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Holybourne & Neatham Village Magazine

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Summer 2023



Bees in the Vestry!

Coronation party photographs

Veolia anaerobic digester information

KJ Cox

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From the Editor

Dear Villagers,

I hope that you have enjoyed some of the warm weather and greening of our lawns as the rain swept in just in time for the school holidays. Its not really fair is it? I was lucky enough to spend a week in Gibraltar visiting friends. It was far too hot for me so I was glad to come home to some cooler weather, although by the time it was down to 14c on 22nd July, the novelty had definitively worn off.

As some of you may be aware, my personal circumstances are changing and as a result, the Christmas edition of the magazine will be my last as editor. Please do get in touch if you are interested in taking over.

Best wishes to you all,

Mary Blackwell

01420 88604 mary_blackwell2004@yahoo.co.uk

Don't take this magazine for granted!

As the magazine designer, I generally stay in the shadows, but on this rare occasion, I feel compelled to write about the future of this magazine. And that future rests with you, the good people of Holybourne.

I do hope that someone is prepared to pick up the baton, ensuring that this magazine continues. The editor's tasks are to elicit articles and photos from people, edit articles where required and then decide what to include. I then take it from there, so the magazine is a shared effort.

I am sure that some of you will think that social media already supplants the magazine. It is clearly much more up to the minute, but it tends to be more like a notice board rather than a source of reportage. Also, for those that prefer to read the printed word, the magazine offers a wide range of information about what's going on in the village. It also records and illustrates things that have taken place.

Many towns and villages have nothing like this magazine, so I think that it is something to treasure. I urge you to do all you can to keep the magazine going.

Stephen Lewis stephen@sl-design.co.uk

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Cover Photo

Painting of London Road, Holybourne by Megan-Beth Millar of MeeBee Designs: meebeedesigns@gmail.com

Village Pond Refurbishment

Earlier this year, the HVA committee members agreed that the church pond surroundings were in dire need of a facelift. Weather and general wear & tear had greatly eroded the pond surround, making it generally unsafe and exposing sharp stones; it looked a mess!

Thanks to our indefatigable local councillor, Graham Hill, the surrounding fencing was kindly replaced by Alton Town Council (ATC), who also donated a sum of money to improve the pond surrounds.

Taking advice from Alton Town Council's head groundsman, I opted to increase the height of the railway sleeper pond edging and to resurface the local area with new shingle.

With the greatly appreciated help of local landscaper Laurence Budd, who procured all materials at trade prices, Laurence, Andy Muir and me spent a long, hot, morning completing the work. Additional builder's rubble, to initially stabilise the eroded area, was kindly donated by Sarah Main (Mill Cottage) I was very grateful for help from Sarah and her two dynamo children, Jonah and Jemima, who loaded and unloaded two trailer-fulls of rubble to start the work.



To discourage cars from encroaching on the pond surrounds, three large rocks were donated by one of our local celebrity's daughters. Several amazing access ramps were subsequently fabricated and fitted by Arthur Beagley (who also diligently maintains the churchyard grounds in such an immaculate condition) allowing the pond's oldest residents (two white geese) to easily access the pond.

Further maintenance will most likely be needed in years to come but, hopefully, most people will appreciate the difference the work has made.

Rob Law, HVA committee member

The concerns of an (en)titled Holybourne resident

Dear Villagers,

You will all be shocked to hear that I was not invited to the coronation. I cannot begin to describe how upsetting this was; I had been into the lofts and found our family regalia, hung it out for several days to improve its odour and sent it to be dry cleaned once we had removed all the insect infestations in the fur. I dusted off my tiara and tried it on with a number of outfits until I found the perfect match; a lovely bright colour to ensure I stood out in any photos and a contrast to the dull colour of the robes. All this was in vain as the invite failed to arrive. I asked the postman to afternoon tea to discuss the situation and he assured me that nothing had been lost. I then heard that none of my cousins had been invited either because of lack of space; yet upon watching the coronation on my television; I saw many ordinary looking people and my butler told me they were celebrities; what is the world coming to when two very short northerners, apparently known as "Ant and Dec" had



priority over me? They haven't even got proper names, let alone a double-barrel surname.

I must get off this painful memory and update you on the wolf and re wilding situation. Its all going terribly well; the rabbit population is now well under control and we are helping the local butcher by taking all his leftovers to give them supplementary feeds. It is a little unfortunate that all the local dogs have now taken to howling every evening to let my pack know they are not alone. On a very positive note; we have many more wild flowers in the meadow; our local celebrity gardener donated some seeds from his lovely meadow. In addition, I am now selling nettle and dandelion plants via my nephew's garden centre. Who would have thought anyone would pay £2.50 for a nettle? It's all helping the coffers for the winter heating bill; I'd advise you all to consider this as an option for supplementing your incomes.

Baroness de Montague Finlay



Holybourne Village Association

Once again I have so many people to thank for the things they do for the village. I have no idea who the majority are that organise so much that goes on the village but from the Knitty Natters to the Holybourne Honeys, from those that work with young children for the village Cricket Club to those that clean, de-bee and arrange flowers in the church, thank you. It sounds so inadequate but it is a heartfelt sentiment not just for those mentioned but for everyone who makes Holybourne such a delightful place to live.

Speaking of which..... the HVA is currently involved in devising a strategic response to planning applications to build in the village. The HVA is not nimbyist and has always welcomed proportionate, sensible development but clearly we are now facing an existential threat in the form of the suggestion that from the edge of Anstey Park to Cuckoo's Corner we are being explored for the prospect of building hundreds of houses. This would destroy completely the nature and character of the village irrevocably and encouraged by the strong views expressed at the Alton Neighbourhood Plan consultation we are tapping into the appropriate knowledge, experience and expertise that exists in the village.

I was hugely heartened not only by the number of people who took the trouble to go down to the Assembly rooms to express their views but also to those that packed the village hall for the meeting I called to kick the process off. I am massively grateful to Paul Fitzgibbon who is representing the village on the ANP committee and who is helping us to shape our response and to those that are working hard on the HVA sub-committee to ensure we are best prepared when any challenge comes. Your role however as residents of the village will be crucial if and when major planning applications are submitted. None of us can leave it to others to protest on our behalf. The HVA is the largest residents' group in East Hampshire but without your help and support when we ask for it, can amount to very little.

Pages 7 and 8 of this issue is a Residents' Survey that seeks to establish two things: firstly to give the HVA a mandate to campaign on your behalf and secondly to validate statistically, our strategic response. Basically, we want to check that you approve of what we are doing on your behalf. Please complete it. It is also available online as a SurveyMonkey link from the Home page of the village website www.holybourne.com so that multiple submissions can be made per household to ensure we canvass the views of the entire village. Without a meaningful number of completed responses, we cannot argue that we represent the views of the village. Completed paper copies can be returned to boxes in the Church and village shop. Huge thanks to them both for helping us in this way.

Finally, massive thanks to everyone involved in the Coronation picnic. Megan-Beth Millar, whose painting is on

the cover of this issue, put together a fantastic afternoon and the proceeds have helped the HVA with our work in the village. It was so wonderful to see everyone having such a good time and I can't thank enough Megan-Beth and her aids. Thanks to the band who played all afternoon, to those that organised children's races and events, to the stall holders, to John Bound for the egg toss and immensely popular tug of war and to John McClean for supervising the bouncy castle all afternoon. (Personally I'd have done 10 years in a gulag rather than that.)

I hope everyone is able to relax at some point this summer. Take care all and please, complete that questionnaire.

Jerry Janes chairman@holybourne.com

Alton Neighbourhood Plan

In April was I asked by our HVA leader to represent Holybourne on the Alton Neighbourhood Plan (ANP) steering group.

I've lived in Holybourne for over 30 years. I moved into Rakemakers when it was newly-built and then into another new house built in Church Lane in 2000. My kids grew up here, both went to Andrews and then Eggars and my wife, Jane, has worked at Andrews as a teacher.

The ANP is a formal document which describes how the people of Alton would like to see their town develop. The last version of this plan was issued in April 2021 and a new version is being put together over the next nine months. The process involves a committee of about 15 people, including representatives from EHDC and ATC and the various communities within Alton. The plan is meant to give local people a voice in how their local area develops. This is achieved through a series of public consultations and, ultimately, a public referendum on the draft plan.

I feel passionate about solving the national housing crisis and equally passionate about protection and nurture of local communities - so this is an interesting challenge.

I feel that if I am to represent Holybourne on that committee I need to have clear evidence of the views of people that live here. I've made a start in gathering those views and those were represented at an initial public consultation in Alton in May. However, more work is needed on this and it is only right that I recuse myself from shaping and leading that effort because I want to give the Holybourne view, rather than my own.

To this end, The HVA have put together a small group of people, representative of the village, to build an evidence based strategy for how we would like to see our village develop - you'll be hearing from them. My job is to give voice to that strategy, and to keep the village up to date as The ANP develops.

Paul Fitzgibbon

See the link from the Home page of the village website to read more information about the Neighbourhood Plan.

Holybourne development

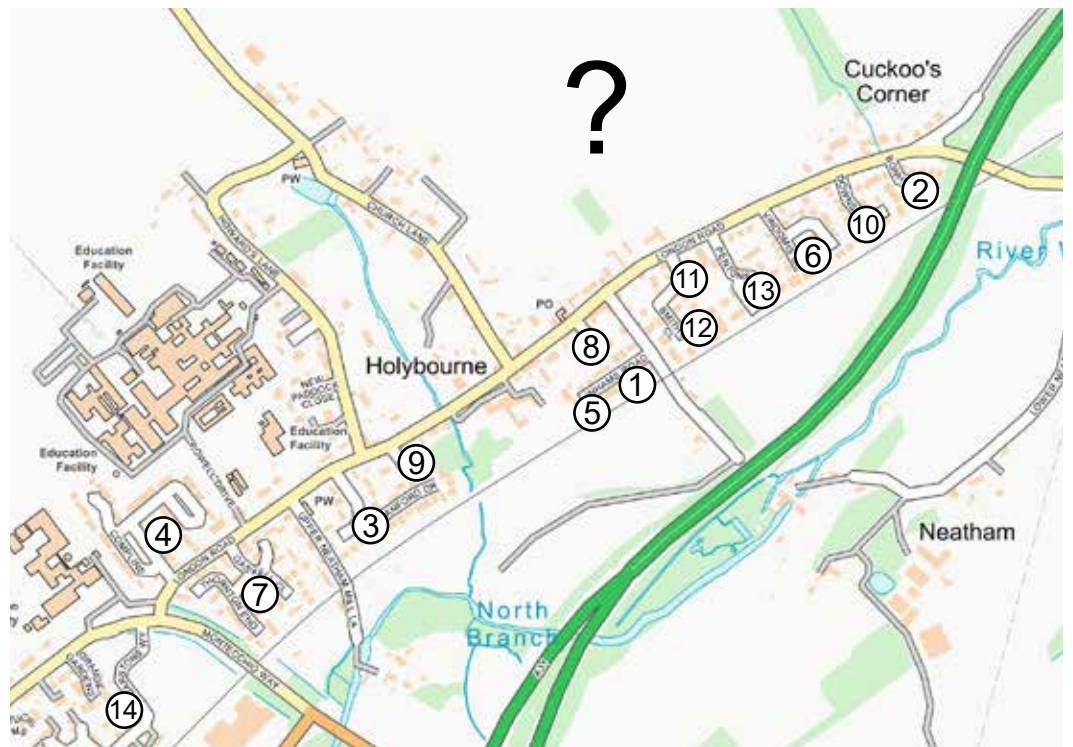
In the light of the current threat to build hundreds of houses on land across the back of the village on Brockham Hill and the Holybourne Downs, I thought it might be interesting to see what development had taken place in the village in the last sixty or seventy years. Clearly Holybourne was a tiny village of a couple of hundred dwellings (if that) before the mid-sixties when major developments took place. Only those that lived in the village at that time can tell us if the character of the village has been destroyed by the developments that

took place but I suggest that the incremental nature of the development simply allowed the village to retain its character and charm. Can I add though a disclaimer, that my information has come from varied sources and I have not been able to check it all. I do believe however that it is fundamentally accurate.

The first major developments (though not too major) were Inhams Road [1] in the late fifties and then Bonhams Close [2], Cranford Drive [3] and Complins [4] in the mid-sixties. Both the latter two developments were occupied in phases as houses were completed and when Scatts left the village, Inhams Road [5] was extended to use that land.

There seems to have been a lull in estate building for a decade or so before Vindomis [6] was built in 1980. This development, like the other two were well inside the village curtilage though housing had tended to be on the Brockham Hill side going out of the village in the direction of Binsted with some cottages lining London Road before Cuckoo's corner. Two smaller side street developments, Carpenters Close [8] and Malthouse Mews [9] took place in 1983 but just prior to this, in 1982, what had been allotments was developed to become Gaskell Close [7], initially an innovative shared ownership development, organised by Alton Town Council. Thornton End was first occupied in 1984 to extend the estate which meant for the first time, the town end entrance to Holybourne had housing estates on both sides of the road. The allotments had bordered a pig farm, now where Gaskell Close and the first of the London Road individual houses now stand. I guess that was probably no great loss to the village.

Downs View [10] came into being around 1989 which reinforced the "estate" development trend on the eastern side of the village, Complins, (still) being the only estate on the western side of London Road. The development of



Rakemakers [11] in 1993 and then Smithy Close [12] in 1996 reinforced this trend and as the then District Councillor for the village, I can claim credit for choosing those street names from a list suggested by the District Council. This was ironic as I had fought hard (on the instruction of the village) to oppose the developments on what was previously orchards. Knowing what a massive contribution current residents have made to the village is a salutary lesson in not assuming that all development is unwelcome.

Pentons Close [13], built in 2009 with around forty five dwellings is the biggest development in the village since those two roads were built and with the exception of Barley Fields [14] which has seen about 240 homes being developed, remains the largest post millennium project. Smaller single figure developments such as Wisteria Mews and New Paddock Close have taken place in the last twenty years and a wealth of houses, some individually or some in clusters have infilled lots of vacant plots around the village in recent years and continue to do so.

London Road street numbers go over two hundred and there is a huge variety of housing along its length, some of it extremely ancient and some very recent. The Howards Lane, Church Lane island has seen similar centuries' long extension, some houses, the Priors for instance, being extremely old in part and some houses having been built in the last few years.

If Barley Fields is included in the number, then there are more than nine hundred dwellings in Holybourne, which might be a surprise to some. What no one can suggest however, is that Holybourne has resisted sensible acceptable development and remains a dynamic community as a result. What is also undeniable I would argue, is that the village, as a village, is now full and cannot take any more large scale development without losing its essential charm.

Jerry Janes



Residents' Survey

Holybourne Village Association (HVA) has formed a sub-committee to consider strategic issues in connection with how Holybourne develops in the future. The work of this sub-committee will inform how the HVA responds to the preparation of the Neighbourhood and Local Plans by Alton Town Council and East Hampshire District Council (EHDC) and also any planning applications affecting the village. It is very important that the HVA reflects the views of everyone in the village and we have therefore prepared the following short survey.

Please do take the time to complete this by 25th August and put your completed copy in the box in the village shop, Holy Rood Church or the White Hart. More copies of the survey are available at these locations or if you prefer to fill it in online the link to the survey is: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/J6NSZJM. The more people

from Holybourne who complete this, the more impact it will have. Your reply can be anonymous, but it would help if you could add the name of the street in which you live.

The survey covers those issues raised by villagers over recent months and years with the HVA and at the recent public consultation for the Alton Neighbourhood Plan. Particular focus has been given to issues which have significance in the context of planning at Alton Town Council and EHDC. We have excluded consideration of public services such as GP, Dentist, Police because they are provided by the Town/District/County Councils.

Please tick all those statements that are important to you, or you agree with and provide any further comments where indicated. Don't forget the questions over the page.

Thank you!

1. About You	
<input type="checkbox"/> I am aged under 18	<input type="checkbox"/> Our household has at least one person in full/part time employment
<input type="checkbox"/> I am aged 18-65	<input type="checkbox"/> Our household members are retired
<input type="checkbox"/> I am over 65	<input type="checkbox"/> We have children in the household
Please let us know which road you live on...	

2. Public Amenities in the village	
<input type="checkbox"/> The village hall is an important facility and should be maintained and enhanced	<input type="checkbox"/> The Church is an important community facility
<input type="checkbox"/> The village hall is not an important local facility	<input type="checkbox"/> The Church is not an important community facility
<input type="checkbox"/> The pub is an important asset in the village	<input type="checkbox"/> The village shop is an important local amenity
<input type="checkbox"/> The pub is not an important local facility	<input type="checkbox"/> The village shop is not an important local amenity
Any other comments...	

3. Recreation Facilities	
<input type="checkbox"/> The sports field is an important community resource and should be maintained	<input type="checkbox"/> The playground is an important community resource and should be maintained
<input type="checkbox"/> The sports field is not an important community resource	<input type="checkbox"/> The playground is not an important community resource
<input type="checkbox"/> Country walks around Holybourne are an important aspect of my recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> The Holybourne Theatre is important to the village
<input type="checkbox"/> I don't think it's important to preserve the immediate countryside for walkers and horse riders	<input type="checkbox"/> The Holybourne Theatre is not important to the village
Any other comments...	



4. Wellbeing and Safety	
<input type="checkbox"/> Living in a small village contributes to a sense of community and therefore my overall well-being	<input type="checkbox"/> I feel safe to walk around Holybourne at night
<input type="checkbox"/> The size and population of Holybourne has no relation to how safe I feel or my well-being	<input type="checkbox"/> I don't feel safe to walk around Holybourne at night
<input type="checkbox"/> If the village grew significantly it would affect my well-being and how safe I feel	<input type="checkbox"/> I feel confident that my kids are safe in Holybourne
<input type="checkbox"/> I'm not worried about my well-being and safety being compromised by potential growth of the village	<input type="checkbox"/> I don't feel confident my kids are safe in Holybourne
Any other comments...	

5. Travel	
<input type="checkbox"/> London Road is becoming a traffic bottleneck	<input type="checkbox"/> It is important to reduce the speed limit on London Road to 20mph
<input type="checkbox"/> London Road traffic is fine, I don't think there is an issue	<input type="checkbox"/> It is important that children can safely walk/cycle to school
<input type="checkbox"/> Parking <u>is</u> a major problem on London Road	<input type="checkbox"/> It is important to be able to walk/cycle safely on London Road, Howards Lane and Church Lane
<input type="checkbox"/> Parking on London Road is <u>not</u> an issue	<input type="checkbox"/> We need more cycling specific infrastructure in Holybourne
Any other comments...	

6. Development in Holybourne Village	
<input type="checkbox"/> I'd like Holybourne to stay a small village to remain sustainable, retain its character and community spirit allowing only small infill developments	
<input type="checkbox"/> Holybourne has lots of available green space which should be used to build significantly more houses	
<input type="checkbox"/> No further development should be allowed in Holybourne - any more development is unsustainable	
Any other comments...	

7. Environment	
<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation of the environment in Holybourne is important and should override economic factors	
<input type="checkbox"/> The environment is important but building new houses and economic factors should take priority	
<input type="checkbox"/> A sensible balance must be struck between economic factors and preservation of the environment	
Any other comments...	

8. Preservation of the Character of the village	
<input type="checkbox"/> The setting of the village pond contributes to the character of the village	<input type="checkbox"/> The landscapes around Holybourne are an important aspect of the character of the village
<input type="checkbox"/> The pond doesn't contribute to the character of the village	<input type="checkbox"/> The landscapes around Holybourne don't contribute to the character of Holybourne
<input type="checkbox"/> The setting of Holybourne Church contributes to the character of the village	<input type="checkbox"/> Holybourne is a distinct village, separate from the town of Alton, with its own character
<input type="checkbox"/> The setting of the church doesn't contribute to the character of the village	<input type="checkbox"/> Holybourne is just part of Alton, it is not a separate village with its own character
<input type="checkbox"/> The small size of the village contributes to the character of the village	<input type="checkbox"/> The current size of the village means we are a thriving community, a significant increase in size would threaten this
<input type="checkbox"/> The character of the village is not related to its size	<input type="checkbox"/> Even if the village grew significantly, it would retain its feeling of a strong community
Any other comments...	

9. What other Strategic Issues would you like to highlight?
10. If you would like someone from the committee to contact you to discuss further please provide your contact details...



What is proposed at the Veolia site?

You will remember the 'NoWeyIncinerator' campaign which successfully objected to the construction of a waste incinerator plant being built on the Veolia site next to the A31. There were a number of very good reasons that this was refused, however Veolia have revised their plans and they intend to submit a new application for this site. They said that feedback during the previous planning process showed a consensus for more recycling in Hampshire. The new Hampshire County Council Resources & Waste strategy proposes that every household will receive separate, weekly food waste collections from 2023, which is not presently the case in most of Hampshire.

They are proposing a partial development of the Alton Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) site with over 60% of the current buildings retained. The existing waste transfer station will continue to operate at its current levels with the recycling facility converted to recycle organic waste via anaerobic digestion. They anticipate the proposed facility will be able to process around 40,000-50,000 tonnes of Hampshire's food waste each year.

What is Anaerobic Digestion (AD)?

AD uses bacteria to breakdown organic matter in the absence of oxygen. This transformation occurs in nature, in marshes and in the digestive system of cows, for example. In order to be usable on a larger scale, the process has been optimised in closed tanks called digesters. The micro-organisms digest the organic fraction of the waste and convert it into biogas (methane), a source of renewable energy. Most large sewage works use AD to reduce the amount of sludge they produce and to render it legally compliant for disposal. In the process the AD produces gases of which methane is between 65% and 75% most of the rest being carbon dioxide. The gas is almost always stored on site and used to generate electricity to power the site and to be exported to the grid. Due to the very nature of sewage - containing an undefined mix of 'everything' some contaminants get passed to the system reducing the efficiency of the AD and also making the sludge more difficult to dispose of. This would not be the case with food waste as the number of contaminants would be vastly reduced. The AD process would be far more efficient and the volume of methane per tonne of waste would be higher. What's more the percentage of methane in the gas is likely to be 75%- 80%. In addition the final by-product waste sludge makes a good composting material and can be used on farm land and it will reduce the farmers' need for chemical fertilisers.

Because of the very nature of food waste, the process is very smelly. I am no expert on food waste AD but the incoming product will need to be churned up with water and probably screened before feeding it to the digester. It is here that most smells will be released. This process



will be completely covered and ventilated through odour removal processes, (this is normal now on many sewage works). After AD the gas will also contains unwanted smelly fractions, mostly sulphides - the 'rotten eggs' gas. But again these will have to be removed by treatment so that the final gas can be fed into the national grid. As it is the final product, the gas will be totally contained.

So I'm very much undecided on this proposal and I don't want to influence your thoughts on the matter but I have set out a few observations.

Do I want food waste collection? Yes certainly, I would like to see food waste collections and put to proper use. At present it just goes into landfill where it breaks down naturally releasing methane into the atmosphere.

Do I want this on my doorstep? Well it will provide some employment locally; if Hampshire decide to collect food waste it will need to be treated somewhere. And if they do it will be environmentally positive.

Is there 'brownfield' space available? Yes, with the construction of a more efficient MRF near Eastleigh, much of this site will become redundant.

Will it smell? Potentially yes but there is tight legislation against odour.

Is it noisy? Doubt it

Will it create extra traffic? Maybe; Veolia figures show around 20 bin lorries per day (2 an hour) and each will have to use the Montecchio roundabout each time they visit or leave the site. But as the existing facility will be significantly reduced so will their number of lorries.

If I didn't want the incinerator why should I want this?

The incinerator would take in existing non-recyclable waste and burn it to run electrical generators. There is no local export route for electricity. AD will treat food waste, much locally sourced and has a local export route.

Andy Muir (Retired water & wastewater process engineer)

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One of Hampshire's most successful fairs, the Dummer Fair, opens its doors again this October.

Join us at Dummer Cricket Ground, on Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th October with the event set to feature over 85 stalls ranging from crafts and food to clothing and gifts. This year sees the return of our popular café on Thursday lunchtime and there is also a delicious real coffee pop up van. There is ample parking on site - RG25 2AR.

There will be plenty of items to tempt you as early Christmas gifts, birthday/special occasion presents or just to treat yourself and your loved ones! All proceeds go to Treloar's, a local highly specialist school and college supporting young people with physical disabilities.

Tickets are due to go on sale early August.

For more information, please contact – The Treloar's Events Team: events@treloar.org.uk or see the website: www.dummerfair.org.uk



Popcorn at the ready, Treloar's is bringing the big screen to Alton! Join us on Saturday 9th September 2023 at Treloar's where we will be screening one of the top movies of last year, **Top Gun: Maverick**.

The long-awaited film sees Maverick after thirty years, still pushing the envelope as a top naval aviator, but he must confront ghosts of his past when he leads Top Gun's elite graduates on a mission that demands the ultimate sacrifice from those chosen to fly it.

Starting at 6:30pm, you'll have the opportunity to enjoy live music and karaoke ahead of the screening, before it's time to get comfy for a special movie night under the stars.

A range of food, snacks and drinks will be available to purchase on the night, but guests are welcome to bring picnics of their own. Treloar's is the largest School and College for physically disabled young people in the UK, supporting around 170 young people on its campus, a specialist environment where learning takes place alongside therapy and care. Treloar's must raise a minimum of £2 million a year.

To book tickets, visit www.treloar.org.uk/events or contact us at events@treloar.org.uk or 01420 547 477



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Firework Display preparations

On the Saturday closest to November 5th, Holybourne families brave the weather to attend the Holybourne Village Fireworks Display. Hot food and drinks are consumed before a spectacular 15 minute display fills the sky with colour and noise. The fireworks finish with a flourish, and everyone departs for home. Another year over.

But what about the event's organisers? Behind the scenes many months of work is needed to put on the display and work is still required after the event to make things safe and clear up. I have organised the last six events and work starts in June when the firework suppliers publish their catalogue. In order to benefit from significant early-bird savings, the fireworks must be ordered well in advance. The display outline must be imagined at this early stage and a commitment made to purchase suitable fireworks.

Also, at this time, all required paperwork is developed and updated. These include safe methods of operating plans, organisational plans and contingency plans which are then submitted to Hampshire Council. Organisations such as the police and St. John Ambulance are contacted to advise them of the event's date. As the summer progresses, local suppliers are contacted to provide services such as portable toilets and lighting. Ticket and poster designs are refreshed for the new event and insurance quotes are obtained and compared. Local volunteers are canvassed for their availability, with particular emphasis on key roles such as firers (Note, new crew needed this year) and the Chief Steward (Helen Walters – Hooray!).

In the weeks before the big day, the firing order and timing is developed. This is a key bit of work, trying to avoid the dreaded "dark sky" whilst not simply firing everything off at once – Firework Choreography. Bonfire materials are sourced, collected and delivered to site by Tom Main (Mill Cottage Farm) and his neighbour Ben Wills. Surprisingly loads of local companies are only too pleased to allow Tom and Ben to collect the 200 or so pallets needed to build a respectable bonfire free of charge.

Posters are displayed throughout the village and a strictly limited number of tickets supplied to the village shop and White Hart pub for sale. Fireworks are received a few days before the event and these are quickly unpacked and waterproofed to give them a decent chance of firing if there are damp conditions on the night. On the Friday before the display the bonfire is built, with superman Tom Main seemingly doing most of the hard work himself (I can only plead old age for my limitations).

The big day arrives, and frantic activities start early in the morning preparing the field. The White Hart staff set-up their stalls, safety tape is arranged to keep spectators at a safe distance, Jerry Janes sets-up his PA equipment and the firers lay out and secure the fireworks in the firing order. Everyone then looks to the sky hoping for no rain!



Doors open at 6.30 pm and volunteer stewards assist the growing crowd to find the best viewing spots. Food and drink start to flow at the White Hart stall.

At 7 pm the crowd is generally in place and the spectacular bonfire is lit to start the event. Bonfire handlers readily admit to initial concern over the size of the rapidly developing blaze, but experience shows that it is perfectly safe.

The firers, dressed in very fetching donated ex-fireman's kit, light their "portfires" (small handheld fireworks used to individually light the main fireworks) in anticipation of the crowd's countdown (which we never get quite right!).

As Chief Firer, I choreograph individual firework lighting to make the display. There follows a manic 15-minute period during which the fireworks are sequentially lit to a timetable whilst making sure this is done in a safe and controlled manner with firer and crowd safety paramount.

The display concludes with a crescendo and the happy crowd rapidly disperses allowing most stewards to finally relax. The firers, however, must carefully inspect all spent fireworks, looking for any misfires that must be safely dealt with and disposed. The bonfire handlers also wait on site until they are happy the still-burning embers pose no threat.

Sunday morning sees a core group of volunteers returning to clear up the site and ensure the still-smouldering bonfire remains safe. Equipment is collected and stored for next year – which is now only a short 12 months away!

Volunteers are always needed for this event and this year we need three new firers. If you think you can help, please contact me. Full training will be given.

Rob Law 01420 544865

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Coronation Picnic

It was less than a year since the Platinum Jubilee celebrations had brought together the village but the support for all the events was marvellous. What was very heartening for the Coronation event was the effort put in by a largely new and younger team of volunteers. Megan-Beth Millar led the charge and put together a wonderful programme of Coronation themed events which were all well supported. From Zumba to removing dead bees from the various surfaces in the church, villagers came together with enthusiasm and joy.

We were all worried that being earlier in the year, the weather might not be kind but as it was, everything turned out well and the big get together at the Sports and Recreation ground was a huge success. Richard Hill with a team of helpers organised some traditional sports challenges; the highlight for me being the tug of war. How the children loved that! The food, commentary, stalls and music were just wonderful. I helped on the WI stall and was amazed at what had been donated. By means of a raffle we raised over £200 for the things that we managed to re-home. Another highlight was a local gentleman who desperately wanted the model sailing ship, having spent over £20 on tickets, he had still failed to win this rather

magnificent vessel. Once we neared closing time the team running the event decided that since the ship had still not been won, we would give it to him. I found him amongst the crowd and presented him with the ship, I think he would have been only slightly more delighted to have won the lottery. One person's clutter is another's treasure.

The weather was not so kind for the event designed to encourage de-cluttering by putting out items we no longer needed but I'm sure some villagers found some gems among the unwanted items of others. Maybe you'll see them again if the antiques roadshow hits town and your dusty vase, inherited from great aunt Hilda, turns out to be a Ming.

I joined the team at the church for the volunteering event. What a great atmosphere and no matter your ability, Helen Walters found a chore for you. It was incredibly well organised with lists of tasks written on Post-its to choose from. Materials were on hand as were the all important refreshments. So much was accomplished in a relatively short time and our lovely church looks a lot better for it.

These events provided memories I think we will all cherish. The photos over the next three pages show a selection of images of the various events. Enjoy!

Mary Blackwell



Alton U3A

Would you like to meet new people and enjoy new activities? Would you like to share your particular hobby or subject with others? Would you like to set up a new group with friends?

Alton U3A is a friendly, peer-led community for those with some free time on their hands, and we always welcome new members and new group leaders. We run a wide range of different groups, both in-doors and out & about, plus arrange monthly coffee mornings, speakers & teas, day trips and concert outings.

There are over fifty different groups, with several options available each day, and annual membership costs only £20 - £55 (depending on the frequency and location of the activity). Choose from various art & craft, literary and other academic groups; music groups; bridge & table-top games; plus several out-door activities, and purely social events. We will be trialling some weekend activities too for the "MOTOs" (members on their own.) You need never feel lonely or bored again!

Alton U3A's 2023/24 Annual Programme ("The Blue Book") is available from the Allen Gallery, Curtis Museum, Alton Library and Alton Community Centre (ACC); or alternatively you can request a copy by email: alton.u3a.members@gmail.com

Council Corner



Cllr Hill was away for a while - we can expect a full update from him in the next edition. At an earlier HVA meeting he made a few points:

- Apology offered for incorrect information about the White Hart defibrillator in the last edition.
- The new Mill Lane retail park will not be opening until late 2023, early 2024.
- Graham will be writing about the importance of the neighbourhood and local plans in the Christmas (next edition) of the magazine.

Cllr Graham Hill, Tel 01420 86221 or 07745837772
graham.hill@easthants.gov.uk / graham.hill@alton.gov.uk

EHDC Councillor and one of the two Alton Town Councillors for the Holybourne ward, which includes the village, Barley Fields plus the area up to the health centre.

If you would like further information about groups please contact the group leaders who are listed in the programme, or come and talk to us at upcoming summer events in the Public Gardens and Anstey Park. Postal membership applications are welcome as soon as possible (and some groups do have limited numbers), or register in person at our open afternoon from 2pm on Saturday 12th August at the ACC. Activities will run from September through to next May. We look forward to meeting you!

Coronation Parties





The Big Help Out



Fun Day at Cricket Ground



From the Archives: The Holybourne Butchers

The Whiten/Warner family ran butcher's shop in Holybourne from at least 1830 until 1913 when Mr Gabb took over the business.

James Whiten was born in 1790 to John and Dinah Whiten, his sister Hannah in 1800. He married Jane Warner in Holybourne on 5 February 1821. Two years later in 1823 his sister Hannah age 23 married Jane's brother Thomas Warner, age 24, shoemaker.

By 1830 James was named in local trade directories as the butcher in Holybourne. His will, dated 15 June 1849, states that he had bought "all the messuage or dwelling house, butchers shop, outhouses, buildings and garden .. purchased of Joseph Woolveridge". When Joseph Woolveridge died in 1829 his will bequeathed £5 to Sarah Warner, wife of George, with whom he was living, for her care of him. Sarah and George may well have been kin to Jane and Thomas Warner mentioned above.

James and Jane appear not to have had any children, but sister Hannah had many, one son Thomas born in 1827, who James took on as assistant butcher. In 1851 James and Hannah were resident in Whiten cottage on the corner of Church Lane, he was a butcher employing the one man, Thomas, who lived with his parents Thomas, a grocer, and Hannah, down the road opposite the White Hart.

Ten years later in 1861, James Whiten having died, Thomas Warner, wife Mary (nee Christmas) and children were resident at Whiten Cottage with his widowed aunt Jane Whiten. When Thomas died in 1865, his wife Mary took on the running of the butcher's shop, in turn to be followed by her son James Whiten Warner, first as butcher's assistant aged 16 in 1881, then as master butcher.

THOMAS WARNER Deceased.

PERSONS having claims on the Estate of Mr. THOMAS WARNER late of Holybourne Hants, butcher, deceased, are requested forthwith to send the particulars thereof to us the undersigned, solicitors to the Administratrix of the deceased.

W. and J. W. CLEMENT and Son

Alton, July 27, 1865.

TO FARMERS AND HAY DEALERS,
WANTED, to PURCHASE, from 50 to 100 Tons of Meadow, Clover, and Sanfoin HAY, at per ton of rick.—Address, stating price and full particulars, to A. Z. Mrs. Warner Butcher, Holybourne near Alton, Hants.

TO BUTCHERS.

WANTED.—A Situation by a smart Lad of 17 years of age. Six years' experience. Good character. Can assist in slaughterhouse, and do a round.
 Apply to J. Warner butcher, Holybourne

The cattle classes, with the exception already mentioned, were all keenly contested Mr. J. W. Warner, Holybourne repeated his success of last year with "Buttercup" in the Channel Island cow class, Mrs. Wickham



Holybourne Village Butcher at Yeomans Cottage.

James was also a dairyman, raising cattle and successful in the North-East Hants Agricultural Association Annual Show in July 1908.

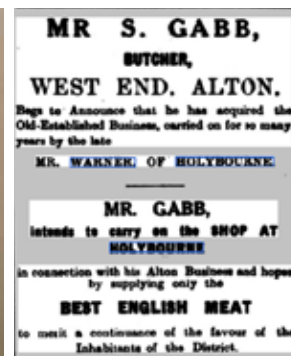
James Whiten Warner died in 1908, and the butcher's shop was then taken over by his wife Ada Maria, assisted by her son Henry James Whiten Warner, but it was soon to pass to new management in the form of Mr Samuel Gabb.

By 1924 Ada Maria was post mistress at the Post Office in London Road. In 1932 Bruce McInnes, a former employee at the post office, and an accomplice, robbed the post mistress, Ada Maria Warner, aged 60, of £4.12s.6d. Ada later moved to live with her daughter Elizabeth and husband William Whistler at their farm in Whitchurch, where she died in 1943.

Henry James Whiten Warner died in Leicester in 1950 aged. Samuel Gabb was occupying pasture land in Whitedown Lane as reported in the Hampshire Observer 2 October 1912, the land was for sale.

It is not known when Mr Gabb gave up the butcher's shop in Holybourne, but it was recorded in the Cheltenham Chronicle in 1926 that "Mr Samuel Gabb, of Alton House, Stonehouse, retired butcher, died on 19th July last."

Linda Habberfield, Village archivist



Left top: Hampshire Chronicle 29th July 1865

Left upper: Reading Mercury 4th December 1875

Left lower: Hampshire Chronicle 1st November 1890

Left bottom: Hampshire Observer & Basingstoke News 25th July 1908

Top: Whiten Cottage on the left, Yeomans Cottage on the right

Above left: 1911 Holybourne Magazine

Above right: Hampshire Observer 2nd August 1913

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Holybourne Honeys WI

Spring 2023

& future meetings

In our May meeting we heard from Sue McAllister, a friend of one of our members. This is one amazing lady; she kept us riveted with her story of working in the prison service rising from a graduate trainee to Prisons and Probation Ombudsman.

Her fascinating stories are too many to deal with here. They range from how her career progressed, her experience and how she came to be a headline in

The Sun newspaper for not allowing Ronnie Knight to have roast beef sandwiches his family brought in!

In June we tackled a more traditional WI pursuit that's always popular with members: flower arranging. This time we had to do a small arrangement in a teacup (see photos).

In July we held our traditional garden party - August does not have a meeting. We resume in September with a talk



1941 W.I. minutes archive

February 5th

... Miss Wickham gave a very interesting talk on the River Itchen from sound to mouth, and spoke of several notable people who had lived in the surrounding villages.

The competition: 'It was my grandparents', was won by Mrs C B Piggott. Miss Wickham was the judge. After tea had been served, Mrs Sawyer, an evacuee from Southampton, played the piano for dancing.

March 5th

... Mrs Peel of Farringdon gave a very interesting and helpful talk on the meat ration and different ways of using a small joint to its best advantage. The competition, 'to Lengthen the Life' was won by Miss Piggott.

about reflexology, October will be about magic and in November we will be busy with our Christmas crafts with a party in December. All dates and the full programme are on the www.Holybourne.com website.

If you would like information on membership or any other questions, contact: holybournesec@hampshirewi.org.uk

Mary Blackwell, Communications Secretary

April 2nd

The meeting opened with Jerusalem after which Mr Eckersley gave an interesting entertainment, 'Charades: a One Man Show'. The competition was guessing sounds and was won by Mrs Small and Mrs Williams.

May 7th

... Mrs Eckersley gave a most interesting talk on 'In Corsica on a Bicycle' Mrs C B Piggott arranged the social half hour with a General Knowledge Bee. The prize winners were Mrs Tinkler and Mrs Todd.

July 2nd

..... Mayor Wade gave a talk on 'The Origin of Things' and was very much enjoyed. All members entered the word finding competition; the winners were Miss Clements and Mrs Tinkler. Miss R Oakley won the prize for naming most 'Flowers in the Garden' and the darts was won by Mrs Rolfe.





Teddies

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14

When? Every Wednesday, from 9.45am to 10.30am, including in school holidays (when older siblings are welcome too)

Where? The Church of the Holy Rood, Church Lane, Holybourne

Who? Pre-school children and babies, together with the adults who care for them

What? Bible story, crafts, refreshments, singing, prayers and a Teddy bear hunt

How Much? It's free!

If you have a baby or toddler, would love to meet some other families in the area and have some time where the little one/s in your care can do some craft, play games, sing songs and learn a little bit about Jesus then Teddies is the place for you! All welcome.

The Teddies Team (Sarah, Alan, Corinne, Michele & Ruth)

Ruth (ruthmaryrandall@gmail.com/ 01420 549567)

Sarah (sarahebbutt@gmail.com)



Are you grieving the death of a loved one or struggling with the long-term effects of loss? A six-session course will soon be running in your area.

Monday evenings
7.15 - 9.30pm

September 4th - October 16th

at The Alton Maltings Centre.

Voluntary contribution £20.

To book your place, email

bereavement@potr-alton.co.uk

or phone Wendy Burnhams

on 07514 280 362



Coffee Mornings

Coffee, cake and conversation!

You may already be aware that we have a coffee morning at the Church of the Holy Rood in Church Lane every Tuesday from 10am to 12noon; everyone is welcome, including dogs and children! We don't charge (although donations are welcome), but we do offer tea, coffee and cakes along with gluten free options, fruit and healthy snacks, and, most importantly, a warm welcome! Some people pop in for a quick cuppa and a chat for ten minutes, others stay for the whole two hours.

From 11.45am we have a short time of prayer for our community, our country and our world. You do not have to pray out loud and there is no pressure to stay.

We are a friendly bunch and it has been wonderful seeing people who otherwise wouldn't know each other becoming friends. Why not come along and join us?

Ruth ruthmaryrandall@gmail.com 01420 549567

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Church News

Friends, I love living in Holybourne! It is an absolute privilege living in the Vicarage in wonderful Church Lane. What I love about Holybourne most of all is the wonderful sense of community. When out and about virtually everyone I encounter says 'hello' or offers a smile.

Back in May we witnessed the Holybourne community spirit at it's very best when our village came together again to celebrate the Coronation with all sorts of events including an amazing afternoon at the cricket ground with stalls, races, singing and loads, loads more. It was a joy to be there. However, what really blew me away the most happened on the Monday, 8th May, following the Coronation. An amazing band of volunteers from right across the village, descended upon the Church of the Holy Rood and proceeded to give our ancient church building the most remarkable 'spring clean'. My heartfelt thanks to all involved.

And... I must also mention the bees! You can read all about it below. As well as dealing with the bees, an amazing group of volunteers decorated and remodelled the vestry... it is looking so much better.

It is wonderful to witness such remarkable volunteering across Holybourne... and I'm conscious that there are many other examples of people serving across our neighbourhood. Of course, serving God (through serving others) is one of the most important principles of the Christian faith. What I see time and time again across Holybourne are people seeking to "love one another" (John 13:34), "care for one another" (1 Corinthians 12:25), "pray for and help one another" (James 5:16), "encourage one another" (1 Thessalonians 5:11), let's more and more seek to be a community that supports and serves one another in these various ways. And yet whilst I recognise serving others may not always be easy, I'm also confident

that nothing is too small that God will not use it. Nothing we do for God is in vain! As the Lord Jesus himself said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35.

Whilst writing... would you like to find out more about the Christian faith? A good way to do this is via an Alpha Course. I attended one of these courses back in 1995 and it was brilliant! Since then, I've helped to run the Alpha course on several occasions. Here's a couple of other endorsements offered by some well-known people.

'Alpha was the best thing I ever did. It helped answer some huge questions and to find a simple empowering faith in my life.' – Bear Grylls, TV Adventurer

'Alpha ... is probably the most interesting and incredible thing going on in our Christian world.' – Tony Blair, Former UK Prime Minister

We will be running another Alpha course this Autumn with other Alton churches. It will be held every Wednesday for 11 weeks starting on 20th September 2023 at the Alton Community Centre from 7pm. This includes a delicious meal, watching a short well produced video together with some relaxed and well facilitated discussion. It's free of charge and there is no pressure – with an open informal space to chat and ask questions. If you would like to attend please email altonplusalpha@gmail.com to book your place. Alternatively, just call or email me as below.

We also have regular services at the Church of the Holy Rood. At 9:30 am on 2nd and 3rd Sunday of each month and at 4 pm on 4th Sunday of each month... if you would like to find out more please just give me a call.

With love and prayers

Rev Gordon 07572 000491 gordon.randall@sky.com
www.potr-alton.co.uk

Bees in the Vestry

Honey dripping through the ceiling is not a common problem, but it happened in the church vestry last summer. Rather than bees in the belfry we had bees in the vestry!

Bees seem to like our beautiful church as much as we do. There are regularly bees buzzing in and out of various nooks and crannies. On a warm summer morning the gentle buzz adds to the silence of prayer during services.

Most of the time the humans and bees buzz along happily together. But honey dripping through the ceiling needed to be dealt with. So this spring, as they began to wake up from the winter, Daren George, from The Hampshire Bee Company, came to remove them. He successfully took the colony off to his rescue hives where they are flourishing in their new home.

Rather than just remove them and patch things up a Vestry Working group sprang into existence and the whole vestry

was given a refresh. The vestry was emptied and decades old cupboards stripped out. Rather amazingly, while hiding away the Christmas stuff, we found the old church light fittings, which were identified as being valuable - so they have gone off for auction. That will help to fund the bee removal work.

Thanks to all the willing volunteers and especially to Henry Millard for the electrics, Simon Millard for the light fitment expertise and Paul of First Stone Worktops who kindly donated a beautiful quartz worktop.

We now have a clean and spacious vestry in which to store the toys for our toddler group, Teddies, and the vases for our wonderful flower arrangers.

Our bees love it too and cheekily have started burrowing into the ceiling at other spots! So Daren the Bee Man is back to sort out that part of the ceiling too. It will be much easier this time thanks to all the work of the Vestry Working group.

Helen Walters





Trip to Mankoadze, Ghana



In January, Tom Yendell took part in an 8 week working party trip to the village of Mankoadze, located on the southern shores of Ghana. The trip was to support the work of TEABAG (The Education And Book Appeal Ghana), a charity established in 2008 and Tom is a trustee. They asked Eggar's students to join them for 9 days in February and their itinerary included painting a classroom at the village school, visiting a crocodile farm, a concert for disabled children and an inter-schools games competition. The top photo shows students from the Mankoadze school and collage, and the Eggar's students.

TEABAG arranged for a borehole to be drilled to supply the college with water for washing (top left). This is clean, but saline, so isn't suitable for drinking. TEABAG set up Mankoadze College as a private institution and Tom attended the annual graduation ceremony (lower left). 45 students completed their education in Dressmaking & Textiles, IT, Building & Construction, Catering & Hospitality. The ceremony included a colourful presentation with drumming and dancing. In the lower right picture, Tom is with 72 year-old DeGraff, who lost the use of his legs from polio at the age of 8. Here Tom is presenting him with a donated off-road wheelchair.

From the Archives: Parish magazine extracts

June 1911; Church news; Holybourne

'The Official Coronation Service will be at 11 a.m. As many will naturally desire to communicate on Coronation Day, I propose to have Holy Communion at 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. (with hymns).

An anonymous donor has kindly given a handsome flagstaff and flag to the school playground. I am sure we all appreciate the generous gift.

I have received this letter from the Master of Wapping Workhouse, East London. "I am in receipt of your flowers which have given great pleasure to our people, who wish me to thank you very much for your great kindness"

We also sent 103 eggs to the Alton Cottage Hospital, which is a record number.

The Members of the Holy Rood Missionary Working Party and members of the Holy Rood Girls' Bible Class spend a delightful day on Thursday May 4th, when we drove to Squire's Hill Tilford. A party of 30 in tow brakes. The afternoon was spent playing games and taking part in

various sports and competitions. After a splendid tea, we started for home, giving hearty cheers for Mr and Mrs Rowden for their great kindness. We are all agreed that this was the most delightful outing we have ever had. Photographs of the group to be had from Mrs Peacock, price 3d each, mounted.

January 1912; A woman's talk to women

"What can one woman have to say to other women that has not been said already a hundred times over in books and addresses? But some oldest truths need to be constantly brought before lest we forget them and they can be shown to us in new light by being put into new words. When I asked myself what the first paper should be about it seemed to come naturally to me to write about our homes. For I think that a woman's highest privilege in the world is to be a homemaker. The greatness and prosperity of England is founded upon her homes, and it is the women of England who make the homes of England."

Ed: strange how everything changes & nothing changes...



Village Hall News

A massive thanks to all those who attended the spring Village Hall Quiz last March. The premises were nearly full to capacity which meant we raised in excess of £750 for our funds. The help provided by the Trustees in running the event is much appreciated especially to Lis Gray for the catering and to Hilary Amor and Andy Stokes for compiling the questions, also thanks to Triple FFF Brewery for their generous donation. We are intending to arrange another quiz in 2024 so look out for the advertising nearer the time.

Earlier this year the new notice board was erected outside the hall in a more viewable position, so thanks to Ricky from the Furniture Workshop for the fine workmanship.

In May there was a link up with the Alton Walking Festival. Many thanks to Jeremy and Steph Erskine for arranging the cream tea for the participants at the end of one of the walks and for the donations for the Village Hall that this facilitated.

In June we held a maintenance work party one Saturday morning which involved cleaning out gutters, roof inspection and general repairs – all of which are necessary for keeping the hall in good order – so thanks to all the Trustees that participated. Also in June we held our Annual General



The Village Hall in use by Holybourne Honeys

Meeting in the hall, and it's a shame that more residents from the Village did not attend as it's an opportunity to understand more about the process of running a Village Hall, who is involved and its financial situation. We are sad to see Lis Gray stepping down from the Trustees after so many years of contribution and support. Many thanks from all of us Lis. Representatives from all the regular user groups are encouraged to join the Trustees as is any member of the community which will also help refresh our dwindling numbers on the committee.

Lastly, we are in the process of improving the calendar on the website to help encourage more bookings for the hall in the evenings and especially at the weekends.

Mike Moulton

HOLYBOURNE VILLAGE HALL



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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@holybourne.com

ONLINE HALL AVAILABILITY

www.holybourne.com
 Select the 'Village Hall'
 Press "Click Here to Book"

HOURLY HIRE RATES

Holybourne Residents

Weekdays:	£10.50
Weekends before 18:00	£12.00
Weekends after 18:00	£13.50

Non-Holybourne Residents

Weekdays:	£12.00
Weekends before 18:00	£14.50
Weekends after 18:00	£19.00

New prices as shown from 1st January 2022. 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.



Holybourne Cricket Club



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Holybourne Cricket Club



I Don't Like Cricket, I Love It!

The men's and women's Ashes series aren't the only thing to bring a buzz of excitement to Holybourne Cricket Club this week. As Tammy Beaumont clocked up the first double-century in England women's cricket, our Youth and Adult teams continue to have fun playing local fixtures.

Now with 'Waiting Lists' for some Youth squads, our U9 Mixed, U9 Girls, U11 and U13, are going from strength-to-strength, thanks to Friday night training, everyone's enthusiasm, and the support from our coaches, parents, and club volunteers.

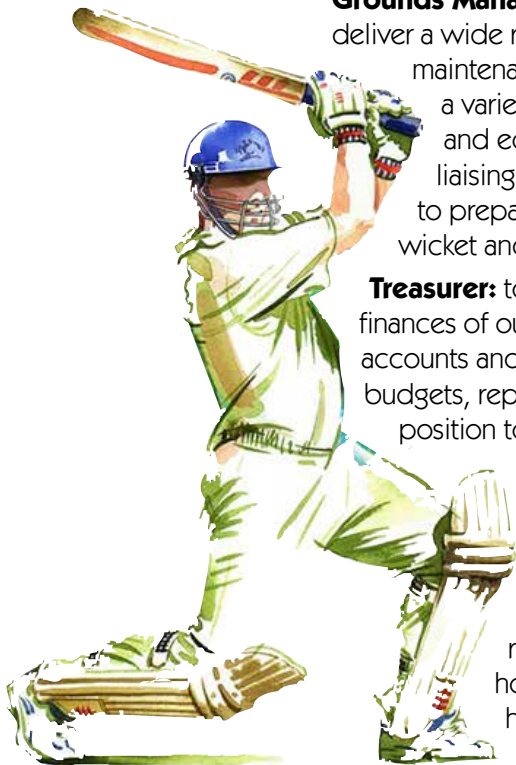
We still have a few spaces to play in our U13 and Adult Team, or if love cricket, but not keen on playing, why not join as a Social Member?

Come and be a part of Holybourne CC. If you're passionate about cricket, and would like to be part of our success story, we are recruiting two more (voluntary) roles:

Grounds Manager: to actively deliver a wide range of grounds maintenance services using a variety of machinery and equipment, and liaising with contractors, to prepare and maintain the wicket and the outfield.

Treasurer: to monitor the finances of our Club, producing accounts and monitoring annual budgets, reporting financial position to the Committee, and preparing year end for our AGM.

Please email our Chair, Jane Taylor, if either role is of interest: holybournecc@holybournecc.com



Colts season gets off to good start

The U11 mixed team and U9 girls got their 2023 season underway in May. A huge thanks to Paul Taylor and Alec Hudson, who worked tirelessly to ensure the ground was match-ready and the fixtures could go ahead.

The U11s took on Overton, putting everything they'd learnt over the past months into action. Captained by Leo, they won by 57 runs (304/4 vs 247/6), with Harry H-G scoring the most runs, and Harry M taking 3 wickets.

The U9 girls' inaugural game was captained by Xanthe, leading the side to a 25-run victory (267/4 vs 242/2) over local rivals Alton. Isla took the first wicket while Isobel top-scored and with 4 boundaries, was voted the player of the match by the opposition.

Our U13 mixed team played Old Basing away and put up a valiant effort against stiff competition. Captained by Stanley, Alex clocked up his first 4, and 50% of the team took at least one wicket, including new player, Darcey. Unfortunately, they couldn't do enough to win but were looking to bounce back with their game against Oakley.

All teams were sporting their new Holybourne Colts shirts, showing off the new club sponsor Dummer Down Farm.

www.holybourne.play-cricket.com @HolybourneCC
 holybourne_cricket_club Holybourne CC



Indoor bowling

A sport you can enjoy however mobile or able you are

We are very lucky that, in Alton, there is an excellent facility for indoor bowls. I am lucky enough to have neighbours, Keith and Rosemary who play a huge part in the indoor bowling community and the local club in Chawton Park, very close by to the sports centre in Alton. It is through them that I have learned how accessible this sport is for so many.

I was able to visit the centre and see and talk to some amazing people. Bowlers are able to compete with a very wide range of ability and mobility, people who have had strokes, have Parkinson's, hip replacements back problems still enjoy the game and compete vigorously.

Two members kindly took time out to have a chat with me about their hobby, Peter, who has Parkinson's and started in September 2022 and Dick, an old hand who has unfortunately become less able than when he started in 1982.

Dick is married to Margaret, the centre manager. Both have had remarkable success in bowling and have both reached national competition level. Dick currently bowls from a special wheelchair which the centre provide, he does need a little help picking up bowls etc but in the main is a keen player and likes to participate. He says he has always been competitive and remains keen to win. Some of the less mobile and able competitors are astoundingly good at this game. It does take practice, as with everything but the club welcomes all levels and ensures they get games and practice as needed.

Peter had been a very keen golfer, his Parkinson's now precludes him from playing but he has taken to bowls with gusto, playing inside and out. As both he and Dick explained, they are very different games because of the surface. In general, indoor bowls is more suited for the less able and mobile. Peter plays twice a week, has invested in a set of (secondhand) bowls and is enjoying the competitiveness.

Duncan started Bowling because the green is flat and he can access it without his cane. He was a golfer who played 5 days a week until he had a stroke and lost the strength in his right hand. The benefits of bowling indoors for him, is that he can walk up and down on the green and he is able to send the bowl the full distance needed. He says that although he is unable to step forward with his non bowling leg he has adapted the way he plays to be able to play the full length of the indoor green.

Currently Duncan is able to do roll ups (playing for fun) for 2 hours, once a week, which he complements with sessions at re-hab. He hopes to raise his level of fitness so that he can walk without his cane.



Costs and kit are relatively modest: £95 a year to join the club and £3 for a 2 hour indoor session. Flat shoes and sensible, loose clothing are where you start. The club can lend you shoes and bowls to get you started. Beginners courses, 'Bowls for Fun', start on 27th September.

If you are interested, contact Margaret on 01420 541546 or info@cpibc.net

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