedback from customers both face-to-face and on our facebook page (holybourneshopandpostoffice) – please follow us to see our regular news, updates and special offers. We also have a great new website designed by Feelgood Creative which showcases our products and services. Take a look at www.holybourneshop.co.uk.

We are very excited to introduce our new bakery supplier, the Honesty Bakery. They are a great local Artisan bakery supplying us with treats such as Chelsea buns, chocolate biscuits, tray bakes, bundts, sponges, cakes and tarts with new products being introduced regularly.

Our fresh hams, sausage rolls, homemade scotch eggs and other items from Sole's Butchers of Alresford have been well received, so we are rolling out orders for Christmas. This includes turkeys/geese/duck, sausages/pigs in blankets/sausage meat, various cuts of beef, lamb and pork plus gammon/ham and bacon. Simply come into the shop and discuss your requirements with us and we can order these for you for collection from the shop on the 22nd December.

Last year we started putting together Christmas hampers consisting of great local products in stylish cardboard and

wicker baskets. These make great Christmas presents or a wonderful offering when visiting relatives or for friends over the festive season. This is a lovely way to show just how lucky we are having such brilliant and diverse producers in our county.

We held two wonderful tasting events in December. Firstly, Guy Nightingale from Louis Latour Wines hosted a wine tasting evening in the shop on Thursday 7th December. This was a great chance to sample wines from the best growing regions in the world and to order any wines you might have fallen in love with, in time for Christmas. Nancy Clarke from Greyfriars Vineyard also hosted a wine tasting in the shop on Saturday 9th December, and we ran a stall at the Lawn's Christmas Fair in Holybourne on the same Saturday.

These events were a chance to sample some wonderful local English Sparkling and still wines and other local products. If you were unable to attend, just come into the shop to see what we offer. You might just find the perfect fizz for Christmas day and New Year's Eve.

Don't forget, we also stock Cook which can be delivered to your door, plus newspapers, magazines and other grocery items. Simply give us a call or pop in to the shop to discuss your requirements.

We wish everyone a very merry Christmas and happy New Year and look forward to an exciting year ahead in which we already have lots planned.

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Curtis Museum & Allen Gallery

Allen Gallery

**Calling Art lovers aged five to 11
Children's Art Competition**

We would like you to enter a drawing or painting on the theme of books and stories. This could be based on your favourite book, your favourite character or a comic book story. Or made up, it's up to you. There are two categories: 5-7 years and 8-11 years. A winner will be chosen from each category. The work should be no larger than A4. Please put your name and age on the back. Closing date for entries is 3rd January. Entry is free. Your work could be displayed in the gallery café area for people to see from 4th – 27th January.

**Tuesday 19th December
Christmas Make-and-Take**

11am -1pm and 2pm – 4pm. Drop into the Allen Gallery and take away your very own seasonal creation. Children must be accompanied by an adult. £3 per activity pack.

2nd – 23rd December

Exhibition: A 60th Anniversary celebration of the Mouth & Foot Painting Association (free)

2017 marks the 60th anniversary of this organisation. The founder, Erich Stegmann, believed that disabled artists should be able to make a living from their artwork just

like their able-bodied counterparts. Today, with over 800 disabled artists in 80 countries around the globe, the MFPA is one of the largest Associations of its kind.

Thursday 25th January 7.30pm

Alton's Pubs

Local Historian Jane Hurst gives a whistle stop tour of the pubs of Alton and their place in the town's brewing heritage. Tickets £5 from the gallery.

Curtis Museum

A new book on the history of Eggar's School has just been published, John Eggar's Free Grammar School - The Early Years 1642-1880, by Pamela Taylor. Part of the Alton University of the Third Age, Local History group, the 52 page, illustrated book spans three centuries of the school's history, from John Eggar's plans to set up a Free Grammar School to the passing of the school to the care of the Charity Commission in 1880. The book offers a fascinating glimpse of the Eggar's curriculum and school day in the mid 17th century and chronicles the school's progress under subsequent masters over the following three centuries. Many local family names connected with the school through its history are featured – as feoffees, masters, ushers and pupils. The book costs £3.00 and is available from the Curtis Museum (01420 82802) or Jane Hurst, janehurst1@gmail.com (p&p £1.30)

Jill Line

*The Curtis Museum and Allen Gallery, Alton
01420 82802 www.hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk
Hours: Tues-Sat, Gallery 10.30 -4.30, Museum 10 – 5*

Holybourne WI

Summer has passed so quickly but we have great memories of WI outings and events.

In August we enjoyed a trip to The Wyne, a Tudor country house near Basingstoke. Now a National Trust property, The Wyne hosted Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn in 1535 and is home to a host of treasures dating back to that time. During our visit we explored the fascinating roof restoration and sampled delicious teas.

A very successful event was the Bollywood evening in October, where Kate Sadler taught our group and several visitors Bollywood style dances. Themed music and fantastic food was enjoyed by all. Another similar event is planned for next year.

Our Christmas celebrations start early this year with a visit to the White Hart Pub on 7th December where we will be found tucking into their exciting Christmas buffet. Come along and meet us and join in the fun.

Events and activities for 2018 include a visit from Hart Wildlife Rescue, an art and craft activity evening, a taste of Spain with flamenco dancing plus many more interesting pop up events. A highlight will be a visit from Sandra Simmons, who will share with us her reflections on her life in Iran prior to the Islamic revolution of 1979.



Top
Bollywood dancing evening



Right
Visit to The Wyne, showing members on the viewing gallery to see the roof repairs

New members and visitors all welcome on the third Thursday of the month at 7.30 in the Village Hall.

Sharon Buckle & Wendy Ostler
holybournewi@gmail.com

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Fill Your Summer with Festivals, like Superstar Beth

According to Oxfam, Holybourne has a Superstar: Beth Walters, from Upper Neatham Mill Lane, has been volunteering for Oxfam, as a steward at music festivals for four years. This year, she won the first ever 'Superstar Steward Award'.

Every summer Oxfam raises money by providing stewards for music festivals across the country, including Glastonbury, Reading and Boomtown. The thousands of stewards are all volunteers, which means that Oxfam raises over a million pounds in payments from the festivals for their work each summer.

The volunteers are expected to work three shifts each, doing jobs such as checking tickets, helping out at entrances and directing festival goers. When they are not working the volunteers can enjoy the festival for free. They also benefit from meal tokens (one for each shift), access to special Oxfam camping areas with hot water and (vitally important) free phone charging.

Lucy Yendell, from London Road, has been a dedicated Oxfam supporter for years and has often stewarded at Glastonbury. Lucy encouraged Beth, and her brother Jacob, to sign up as soon as they turned 18, as she knew they loved music and enjoyed festivals. Since then summers in the Walters household have been a constant round of festivals. Beth volunteered at seven festivals this summer, including Glastonbury, Shambala, Latitude and Boardmasters, all for free.

Beth won her award because of her professional attitude on shift and because of the way she made everyone feel welcome off shift. She also helped all the volunteers enjoy their time.

"It's such a great way of getting to festivals," says Beth. "The Oxfamily are always friendly and welcoming and I get to see all my favourite bands, often more than once, over the summer. I have learnt loads, have some useful experience for my CV and have made a fantastic band of friends who I see throughout the year." Beth would urge anyone, of any age over 18, to volunteer. It is a great way of helping Oxfam's work to relieve poverty across the world while having a great time.

To find out more, go to www.oxfam.org.uk/stewarding You can register your interest now. In the spring registration is opened and you can choose which festivals you want to go to. You will need to put down a deposit (usually around £250) which is returned to you at the end of the summer so long as you turn up for all your shifts. You can volunteer for as many, or as few, festivals as you like - in 2017 Oxfam provided stewards at 17 festivals

Helen Walters

Ed: The donated prize was a two-night midweek stay in a fully-insulated, luxury bell tent for up to 4 people with *Home Farm Glamping* in Hertfordshire.



Superstar Beth Walters, a self portrait of festival fun



Oxfam stewards on duty

Christmas Services in the Parish of the Resurrection

Sunday 10th December

10.30am, Holybourne Church

Christingle Service

4pm, St Lawrence Church

Christingle Service

Sunday 17th December

10.30am, St Lawrence Church

Carols for Everyone

10.30am, All Saints Church

Carols & Readings

4pm, Beech Village Hall

Village Carols and Readings

6.30pm, St Lawrence Church

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

6.30pm, Holybourne Church

Carol Service

Christmas Eve

10am, Alton Methodist Church

Communion Service

4pm, Holybourne Church

Crib Service

4pm, St Lawrence Church

Crib Service

11.30pm, All Saints Church

Midnight Communion

11.30pm, St Lawrence Church

Midnight Communion

11.30pm, Holybourne Church

Midnight Communion




 For
 unto
 you is
 born this
 day in the
 city of David
 a savior, which
 is christ the Lord.
 Luke 2:11

Christmas Day

8am, St Lawrence Church

Holy Communion

8am, All Saints Church

Holy Communion

9.15am, St Peter's Church, Beech

Christmas Communion

9.15am, Holybourne Church

Christmas Communion

10.30am, All Saints Church

Christmas Traditional Communion

10.30am, St Lawrence Church

Christmas Family Communion

From the Rectory

Salvator Mundi, the cash, the glamour and the heart of the Christmas story



Christie's called it, 'the Last da Vinci' – you may have heard the story. In mid-November, Salvator Mundi, the first and only painting to be verified as an original work by Leonardo da Vinci in the 21st century, was sold. The art critics certainly did their bit to add some star dust to the sale. 'Discovering a new Leonardo is a bit like finding a new planet,' said Alistair Sooke. The website, Artnet called it the, 'holy Mona Lisa'.

True enough, as one of just 16 Masterworks, (a debated figure) by da Vinci in known existence, you can appreciate that across the art world and, no doubt, around the kitchen tables of billionaires from Moscow to Miami, the sale caused quite a stir.

On the big night, Christie's swanky Rockefeller Plaza sale-room was packed with journalists, brokers, experts and agents. Every phone line was booked and dialled-in, (if you're seriously in the market for this kind of retail therapy you don't need to get out of your onesie). With a pre-sale estimate of \$100m, there was a gasp as the bidding happily sailed past \$200m; a disbelieving ripple of applause broke out when the serious buyers were still interested at \$300m. And then there were two anonymous buyers left, perhaps wondering whether it would look better in the dining room or the hallway. The work which was once in the collection of Charles I, eventually sold for \$400m with a further \$50m in fees - a good day at the office for all at Christies then! Salvator Mundi became the most expensive painting in history.

For those in the know, Salvator Mundi really is as good as it gets. Painted by one of the most talented people who ever lived in c 1500, the 'Saviour of the World' shows Christ pronouncing a blessing with his finger's pointing to the heavens. In his other hand is a crystal orb. The orb could represent the world, but given its dating, it's more likely symbolic of sight; how do we see and understand the world around us? For da Vinci, Christ holds our insatiable thirst to know and be known: as saviour, he is at once the ultimate question, the deepest answer and the enduring blessing as we experience the mystery of what it is to be human.

As we get ready for Christmas there's lots going on. School productions, presents, visits and working out who's coming for lunch. It's all great fun, but here are three things that the sale of Salvator Mundi prompts me to think about in the midst of everything else.

First, the message of Christmas is that God really is with us – not just his picture. In fact, that's exactly what the name 'Emmanuel' means – God with us. "The constant refrain of Christmas, in carols and readings, is that God is with us. In whatever situations you find yourself this Christmas, God is with you - you need only turn to him and ask to know his presence," said the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, speaking about Christmas this year. I believe God has more for us than a picture. I like the painting, but what I really want is the faith that inspired it. If the Christian faith is true, I want to know the reality, not just the image.

Secondly, the Christmas story is of infinite worth, but free to you and me. There's a great irony in the price paid. As Giles Fraser writes in the Guardian, "For the Christianity of Salvator Mundi is designed specifically for all us s**ts. And the good news is that it doesn't cost \$450m to find it. You only have to ask. And it only ever comes for free." We can have all the money in the world, but I don't think God's interested or impressed. He knows the truth of what it is to be human: our struggles, challenges and problems and the Christmas story is his way of saying he gets it and will be with us in whatever it is we're going through – the good, the bad, the tragic and the ugly. It's a gift we can receive afresh this year that money cannot buy.

Thirdly, it's for everyone. Apart from the absurd price, the thing that rankles most about the sale is that it will now, most likely, sit in a private collection, seen by only a handful of people. That's just not how the Christmas story works. How ironic that a picture called the Saviour of the World may now be enjoyed by so few. The message of Christmas is the opposite. It's for us all.

Whatever you're up to this year, on behalf of everyone at the Church of the Holy Rood and across the parish, I wish you and your families a very happy and peaceful Christmas. We have many services happening (see opposite). I invite you to come and celebrate again the wondrous mystery, hope and joy of Christmas. God is with us, he is, truly, salvator mundi and you will be most welcome.

And finally...

I write at an exciting moment in the life of the Church of the Holy Rood. We have a start date confirmed (15 January) to begin the work to update the church in a way which will make it fit for the 21st century. I know many from the parish, within the village and beyond, have been working hard for years to see this happen. It will be a great way to begin 2018. The project will improve access to the church by moving the font, create a kitchenette, increase storage and provide toilet and changing facilities all within a purpose-built area. The existing pews will be replaced with movable pews so that we can use the space in more creative ways. Could you sponsor a pew to help make this happen? Would you like one of the existing pews for your home, club or organisation? What ideas do you have to use the space when complete? We would be so grateful for any offers of help. Come and have a look this Christmas and please do get in touch: revchrisbradish@gmail.com

Rev'd Chris Bradish



Our River

A minor tributary

In walking the public footpath from Upper Neatham Mill to the roundabout in connection with the planning Appeal dismissal (See HVM spring and summer 2017) it was apparent that a water course ran at one side of the field, marked by a line of trees and a fence, flowing down to join the Wey downstream of the Upper Neatham Mill Lane bridge, potentially at risk of pollution from development. It was also interesting to note conspicuous green mats of the Pointed bog-moss *Calliergonella cuspidata*, a good indicator species of damp ground. It is easy to identify from its stiff, tightly rolled shoot tips. Dampness and poor drainage is to be expected in this field on West Melbury marly chalk. This little tributary is probably a mix of ground water and some drainage off the bypass. The volume of water in the northern Wey through the village is augmented by various springs, seepages and tributaries of ground water origin.

Sloping field with green moss growth and tributary below.

Waterside Meadows and Pasture

Taking the train from Alton to Farnham, on its raised embankment a good view is to be had of the River Wey. Grass pasture is the main land-use alongside the river with arable crops on the malmstone (upper greensand) on higher ground. In earlier times the riverside grass would have been used for one or two hay crops as well as for grazing. In 2004, when walking the footpath from the Bourne footbridge towards Neatham Mill, I photographed an interesting brick and iron structure to the left of the path, part way along the field. The large field here was then used for cattle grazing and the line of the Wey at the bottom indicated by willows. Could this have been a sluice of some kind for a water course used to irrigate the meadow? It is still there near the widened turning circle and field boundary, but behind the wire fence erected along the north side of the track and is in a clump of thorn trees with one covered in ivy. Does anyone in the village know more details of this?

The 1910 Ordnance Survey detailed map of Holybourne (25 inches to the mile) in Alton Library does not show any water course feature here but there is a symbol half way along the footpath and others across the Bourne that could suggest the presence of hatches. Unfortunately the map does not give a key to all of its symbols. On the same alignment as this footpath on the other eastern side of Neatham Mill Lane, following the 300ft contour, is a channel that looks like a water course and comes from the railway line at Cuckoo's Corner. This bears a westward pointing arrow suggesting a flow of water as is shown for the river in the opposite direction. Might this too be a carrier of a water meadow system? By 1910 the heyday of water meadows was well over so any structure surviving was likely to have been neglected and out of use when the surveying was done for the map (1909).

The Wessex area of chalk rivers in Wiltshire, Dorset and Hampshire was the centre of water meadow construction in the 18th and 19th centuries with elaborate 'bedworks' of carriers, drains, sluices and hatches and the system spread to other parts especially in large estates. Some good



Possible 19th century sluice in waterside pasture, Holybourne.

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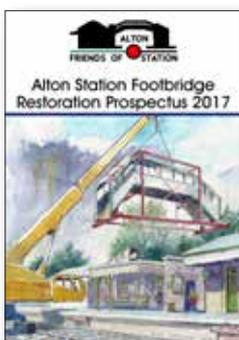
bedwork systems are on the southern Wey at Mellow Farm near Sleaford, described in The Southern Wey a Guide (still available as a CD office@riverweytrust.org.uk 01428 722162) and masonry structures appear. Warmer water from ground sources would increase the soil temperature stimulating grass to start growing again some weeks earlier, after winter, helping to plug the late spring 'hungry gap' in the farming year. At other times of year, after a hay cut, animals would have been sent to graze on the re-growth of grass (after-grass), while their manure would promote further growth: all very sustainable. Water meadows involved structural work to set up and were labour-intensive to operate with many farms hiring a 'drowner' to irrigate and drain the meadows as needed. In many areas some less elaborate

'catchworks' were constructed that were easier to set up and run and this could include the upper reaches of the northern Wey and Caker Stream in Alton. Their evidence in the field and on maps is however less likely to survive. The last years of the 19th century with the end of High Farming, moving into agricultural depression and World War I led to the decline of water meadow management. The large motor machinery of post-war agriculture, replacing pre-war farm horses, could not work these lands with drains.

A most interesting book on the subject is Water Meadows History, Ecology and Conservation Edited by H Cook and T Williamson, published by Windgather Press, Macclesfield, Cheshire in 2007.

June Chatfield

Friends of Alton Station



Since the last issue, FAS has held its AGM, published our first Alton Station Footbridge Restoration Prospectus (pictured left) and met with Network Rail. The latter meeting was positive because there was a definite air of wanting to help us from their side, and this is a change of tone from an earlier meeting. They offered to put off the demolition

until October 2018, but at the time of writing, we await confirmation of this.

Essentially, once we know that the extended deadline is official, we want to step up our efforts to raise funds. We are writing to various well-known people asking for support, but the railway press is a real target.

The prospectus outlines the project to save the footbridge and can be downloaded from our website.

Stephen Lewis, Chair of Friends of Alton Station
www.FriendsOfAltonStation.org.uk



Holybourne Cricket Club



WE NEED YOU!



We would like to start by recognising the great young talent at Holybourne with the U13 team winning the North Hampshire Youth Cricket League Summer 2017 plate competition, beating Fleet in the final on 25th July 2017. The game was played in the true spirit of cricket with both teams and their many supporters applauding a great match – well done! The team were awarded their plate and medals at the NHYCL awards evening held at Lord Wandsworth College on 24th September 2017.

was attended by many of the junior players, parents and senior members of the club. Thanks to our own Brad Taylor, Hampshire and England player for helping out again by presenting the awards. Our congratulations to everyone who achieved an award this season for their individual contribution to the team effort.

Whilst the playing season may have finished there is still plenty of activity going on at the club as we prepare for 2018. In November Holybourne Cricket Club was again awarded Club Mark status for a further three years by the England and Wales Cricket Board



Our own awards evening took place on Friday 22nd September 2017 and

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Holybourne Veterans' Football Club

(ECB). This recognises the club for its management and ability to offer cricket and coaching at many levels in a safe and secure environment. Many thanks to the committee for undertaking the tasks associated with this great achievement.

On the field, 2017 saw a variety of cricket and some excellent performances. The senior 1st XI finished eighth in their league and the 2nd XI finished 14th. As in the previous season the ongoing availability of adult players was a challenge which gave the younger members of the club the opportunity to step up and play senior cricket. If you are interested in playing cricket, whether you are new to the game or semi-retired please let us know.

If you are interested in helping our groundsman Andy Gagen by offering a couple of hours a week it would be very much appreciated. The sports field and pavilion are great village amenities and require ongoing maintenance for everyone to enjoy, so if you can help please let us know.

On the social side, we finished the year in style with the August bank holiday 6's Competition with even more teams and supporters than last year. Great work from Mick Roberts in organising the event which was recognised by Mick being awarded the President's Salva for an outstanding contribution to the club over many years.

We would like to wish all of our supporters, players, coaches and parents a merry Christmas and happy New Year. Don't forget that training starts again in January 2018, look-out for dates on the website!

Peter Robinson, Chairman

www.holybourne.play-cricket.com



New Season, new club record & a penalty shootout

Our season has begun in Division 4 and so far, so good. At the time of writing we have played four games in the league and two in the cup and have suffered only one defeat, so the signs are very promising. Recently, we have acquired the services of Mike Heffernan, who has made a very quick impact with four goals in two games. Competition for places is high. Goals are coming thick and fast and our goal tally after six games is 25 for and nine against, with our three strikers so far scoring 17 goals between them.

Our highlight so far has to be our 10-0 drubbing of local rivals Medstead FC in the cup. It was a fine performance against new opponents who are still getting used to this level, but to be fair to them they kept plugging away until the end. It was a game for the history books, exceeding our previous highest score of 8-0. We also experienced our first ever victory in a penalty shootout, against Division 3 Camberley. After 90 minutes the score was 1-1 and the game went straight to penalties. All five were successfully converted (England please take note). On the downside, we suffered a heavy 6-1 defeat to Overton, who have three teams and so have the resources to pick a strong team every match.

Post-match, we are still taking recovery sessions down at the White Hart, with beer and food most welcome after a gruelling 90 minutes.

We have also invested our sponsorship money and have purchased new training tops that are proudly worn by the guys at every game. Our new team photo was taken in early November on a bright autumn day, when our green tops blended in very well with the beautiful Hampshire scenery in the background. There is apparently a rumour that if our goal keeper, Dave Minette, AKA 'Mad Dog of the Holybourne Cricket Club,' turns up for cricket in this top, he will be heavily fined! Does anyone detect some jealousy here from our cricket boys? Maybe it's time for a footy rematch. Further updates may follow in the spring edition of the magazine!

On the social side, our Christmas evening event is planned for Saturday 23rd December down at the White Hart with the theme of Kevin Keegan wigs or Christmas jumpers. Please feel free to come along and laugh at us.

We have a further four games before Christmas and we hope to continue our good run in the league and both cup competitions. Our home games are currently played at Jubilee playing fields in Alton. If you have been entertained by what you have read, enjoy playing football, enjoy a beer or six, are aged over 35 and are interested in joining us, please get in touch by phone, email or via our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Holybourne-Veterans-Football-Club-851560754868929/>.

Gary Magee

gary6570@btinternet.com
07464 549009

Village Hall News

It's been a rollercoaster few months, with a number of high points but, sadly, also a few lows.

The trustees were very pleased to welcome Sharon Buckle to the committee as the Holybourne W.I. representative.

The installation of the new units, oven, induction hob, sinks and tiling for the long-running kitchen refurbishment project was completed to schedule and the hall re-opened for bookings on August 15th after a fortnight's closure. The kitchen floor was replaced over half-term in October. Broken crockery has been replaced and the kitchen needs decorating before it can be declared complete, but this is in hand, and the chosen decorator should soon be available. The trustees are really pleased with how it looks so far, and have had considerable positive feedback from hirers and users.

The hall was the victim of a serious theft overnight on 20th August 2017, when the lead covering the roof of the porch area was stolen. The insurers have paid out, but less the excess and also losing our no-claims discount for 3 years. The treasurer estimates that this will cost at least £550 altogether. A few donations have been made, one of which was especially generous, for which the trustees are very grateful, but there is still some way to go to make up the shortfall. There was little point in replacing the lead, which was likely to be stolen again, so a contractor was engaged to replace it with fibreglass over the autumn half term. Unfortunately his co-worker was injured and he was unable to do the work. Temporary repairs have held up thus far, however, with the arrival of winter, this needs addressing urgently, and must be scheduled around Holybourne Village Pre-School.

All 60 chairs (60 being the maximum number of people allowed in the hall by the fire safety certificate) were replaced in October with fabric-upholstered foldaway chairs which are more comfortable, more robust and easier to store. The feedback the trustees have had on these has been very favourable.

There have been a few unfortunate occurrences recently. Someone urinated into a drinks can and threw it into the black recycling bin, necessitating a very unpleasant cleaning job for the trustees. It appeared that someone allowed either their dog or small child to urinate against the hall door at some point and again the trustees needed to sort this out. The person who mistakes the hall's green refuse bin for a dog waste bin has also made an unwelcome re-appearance and this too is rather unpleasant for the trustees and users of the hall. The trustees are looking at installing CCTV at some point to deter thieves and whilst those guilty of the above offences cannot be publicly 'named and shamed' at least a private word can be had with them!

The trustees would like to welcome two new regular hirers: Alton Camera Club on Wednesdays and Alton Choi Kwang Do Martial Arts Club on Fridays. Hopefully, both will enjoy a long and happy residence at Holybourne Village Hall.

For up-to-date information, please 'like' the hall's Facebook page, or keep an eye out for the quarterly-ish news bulletins on the hall's outside noticeboard. If you'd like to find out more about becoming a trustee or have suggestions for fundraising or ways to improve the hall, please get in touch via Facebook or email villagehall@hollybourne.com.

The trustees would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Ben Kemp, Chairman
Trustees of Holybourne Village Hall

HOLYBOURNE VILLAGE HALL



Available for public hire, offering a maximum capacity of 60 people, a fully-fitted and equipped kitchen, toilet facilities and full level access.

The hall is situated in the centre of the village, just a few yards up Church Lane from London Road.

BOOKING ENQUIRIES

Vickie Kemp
 01420 549074 / 07737 369803
villagehall@hollybourne.com

ONLINE HALL AVAILABILITY

www.holybourne.com

Select the 'Village Hall'
 Press "Click Here to Book"

HOURLY HIRE RATES

Holybourne Residents

Weekdays:	£8.50
Weekends before 18:00	£10.00
Weekends after 18:00	£11.50

Non-Holybourne Residents

Weekdays:	£10.00
Weekends before 18:00	£13.50
Weekends after 18:00	£18.00

The china, glass and cutlery in the kitchen are all included in the cost of the hire.

Hirers must ensure that the duration of their booking is sufficient for any setting up and clearing up. Free access to the hall cannot be given for this purpose.

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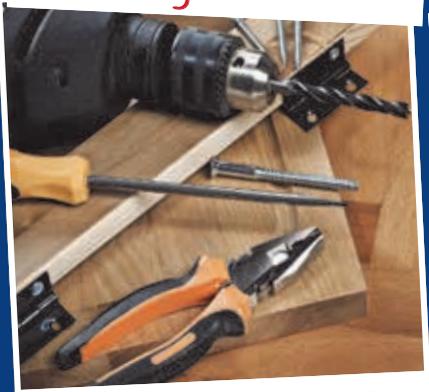
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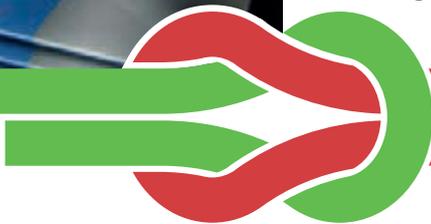
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