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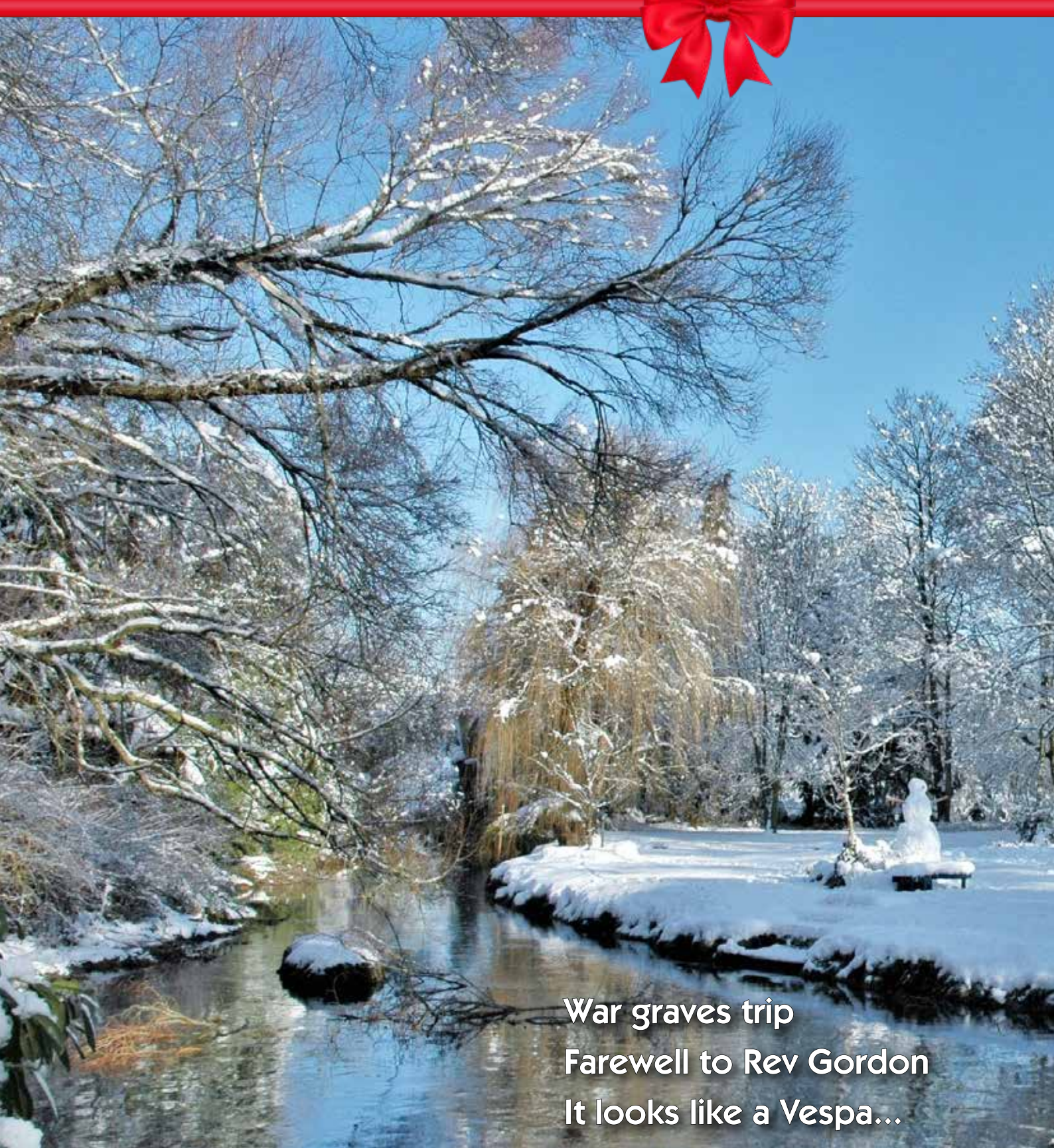
# Holybourne

## & Neatham Village Magazine

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Winter 2023



War graves trip  
Farewell to Rev Gordon  
It looks like a Vespa...

*KJ Cox*

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## From the Editor

I want to start by offering Mary Blackwell my sincere thanks for taking over the editorship of the magazine for the last two issues. Sadly Mary is leaving the village but hopes to be a frequent visitor. The next issue will be under the control of John Bound. His humour, organisation and professional knowledge will be huge assets and I know the magazine will go from strength to strength under his guidance.

The threat to the village rumbles on sadly with the most recent proposal suggesting that 223 houses be built on the land around and on the site of the children's playground. Thanks to all involved in the fight against this proposal.

I want to offer my sincere thanks to Rob Law for organising the Fireworks display and also thanks to Adrian Stratta for his meticulous organisation of the moving Remembrance ceremony, now very much a part of Holybourne's identity.

We have lost our vicar and his wife and Gordon and Ruth will be sadly missed. They involved themselves in so much in the village, spiritual and secular and we can only hope their replacements turn out to be equally wonderful.

Thank you to everyone who sent in entries for the Photography competition. The winner is Karen Pepper and her photograph appears on the front cover. The judges had a very hard time but Karen's photo happens to be appropriately seasonal as well as capturing this quintessentially Holybourne scene.

Finally, I want to thank all those whose who work so hard to maintain the character of the village; to Thannassi and his team in the White Hart, to Sid and his colleagues in the village shop, the WI, the children's pre-school, the staff at Andrews and Eggars. Without these folk, the village could not be what it is. My sincere thanks to you all.

Have a wonderful Christmas from myself and the magazine team: Stephen Lewis (Designer) Barrie Lawrence (Advertising manager) John Bound (Editor designate) and Vickie Kemp our invoicer.

**Jerry Janes**  
jerrymjj@outlook.com

**Copy Date for next issue**

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

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## Disclaimer

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## Cover Photo

The River Wey at Upper Neatham Mill, Holybourne  
 by Karen Pepper.

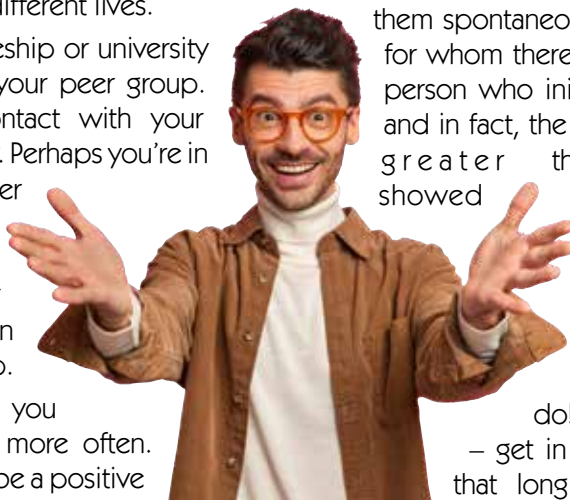
## Hello it's me!

One of the nice things about living in Holybourne is that people acknowledge you with a friendly 'Hello' as they pass you on their way to the village shop, the church or the pond, the playing fields or the pub, or to walk their dog. It's always a pleasant gesture from these nodding acquaintances. However, it can be a real challenge these days keeping in touch with people you've known in the past, especially when you're not living in the same town or even country and you lead totally different lives.

In your school, college, apprenticeship or university days you were inseparable from your peer group. However, several years later, contact with your friends has somehow become rusty. Perhaps you're in a new town with a new job, partner or family. Maybe you occasionally send birthday greetings or Christmas cards, or you follow their Instagram activities, but very often that is all that remains of a friendship.

Yet there is a good reason why you should say 'hello' to old friends more often. Psychologists say it could prove to be a positive investment in your life, causing a feeling of happiness and well-being, if you occasionally contact friends or acquaintances spontaneously, but in reality, we hesitate in case it would appear strange.

A team of researchers has found that in most cases, feelings of uncertainty are completely unfounded and they have proved that, in contrast, most people would be delighted and would appreciate the contact. Indeed, this feel-good emotion isn't only felt by those you've contacted but also by yourself, because maintaining or keeping up social contacts has a positive effect on our mental health. The negative consequences of lack of social contact were



all too clear during Covid, when mental health problems consequently surfaced and multiplied because, first and foremost, people are social animals and feel good if they can exchange news and views with each other.

In recent experiments involving a large group of people, half of the participants were asked to remember when they had last got in touch with someone they hadn't contacted for a long time, and without it being a special reason or occasion. The other half was asked to remember a similar situation in which someone had contacted them spontaneously. Surprisingly, it was the recipient for whom there was a more positive effect than the person who initiated the contact in the first place, and in fact, the more surprising the contact was, the greater the appreciation. Similar experiments showed equally strongly that those who had initiated the contact underestimated the extent to which the recipient valued the call.

So, if you want to bring a smile to someone's face, you know what to do! Don't be afraid to be spontaneous – get in touch with them again, and reboot that long lost connection. Why not follow the timeless sentiment as expressed in Rose

Milligan's wonderful poem "Dust if you must, but wouldn't it be better to.....or write a letter?"

This Christmas is the ideal opportunity to forget our inhibitions. Let's not just send a soulless communication by text or an annual 'round-robin' missive in our cards, nor should we let the advent of Artificial Intelligence rob us of the skill of thinking and expressing our thoughts ourselves, but instead how about reaching for a pen and paper and composing that long-overdue personal newsy letter? And if you can't face that, just pick up that phone and say, "Hello, it's me!"

**Liz Lawrence**

## Holybourne Cup

Originally presented by Dr Chris Everett and his wife Geraldine, the Holybourne Cup is presented annually to a person in the village who it is felt by the judges, the Chairman of the HVA, local councillors and the previous recipient, has made a significant contribution to the village over the last year.

This year's winner is Pat Lerew who for many years up till the present has represented the village on numerous planning enquiries, most recently on the pedestrian access to the Mill Lane Industrial estate. Chairman of the HVA, Jerry Janes said, "Pat has been a consistent pain to thoughtless development, always seeking to persuade Local Authorities to do what is best for the village. It is rarely glamorous work and she seldom gets thanked for it but it is Pat who chases up administrative details and insists on developers being held to account. The village has much to thank her for."



*Pat Lerew receives the Holybourne Cup from Jerry Janes*



## Residents' Survey Results

A huge thank you to all those who completed the survey online or from the last edition of the village magazine. We had over 300 submissions, from people of all ages – in education, employed and retired; and it's certainly true that we do love where we live in Holybourne! Here is a short summary of the results...

Everyone agreed that the pub, village shop, village hall and church are valuable facilities that give the village character, meeting points and a sense of community. Over 97% said the sports field/cricket club, playground and country walks around the village provide essential recreation facilities for young and old, whilst 82% also thought Holybourne Theatre was important in our vibrant and multi-sectored village. The St Swithun's Way and other local footpaths are well used by local dogwalkers, villagers, visitors and pilgrims alike, and vital for physical and mental wellbeing.

Although 90% currently feel safe about walking around Holybourne at night, 79% are concerned that the growth of the village would affect their wellbeing and how safe they felt. There were many comments about the traffic and parking situation especially on London Road, the speed and volume of vehicles, especially at school drop off and pick up times, and when the A31 is closed. 73% would like to see the speed limit reduced to 20mph on London Road.

93% would like Holybourne to stay a small village and retain its character with only small infill developments, 3% believe there is a lot of available green space which could be used to build significantly more houses, while 50% do not believe any further development is sustainable. Real concern was expressed about insufficient infrastructure – transport, sewerage, GPs etc.

Recognition was made, in the comments, of the expansion of Holybourne over the years. Whilst the majority were strongly against a new large-scale development, people did recognise the housing shortage in the UK and the need for some development locally, balancing economic and environmental factors. There was an acknowledgement that

more affordable houses are needed for villagers, young families and those working locally in Treloar's, the Lawns, the schools and pub.

Over 96% felt that the setting of the village pond, Holybourne Church and landscapes around Holybourne contribute to the character of the village and are considered places of peace and calm not only to residents but to any walkers and visitors. 96% were clear that Holybourne is a distinct village separate from the town of Alton with its own character, and many are keen that the separation continues and Holybourne does not become a suburb of Alton. Some people have even suggested they would move away if significant development is undertaken, as the community-feel and character of the village would be lost. Other issues raised by the respondents included:

- Flooding risks including Rakemakers, Smithy Close areas.
- Schools – people acknowledge the value of having the schools in Holybourne, as well as the concern that there are insufficient school places to cope with a new housing development.
- Need for a better bus service in the village.
- Preservation of agricultural land for farming and food production as well as woodlands
- The wildlife around the village
- Treloar's and the Lawns are important to the community and need a quiet environment for the wellbeing of residents.
- Parking issues on other roads and around the pub
- Any developments need to be in keeping with the village.
- 20mph limit throughout the village, especially on narrow lanes in the village
- Consider types of new housing e.g. eco, modern and affordable.

If you'd like a copy of the full report please contact [chairman@holybourne.com](mailto:chairman@holybourne.com)

**Jackie Nelson**

## Fighting over-development in the village

First of all a huge thank you to everyone who contributed to the fighting fund to help us seek the advice of Planning consultants. So far we have spent about two thousand pounds from the five thousand contributed. This has enabled us to mount an informed and professional campaign to both the Alton Neighbourhood plan group and to East Hampshire District Council. We are very circumspect in how we spend your money and accounts are being carefully kept and I am very happy for anyone to see them. They will be published at the AGM of the HVA next year.

What we are confronted with is a developer who can see nothing wrong with building 1200 houses in a community that only consists of half of that number of dwellings. Fortunately that initial proposal was rejected by EHDC's initial Land Availability Assessment (LAA). Not to be deterred, the developers have come back with another proposal, this time for 223 dwellings on land covering the children's playground (which they would have to resite) and moving up the hill above it. The proposal also reveals parking spaces for 600 cars!!!! Just imagine those added to peak time congestion on London Road. Unfortunately, questions such as "How can anyone with any sense assume that is acceptable?" don't seem to apply.

Our first big hurdle has been to try to persuade the Alton Neighbourhood Plan group not to include Holybourne as a designated site for development. As I write this I have no idea if we have been successful. Paul Fitzgibbon has sat on that group for the last six months or so, spending many hours assisting the group come to what we are hoping to

be, sensible conclusions. I cannot thank him enough or John Bound who has now replaced him. I have enormous respect for them both and could not have wished for more able participants.

If the ANP group does decide that Holybourne is an appropriate site for development then it will make the task of keeping the site out of EHDC's Local Plan that much more difficult. Avoiding that is crucial if we are to be successful in limiting development in the village. What is clear however, is that development will take place in Holybourne, just as it is taking place everywhere else at the moment. Our task is to ensure that that development is sensible and proportional to the size of the village and the capacity of London Road to take more traffic. Our own assessment of traffic suggests that this would be very little. Suggesting that London Road has the capacity for an extra 1200 car movements a day is clearly ridiculous in the extreme.

What this all means is that the fight goes on. The small group that I lead, all work incredibly hard in fighting this existential threat to our village. I want to pay tribute to Vanessa Gist, Jackie Nelson and Helen Walters who have been central to this fight. Without them nothing could have been achieved and they all deserve your gratitude. I am remaining as Chair of the HVA for another year in order to provide continuity to the campaign but without your continuing support it is pointless. Your attendance at the ANP consultations was pivotal and if it comes to it, you voting down the ANP when it comes to the referendum will be absolutely essential. Watch this space!.

**Jerry Janes** - HVA Chair

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## Donating goods to help Ukraine

Over the past few months I have met two unassuming and dedicated men who are helping Ukrainians. Tony Souter drives cars to eastern Ukraine, packed full of supplies desperately required by people living on the front line. Last time he went he particularly wanted medical items and toiletries. He delivers these to Pastor Oleg Tkachenko, who then distributes them. He leaves the car for their use and makes his own way back at his own expense.

Richard Payne is a paramedic who, along with his colleagues delivers goods to a contact near the front line. These items are distributed to groups of volunteer first aiders working under fire amongst both civilian and army units. This group is called 'Hospitaller' and is the first to pick up casualties, get them to safety, deliver medical attention and get them to hospital if needed. The Russians now fire on ambulances so medical transport is limited to unmarked 4 x 4s which can handle the terrain and pass, hopefully, unnoticed. Three of these vehicles have been bought in the U.K. and delivered by Richard and his contacts.

Whenever Richard is doing a run to Ukraine he contacts Margaret Lockett and tells her what items are needed.

She then contacts me and I pass on the message to the Holybourne support group and others who might like to help. I then deliver your goods to Margaret who stores them in her garage, ready for the next run. The response from Holybourne village in October was amazing. Bags and boxes of warm, winter clothing were delivered to my house and I shipped them all up to Margaret. Not only that but you donated a wheelchair, crutches and boots, as well as medicines, all of which are needed urgently in Ukraine. So thank you to all who have turned out their wardrobes and medicine cabinets to donate. And a special thank you to the person who donated new military boots. I understand that the fire fighters and others who search the bombed out buildings have been wearing 'Crocs' on their feet!

There are still children in Ukraine, some of whom have been evacuated to safer areas and they will be very glad to receive the Christmas boxes that have been made up for them. What generous people there are living in Holybourne.

Our help is on hold for the moment but as this wretched war continues I will keep you informed about how best you can help. Thank you

**Gill Marsden**



## Curtis Museum & Allen Gallery

### ALLEN GALLERY

#### EXHIBITIONS

Allen Gallery Main Exhibition Space.

An exhibition by Alton College Graphics and Photography A Level students. There will be some workshops during the show, with details available on the website. There will also be the opportunity for school groups or other interested parties to visit, please contact the Allen Gallery in advance for any larger group visits. 11<sup>th</sup> November - 31<sup>st</sup> December. FREE

#### TALKS

(Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December - Friends' Christmas Social. All welcome.)

There is no talk in January, but the February talk will be Tony Cross on the subject of Hampshire Memorials. Tony says -

This presentation will be of interest to anyone engaged in local history and aims to provide an awareness of memorials and their importance in commemorating the lives and achievements of notable people with connections to Hampshire. A selection of these and their associated stories are included.

Thursday February 8<sup>th</sup> at 7.30. FREE.

#### FILM NIGHTS

Join us for another in our increasingly-popular Cinema shows. The forthcoming programme is:

**It's a Wonderful Life:** 16<sup>th</sup> December

**Lunana - or A Yak in the Classroom:** 20<sup>th</sup> January

Films start at 7.00pm, and the cafe will be open for wine and soft drinks from 6.30pm. Our small and friendly screenings (only 32 tickets per film) are a nice way to see films in the centre of Alton. Tickets bookable via the website.

#### FAMILY ACTIVITIES

**Drop-in activities** November 14<sup>th</sup> - December 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Festive Trail** - Can you find the festive items hidden in our Gallery collection? Drop in & pick up a trail. FREE. 10.30 - 4

**Patterns on Paper** - drop in for the opportunity to make simple paper decorations, with patterns inspired by the pots and tiles in the Gallery collection (decorations £2 per sheet). 10.30 - 4.

On Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December there will be our regular **Make & Take**, with an opportunity to make small seasonal clay items to take home. Two sessions: 10.30 - 11.15 and 11.30 - 12.15. £5 per session. Please book via the website

### CURTIS MUSEUM

#### FAMILY ACTIVITIES

We will be holding various drop-in activities from November 14<sup>th</sup> - December 30<sup>th</sup>.

**A Link to the Past** - Help us create the longest paper chain, moving through the years in our museum. FREE.

**Create a Cracker** - Come and buy, build and fill your own cracker. Cracker 50p, fill it with a hat, joke, snapper and tie, buy a prize to go inside.

#### OPENING TIMES (BOTH VENUES)

Tuesday to Sunday

Curtis 10am - 4.30pm. Allen 10.30am - 4pm

Tel: 01420 82802

[www.hampshireculture.org.uk/curtis-museum](http://www.hampshireculture.org.uk/curtis-museum)

[www.hampshireculture.org.uk/allen-gallery](http://www.hampshireculture.org.uk/allen-gallery)

## Andrews School Needs Your Support

Andrews' Endowed Primary School is an integral part of Holybourne. The school community is made up of children, teachers, parents and governors. The school governors share a common interest in the school and recognise that the school has a role to play in the success of Holybourne. The governors are responsible for the strategic direction of the school and work in partnership and closely with the Head Teacher on all matters affecting the school.

The standard of governance is high and was recognised as a real strength in the recent Ofsted report. It is an exciting time to be involved with the school as Mrs Gundry, the Head Teacher, and all the staff have worked extremely hard to achieve significant improvements resulting in the school achieving 'Good' status in the recent Ofsted inspection.

The governing body comprises a range of governors; foundation governors who support the Christian ethos of the school, local authority governors appointed by the LEA, parent governors who have a valuable role and perspective having children at the school and associate governors who can join to provide particular specialist expertise.

The governing body are enthusiastic and committed to the success of the school. We are looking for new governors to join us. We are particularly looking for skills in finance, communications, IT and marketing, but anyone who has an interest in the success of the school is welcome to apply. There are 2 full governing body meetings each term on a Tuesday evening. There are separate sub committees for pay, admissions and finance. Full training is available through Hampshire Governance Services.

The current governors are all local and some have children at the school. If you have some time, an interest in education and skills to offer our lovely school, this is a brilliant opportunity to become involved and give something back. I have been a governor for 3 years and have really enjoyed getting involved in the school, seeing it make great progress and learning so much about education and seeing our village children grow and thrive at Andrews' Endowed.

For more information or to set up an informal chat, please contact me by email.

**Caroline Wallis**, Acting Chair of Governors  
[caroline.wallis@andrewsendowed.hants.sch.uk](mailto:caroline.wallis@andrewsendowed.hants.sch.uk)

## Treloar's School & College

Treloar's is one of the UK's leading centres of excellence for children and young people with complex physical disabilities. The School and the College are both rated as outstanding by Ofsted and the CQC. It is central to Treloar's approach that disabled people are supported to be part of wider society, not separated from it. Our aim is to enable young disabled people to take control of their own lives in a world that better understands their needs.

Treloar's employs well over 800 staff, including teachers, nurses, therapists, classroom and care workers, drivers, chefs, fundraisers, housekeepers, porters and support staff. Around 90 staff live on site to maintain the 24/7 care and individual support that our students need. The incredible staff enable Treloar's to offer outstanding teaching, learning, professional care, therapy, advice and guidance so that every individual can live, learn, achieve and work towards a future that is as independent as possible.

The School and College offers around 180 students, aged 4 to 25 years, a specialist environment where learning takes place alongside therapy and care. Many require support throughout the day and night - over half of our students stay in one of six residential houses. This offers opportunities to develop independent living skills and enjoy social life beyond the academic timetable.

Treloar's enables students to follow a curriculum that meets their individual needs, and to learn in an accessible, inclusive and safe environment. Thanks to the highly-trained support staff, Treloar's can meet the physical and emotional needs of students, enabling them to enjoy greater independence and reach their educational goals.

A Progress and Transition team helps students achieve their aim of placement, whether it's being able to advocate for themselves more effectively, attending university, or finding employment. Treloar's ground-breaking Supported Internship programme has been very successful in helping students move into paid employment and develop greater independence in their lives after Treloar's.

Our students face many challenges; 99% are wheelchair users, 49% are non-verbal or require support from communication aids, 45% of our students have a visual impairment, 14% of students have a hearing impairment and 12% of our students have a life-limiting condition.

Treloar's has for many years improved its provision by working with partners in the local community - for example, the School and College have an excellent relationship with the nearby sixth form HSDC Alton College. This partnership offers learners with disabilities a full range of courses on the Alton College campus whilst providing integrated therapy, residential, nursing and learning support from Holybourne. Treloar's has also established close links with Disabled Children's Partnership, NATSPEC (over 100 Colleges in the group), other local schools and colleges as well as partnering employers for work experience opportunities, and corporate volunteering days.

Treloar's students are always keen to be involved in their local community - you can learn more about the activities online: [www.treloar.org.uk/news/](http://www.treloar.org.uk/news/)

If you're looking for a new career, see our latest vacancies online: [www.treloar.org.uk/careers/](http://www.treloar.org.uk/careers/)





## Mill Cottage News

Several things have aligned to inspire this article:

We are heading towards bonfire night when we look forward to an amazing display of coloured lights, a big bonfire (having checked it for sheltering wildlife) and a fabulous village community event as usual. Then soon afterwards, the village will be lit with festive Christmas lights which cheer the heart on dark evenings.

Recently, I spotted an article all about a Hampshire ecologist, Pete Cooper, who has a passion for breeding and releasing glow worms. [www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-67240450](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-67240450) I realised how few places in the country have glow worms and what a privilege it is to have them right on our doorstep – almost literally!

Rev Gordon and Ruth leaving the village made me think of everything they have been involved in over the four years they have been here. I clearly remember receiving a text message one evening back in June 2020, as Ruth and Gordon walked along the footpath.

“There are some really strange green lights – do you know what they are?”

I happened to have noticed them a night or two before so had already done a bit of research. [www.hivwt.org.uk/wildlife-explorer/invertebrates/beetles/glow-worm](http://www.hivwt.org.uk/wildlife-explorer/invertebrates/beetles/glow-worm)

After that, if anyone was to wander down our road and along the footpath any time between 930pm-1030pm, they may well have seen me with torch and camera trying to get good shots of these strange lights, and trying to count how many there were so that I could record them on the National Glow Worm survey [www.glowworms.org.uk/](http://www.glowworms.org.uk/) In 2021 we found several but in 2022 and 2023 it felt like there were fewer (or maybe I was busier and didn't check as thoroughly?), but apparently this is normal in their lifecycle.

It does make me wonder – did anyone else notice them? Please do look out for them (don't touch them or move them) in June/July 2024 after dark and let me know if you see any. What an amazing find – right here in Holybourne!

**Tom & Sarah Main**

## Lasting Power of Attorney: Should I have one?

None of us like to think about a time when we may no longer be able to manage our affairs or make decisions for ourselves. Having a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) in place when you are fit and well enables you to remain in control of your affairs and will give you and your loved ones' peace of mind. Having an LPA can save a great deal of stress for those closest to you if the time comes when you can no longer make decisions for yourself.

There are two types of LPAs:

1. Health and Welfare – This can cover all decisions regarding your health, to include life sustaining treatment should you wish. Once registered, this LPA can only be used if capacity is lost.
2. Property and Affairs – This can cover all aspects of finances from paying bills to selling and investing property. Once this LPA has been registered it can be used immediately but only with the permission of the person making it or you can opt for it to only be used at a time when it is deemed capacity is lost.

An LPA allows you to choose and appoint representatives called 'Attorneys'. Attorneys are people that you trust implicitly to make best interest decisions on your behalf at a time when you are no longer able to do so.

The LPA documents are designed in a way that you can give instructions and personal preferences if you have any specific wishes that you would want your Attorney's to

adhere to, providing always it is in your best interests.

The hope is that the LPAs will never need to be used once registered, but in the event you were to lose capacity without an LPA in place, it would become necessary to make an application to the Court of Protection to appoint a suitable person to make decisions on your behalf; this can be a lengthy and costly process.

Any solicitor can help you but for further advice on the benefits, costs and time frames of LPAs, please do get in touch with the KJ Cox team on 01420 550543 for a free initial consultation (see advert inside front cover).

**Kellie-Jayne Cox**

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## Armistice Day Holybourne's Act of Remembrance

Alan Titchmarsh, our Deputy Lord Lieutenant amplified the large crowd's joy, embracing the bright, crisp autumn morning, where the low sunlight glistens on the bronzed beach and oak leaves. Minutes earlier the pipes and drums of the Rose and Thistle Band led the Holybourne Parade as they marched from Andrews Endowed School to the War Memorial on London Road. Veterans, BL Standards and the Alton Air Cadets followed, with the Scouting movement and the schools being efficiently marshalled by Warrant Officer Tom Bagley RAF.

Directing the ceremony, Major (Retd) Adrian Stratta introduced this year's theme of living within a village; what it means to have stewardship and passion for the environment and the community. This message was amplified by Alan, connecting 'time and place' between today and the earlier poetic writings of Edward Thomas, who cycled from London to the Quantocks in 1914. In Thomas's book 'In Pursuit of Spring', Alan quoted the passages of Edward's rest at Holybourne, framing a tranquil oasis then, as now!

Our second address fused both a village connection with Service from Lt Col Tristan Halse. Major (Retd) Stratta recalled Tristan and his brother, two Kenyan schoolboys that visited 2 PARA whilst in Kenya in 1987. Both later joined the Regiment, with Tristan being awarded the coveted Sword of Honour as top student at Sandhurst. Tristan reflected on his feelings during Remembrance, having spent a full career at the vanguard on the War on Terror, serving in Iraq 20 years ago and being a Company Commander in 3 PARA, deploying to Afghanistan in 2006. The village connection remained his strength, for Tristan married his fiancé Emily Cannon, who grew up at Bonhams Farm. They enjoyed their wedding reception upon Holybourne Down. Tristan reminded us all that war and conflict remains specific to each individual; you often do not see a battle, but you feel and hear it. This imbues

each individual with their frame of reference for events, irrespective of wider outcomes. Tristan reminded us that both he and Emily herald from a long line of Service (and sacrifice) from both families.

The parade stood silent to receive Revd Andrew Micklefield's dedication and prayers, before Brigadier (Retd) Tim Carmichael delivered the Exhortation. The parade stood at attention and banners dipped, as Tony Wilman played the Last Post. PO (Retd) Phil Croucher RN lowered the flag. Following two minutes silence, came the Reveille. Deputy Lord Lieutenant Alan Titchmarsh led the wreath laying, followed by Damian Hinds MP, Mayor Cllr. Ben Hamlin and local Councillors Andrew Joy and Graham Hill. As HVA Chair, Jerry Janes laid his wreath, having read the names of the fallen from Holybourne.

Representing the Services, Captain John Fitzpatrick RN led, followed by Lt Col Tristan Halse PARA and Sqn Ldr Adam Calvesbert from RAF Odiham. The British Legion, Veterans' wreaths were laid by Derek Maughan and Derek Gardner, whilst the Police wreath was laid by Sgt Mark O'Hanlan. The younger generation on behalf of the Scouting movement, Cadets and schools laid their wreaths; on behalf of the Church, Matthew Bayliss lay his wreath. Finally, David Andrews laid a wreath for the Masonic Lodge.

Captain John Fitzpatrick RN delivered the Kohima and Revd Andrew Micklefield led our prayers and blessing, before the parade marched off to a reception at the White Hart. We thank Thanasi, our hosts for laying on a Remembrance punch. We listened to the band play outside whilst old and new veterans swapped 'war stories' within the comfort of a shared environment. As always, this is a village event and a big thank you to the many villagers who make this event happen; as ever We Will Remember Them.

**Maj (Retd) AM Stratta PARA**

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*Tyne Cot cemetery and memorial for all Commonwealth nations, except New Zealand*



## October '23 War Graves Trip

### Context

Historically, Europe was at its peak, but beneath the surface significant tensions had been building for decades between the major European powers of Russia, France, Germany and the components of the decaying Austro-Hungarian empire, with the British Empire actively trying to manage the situation on its doorstep. Like geopolitical Jenga, it would only take one of several critical pieces to be dislodged before the whole structure collapsed. In the end, the key piece was the assassination of the Austro-Hungarian Leader, Archduke Ferdinand in August 1914. The events that followed are still debated by historians, but a series of interlocking alliances – both known and secret – together with some long-harboured war plans by both Germany and France, set in motion the most cataclysmic war Europe had ever suffered.

We do not have the space to describe all the details here, but there are many excellent summaries of the events of August 1914 available in print, on the web or as podcasts. The industrial-scale slaughter of armies of mostly young men meant that individual tragedies and suffering were overwhelmed by the cold statistics – 910,000 British and Empire, 1,360,000 French, 1,700,000 Russian and 1,770,000 German soldiers. Each death creating a web of familial grief that eventually spread across the entire continent. A whole generation of men were killed, creating a demographic void that was never filled – women unmarried, children unborn, families not created. Those that did return never spoke of their experiences to an uncomprehending home country. Many were physically and mentally shattered, beyond full recovery for the rest of their lives.

This is the context in which the War Graves should be experienced. In order to fully convey the human tragedy, each cemetery we visited had a personal story related to one or more of the graves within – all unique but conveying common themes of heroism, suffering, horror and the callous indifference of the opposing war machines. They vary from small immaculately-maintained cemeteries hidden in the copses and fields of Belgium, to the imposing Thiepval Arch and the melancholy Vimy Ridge memorial – structures whose huge scale reflect the magnitude of the terrible losses.

### The Trip

An early start saw us all boarding the coach at Treloars at 4am, with our tour organiser, Jerry Janes armed with a clipboard gently corralling us onto the luxury coach. Equipped with onboard toilet, TV screens and comfortable seats, we all dozed until arriving at Dover to catch the 08:30 Ferry to Calais. We crossed the Channel on a beautiful clear and calm day and, following a hearty breakfast in one of the ferry's numerous cafes, we re-boarded our coach, disembarked the ferry and set off for our first stop. In total, we visited six sites, both large and small, finishing the day at the Menin Gate in Ypres – a town that was completely rebuilt following its obliteration during the war. Dinner in the picturesque square was a delight, before retiring to our hotel just outside the town.

Members of our party delivered readings, John Mclean and family laid wreaths to lost relatives and, at Vimy, Lorne spoke movingly about the Canadian sacrifices. Several others gave interviews, relating stories of relatives who had served in the Great War or reflecting on the scale of loss.

**continued...**

## October '23 War Graves Trip Continued

We intend to produce a video for the Holybourne website, providing more photos and details than is possible here.

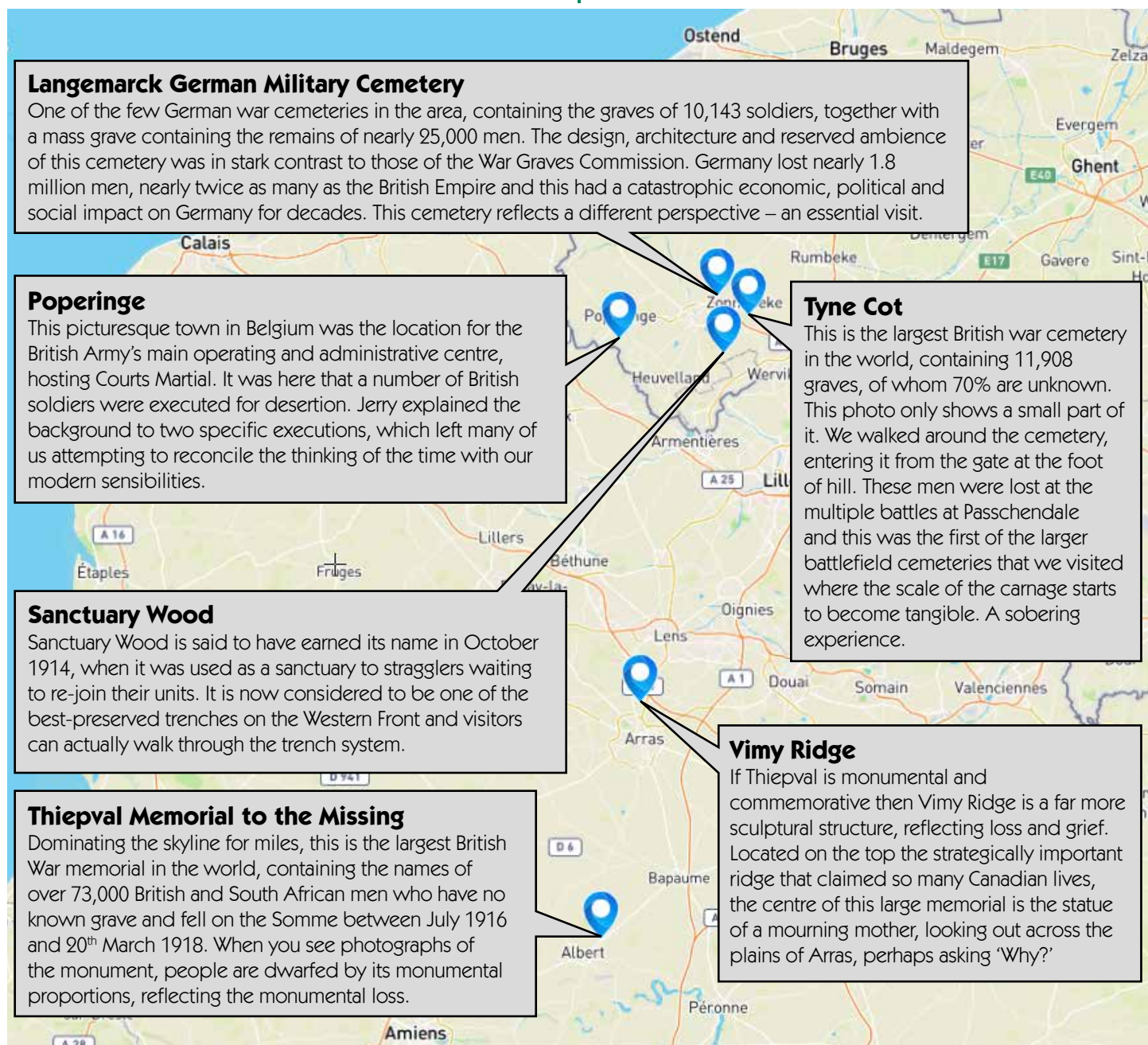
Day Two was no less busy, with visits to seven major cemeteries and memorials, before returning to Calais and our journey's end. Some highlights are described on the map below, but there is so much to see, absorb and reflect on, that it is impossible to capture it all in this short article; it has to be experienced and I would unreservedly recommend the trip for all age groups. Jerry has clearly put an enormous effort into capturing the spirit of the times, with readings from the War Poets, contemporary accounts of battles and, most poignantly, stories of individual tragedy that personalise the human cost of war – all delivered with a passion that reflects his extensive knowledge of this calamitous event. A fantastic experience.

**John Bound**

### Another View

These trips are ever popular and this year's involved 32 of us, not just from Alton, Holybourne and Four Marks, but also from as far afield as Belfast, Port Sunlight and Newcastle. Some were returning for a second or third time while others had personal stories and were hoping to find a grandfather or great uncle and to pay their respects.

Our first stop was at the small Belgian town of Poperinge where, across from the market square and bathed in warm sunshine, we found the British military prison. Here, men who had deserted or who were deemed to have shown cowardice, were tied to a post and shot by firing squad. In total, 353 British soldiers were executed during the war, many of whom were doubtless suffering from unrecognised PTSD and convicted on the evidence of doctors. It was the first of many sobering experiences during the trip, heightened by the poems and extracts which were read aloud at each site.



#### Langemarck German Military Cemetery

One of the few German war cemeteries in the area, containing the graves of 10,143 soldiers, together with a mass grave containing the remains of nearly 25,000 men. The design, architecture and reserved ambience of this cemetery was in stark contrast to those of the War Graves Commission. Germany lost nearly 1.8 million men, nearly twice as many as the British Empire and this had a catastrophic economic, political and social impact on Germany for decades. This cemetery reflects a different perspective – an essential visit.

#### Poperinge

This picturesque town in Belgium was the location for the British Army's main operating and administrative centre, hosting Courts Martial. It was here that a number of British soldiers were executed for desertion. Jerry explained the background to two specific executions, which left many of us attempting to reconcile the thinking of the time with our modern sensibilities.

#### Sanctuary Wood

Sanctuary Wood is said to have earned its name in October 1914, when it was used as a sanctuary to stragglers waiting to re-join their units. It is now considered to be one of the best-preserved trenches on the Western Front and visitors can actually walk through the trench system.

#### Thiepval Memorial to the Missing

Dominating the skyline for miles, this is the largest British War memorial in the world, containing the names of over 73,000 British and South African men who have no known grave and fell on the Somme between July 1916 and 20<sup>th</sup> March 1918. When you see photographs of the monument, people are dwarfed by its monumental proportions, reflecting the monumental loss.

#### Tyne Cot

This is the largest British war cemetery in the world, containing 11,908 graves, of whom 70% are unknown. This photo only shows a small part of it. We walked around the cemetery, entering it from the gate at the foot of hill. These men were lost at the multiple battles at Passchendale and this was the first of the larger battlefield cemeteries that we visited where the scale of the carnage starts to become tangible. A sobering experience.

#### Vimy Ridge

If Thiepval is monumental and commemorative then Vimy Ridge is a far more sculptural structure, reflecting loss and grief. Located on the top the strategically important ridge that claimed so many Canadian lives, the centre of this large memorial is the statue of a mourning mother, looking out across the plains of Arras, perhaps asking 'Why?'

*The Vimy memorial*

A few miles away, standing on Hill 62 above Sanctuary Wood, we looked down on Ypres from where the German artillery bombarded the city to rubble. In 1916, after a long battle resulting in terrible losses, Canadian troops managed to take the hill and a memorial to their sacrifice now stands there. Below, in the gloomy shade of the wood, the remains of their trenches and a haphazard collection of the detritus of war – abandoned weaponry, gas masks, laceless boots – gave our imagined horrors a terrible reality. The contrast with the cemetery at Tyne Cot, our next stop, could hardly have been more stark. Grandly beautiful, with proud rows of gleaming white headstones, Tyne Cot is the largest British War Cemetery in the world, containing nearly 12,000 graves. We wandered through the huge site, reading the heartbreaking personal inscriptions added by families to many of the headstones while others said only, 'Known Unto God'. On the vast wall at



the back of the cemetery, inscribed with the names of a further 35,000 soldiers who have no grave, my wife and I found the memorial to one of her relatives, a private in the Gloucestershire Regiment, killed in 1917. This was a personal moment of great significance for her and mirrored by many others in the group.

The largest German military cemetery at Langemark was a short drive away, but also a world apart. Over 45,000 men are buried there, more than half of those in a single mass grave. Flat dark slabs, set like stepping stones throughout the small wooded field, mark the other communal graves and convey a powerful feeling of shame and defeat. Of all the memorials, this was the most appalling: a sombre shrine to despair.

Due to restoration work, the Menin Gate was unfortunately shrouded in scaffolding and tarpaulins this year but the daily ceremony of remembrance was as profound as ever. Three members of the party laid our wreath before the cornet sounded *The Last Post*, and it is truly remarkable that, over a century after the war ended, people in their hundreds from all over the world come to take part each evening.

Our second day was spent along the front line of the Battle of the Somme, visiting Serre, Newfoundland Park, Thiepval, Mansell Copse and the vast Lochnagar Crater, before ending at Vimy Ridge. At Serre, we were able to stand in the remains of trenches from where, on the first day of the battle, the young men of the Accrington Pals' Regiment

were ordered to climb out and walk slowly uphill towards the barrage of machine gun fire from the German line. The small wooded field sloping down from their trench, with its modest memorial, seemed incongruously beautiful in the sunlight.

After visiting the memorial to the Newfoundland Regiment at Beaumont Hamel, we travelled to Thiepval, where Lutyan's vast, multi-arched Memorial to the Missing, inscribed with the names of 73,000 British and South African soldiers, towers above the landscape. It is partly the sheer scale of the Tyne Cot, Thiepval and Vimy Ridge memorials that gives them their power. Each, in its own way, takes your breath away, physically expressing the enormity of the losses where numbers alone are impossible to comprehend.

For me, the Canadian National Memorial at Vimy Ridge was the most impressive and resonant of all. Its two huge, tapering columns of brilliant white stone reach up into the sky, framing a statue of a mourning mother above her son's grave. Standing on the escarpment, with views for miles over the industrial landscape of northern France, its clean lines and perfect symmetry are astonishing.

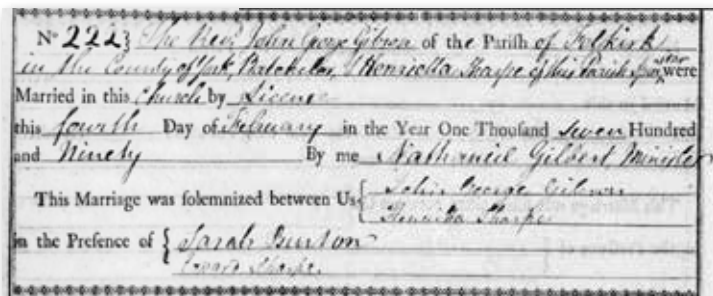
For all of us, this trip was a highly enjoyable and also powerfully moving experience, and we owe huge thanks to Jerry, not just for his comprehensive knowledge and faultless organisation, but also for the ability to convey his passionate conviction that these are serious and important places whose significance must never be forgotten.

**Andrew Gist**

# From the Archives: JOHN GEORGE GIBSON

**(1758 – 1833) Headmaster and Curate**

John George Gibson MA Cantab came to Holybourne early in the 1800s as Headmaster of Andrews Endowed School, was later appointed Curate, and held both posts until his death in 1833. He was apparently born in 1758 in Gibraltar, the son of John Gibson (1719-1793) and Ann (nee Inman). John was one of five children, sister Elizabeth was also born in Gibraltar in 1765, the other three siblings were born in Yorkshire.



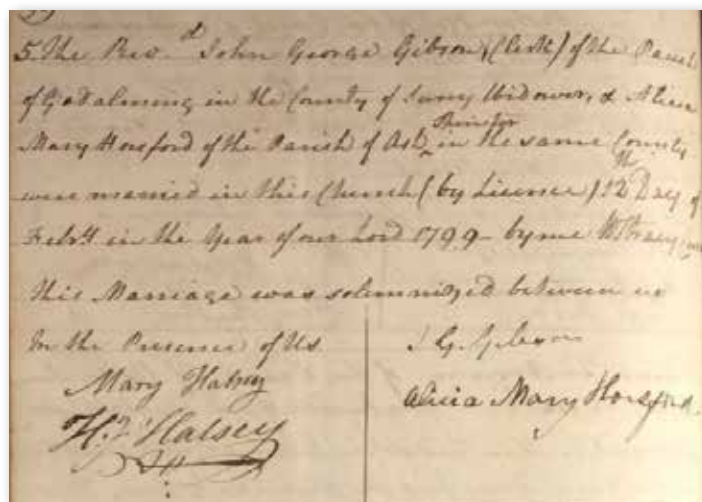
John George Gibson was ordained in Yorkshire around 1788 as a Clergyman of the Church of England. On 2 February 1790 he signed a Marriage Bond, in the Parish of Felkirk Yorkshire, to marry Henrietta Sharpe and on 4 February they were wed.

Henrietta gave birth to four children, Paulina Susanah in 1791, Harriet Ann 1792, Henry Inman 1793, and George

Washington 1795 later a Lt Colonel in the Bombay Artillery. All four were baptised at Felkirk, St Peter with Brierley, St Paul, Yorkshire.

Henrietta apparently died sometime between 1795 and 1799 as John moved his family to Godalming where he became Curate of the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul until 1810, then Curate at Holybourne from about 1812.

In 1799 the Reverend John George Gibson, (Clerk) in the Parish of Godalming, married again, his new wife was Alicia Mary Horsford, born in 1774, the ceremony was held on 12 Feb at St Peter, Ash, Surrey. Both are pictured opposite. Children soon began to arrive, almost one a year. John Horsford born 1799 died an infant, another John Horsford



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in 1800, Alicia Maria 1801, Edward Inman 1802, Valentine Henry 1803, Christiana Grace Turnour 1804, Emma Ann Yalden 1806, Charles Frederick 1808, Alfred Augustus 1810, Eleanor Amelia 1811, all baptised in Godalming. Finally Paul Wellington 1812 and Georgiana Mary Ann 1816, both baptised in Holybourne.

Around 1812 John George Gibson became Headmaster of Andrew's Endowed School in Holybourne. The School's endowment by Thomas Andrews stipulated that the headmaster was to be a clergyman of the Church of England. The Rev J G Gibson had so many children he could not, as previous headmasters had done, take boys into his own house as boarders and teach them separately from the village boys. From 1812 he held the Curacy at Holybourne as well as the post of Headmaster.

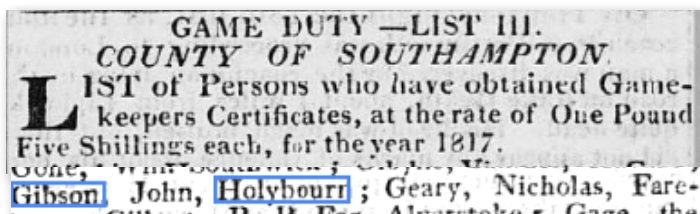
It is recorded that in 1824 Mr Gibson, the Headmaster, did not himself teach, but he paid an assistant master £25 a year to teach reading, writing and arithmetic, and an assistant mistress (who would preferably be the Master's wife) £8 to teach the girls. Mr Gibson undertook the duty of catechising the children on Sundays.

Mr Gibson paid for the pencils, paper, ink and books, and hired a cottage in which the girls were taught apart from the boys. As many girls were allowed to come as the parents would send. At that time there were 49 boys and 27 girls in the school; both boys and girls were expected to be able to read before they came to school, they could stay until they were 14.

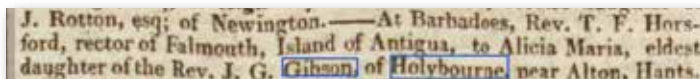


According to an information sheet issued by Andrews' School in 1969, John was "a man of great artistic and musical gifts" with paintings in the V&A museum, such as this water-colour study shown above of a sea urchin, a wedge, and a common mussel.

John took part in community activities as reported in the Hampshire Chronicle Monday 29 September 1817 (below)



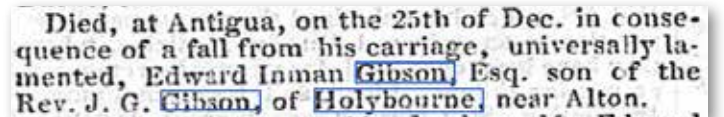
Some of his children reached far flung places. The marriage of Alicia was reported in the Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette Thursday 31 August 1826



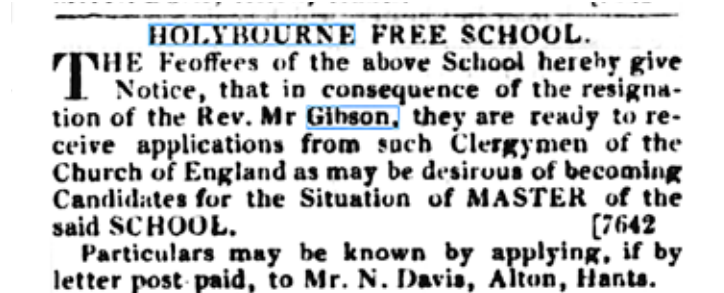
A number of the children died at a relatively young age: Paulina 4 months. Henry Inman 1 year, the first John Horsford

1 year, the second John Horsford in 1825 age 25 at sea, Emma Yalden 30 years, Edward Inman age 25.

Hampshire Chronicle, Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February 1828

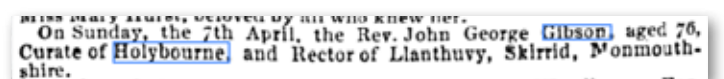


Valentine Henry died age 33 in Puerto Rico, Henry Austen age 22 on board ship in Portugal, Paul Wellington age 34 in Equador. The Rev John George Gibson signed his will on 21 May 1831, witnessed by Robert Cole of Holybourne, and in 1833 John George Gibson resigned as headmaster of the school, as reported in the Hampshire Chronicle of 1 April 1833.



(The Rev C Davies unanimously elected, later to be involved in a dispute with the trustees who wanted to remove him because of his incompetence.)

Rev Gibson died in April of 1833 age 76, reported in English Chronicle & Whitehall Evening Post Thursday 11 April 1833



John's widow Alicia moved across the road to live at Holybourne Cottage with some of their children.

**Linda Habberfield**, Village archivist



# u3a learn, laugh, live

## Alton U3A

### Starting Again in Holybourne

I came to live in Holybourne about 18 months ago and to start a new life on my own after my husband passed away. I have found the village a friendly and welcoming place to live and have expanded my interests by joining Alton u3a. It is a volunteer-

led community club and there's always something to do, from beautiful walks around the area to the wide variety of classes offered, x55 in all!! (See their posters around the village or website [altonu3a.co.uk](http://altonu3a.co.uk) for details. The programme is in the Gallery, Museum, Library & Community Centre). There are monthly coffee mornings and monthly talks & teas; and I enjoy the Garden Club, monthly Walk & Lunch and Craft & Chat to name a few; but there are many more cerebral activities!

I'd like to say a big thank you to all the friendly, helpful folks I have met since I arrived and look forward to many more happy interactions.

**Barbara Murray**

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# Holybourne Honeys WI



## February meeting

Now what exactly is Reflexology? Something to do with feet? Pressure points? It seems the answer is yes, yes and much more besides.

We were treated to a demonstration by local practitioner Lisa Haynes. She gave us a lot more insight into what is involved

Sharon was the brave volunteer who agreed to expose her feet to the world. She was reclined on the seat you see in the picture which was possibly stronger than it looks.

For the next hour Lisa waxed and massaged all parts of her feet, explaining that different parts of the feet correspond to different parts of the body. The treatment is designed to relax, and release tensions in the body which can lead to insomnia, migraines, sinus problems and digestive irregularities to name but a few.

Lisa went on to explain that the treatment can also be applied to other areas; the ears and hands for example. She gave us some great cards which show how and where to massage hands to fend off headaches etc. I will 'give it a go' and I suspect others will too.

There is normally an accompaniment of candles and mood music but even so, here's hoping Sharon got a good night's sleep after her pampering session!! Next we were treated to some great refreshments provided by Anita and Ruth who can be seen here modelling our latest acquisitions- the new WI aprons! All in all another enjoyable and informative evening.



## Yoga: Look at the church from the floor up....

I have noticed that when you lie on the floor in the church you meet a group of our village ancestors. Carved in stone, holding up the ceiling timbers, are a collection of stone faces and I wonder if they are meant to look like the men who carved them, or their children perhaps?

Why am I lying on the church floor giving so much attention to the ceiling above me? It is down to the weekly yoga class that takes place on a Wednesday evening (6.30-7.30pm). I thought I'd write a paragraph about it as villagers might not realise that there is yoga right here, in the village and open to everyone.

We are a mixed group – men and women, young and “more mature”. Sue, our teacher, is cheerful and gentle on us. She takes it slowly and we each go at our own pace. Most of the time we push back the benches and practice in the church. In the summer we venture out into the churchyard amongst another band of past villagers. The best bit is the lie down at the end, after all the bending and stretching is done and a wave of relaxation sweeps over us. I am definitely becoming more flexible, and it was really useful as I recovered from foot surgery last year to do what I could, gradually getting back to normal.

If you fancy joining us just come along. Sue has mats to borrow, just wear something bendy. See Sue's webpage: [www.suetupperiyoga.co.uk](http://www.suetupperiyoga.co.uk)

**Helen Walters**





## Church News

### Farewell to Reverend Gordon and Ruth Randall

After four and a half years as Associate Vicar in the Parish of the Resurrection, Gordon Randall retired at the end of October and he and Ruth have moved away. Their work at the Church of the Holy Rood has been hugely appreciated by regular church-goers and the community as a whole for the way they have involved themselves so completely in the life of the village. They will be sadly missed.

Gordon's journey to faith was unusual and his conversion spectacularly sudden. After 18 years working within financial services with no religious leanings at all, following the birth of their second child in 1994, he and Ruth decided to have baby Lorna christened at their local church in Chineham. They duly attended some Baptism preparation meetings and after the Baptism service, the vicar explained that it was a custom for families to come again the following Sunday. Gordon was somewhat reluctant but after some prompting from Ruth they attended the Sunday service and were astonished by the huge number of people covering the whole spectrum of ages. The warm welcome they received resulted in their continuing attendance. Early in 1995 Gordon then decided to get 'Confirmed'. At the time he didn't really have any proper understanding of what the Christian faith meant but during the actual confirmation service whilst singing a hymn 'Father God, I

wonder' he unexpectedly found himself consumed by the presence of the Holy Spirit. Gordon became overwhelmed with emotion. 'Suddenly, it all made sense. It was a transformational feeling – a massive turning point.'

He and Ruth became regular members of the Chineham congregation with Ruth taking on the role of church administrator and they both got involved running youth and children's work. Then, in 2000, the vicar showed Ruth an advert in The Church Times for a job working for the Diocese of Winchester as their Parish Resources Adviser – he told Ruth to give the advert to Gordon with the suggestion that he should apply. Gordon did and after the usual round of applications and interviews he was offered the job. At a stroke, he made a complete change of career and he instantly loved his new role. A few years later Gordon then felt the call to Ordained Ministry and after a period of training he was ordained as deacon at Winchester Cathedral in 2011 and then made priest in 2012. Gordon continued his Diocesan role and at the same time became Assistant Minister at Chineham. Then in January 2019 he spotted an advertisement for the role of Associate Vicar for the Parish of the Resurrection, Alton (based in Holybourne). Gordon sensed God was calling him to this new role and before long he and Ruth were living in the Vicarage in Church Lane, Holybourne.

For Gordon, fostering community is at the centre of his ministry. 'There are many levels of community: the church family at The Church of the Holy Rood, the Holybourne village community, the Parish of the Resurrection as a whole and the wider ecumenical community in Alton where Methodists, Harvest Church, The Butts Church and others meet and work together.'

Gordon has loved the Church Men's Breakfast that is held each month in The White Hart which includes a different speaker each time. He's also enjoyed many other village events including the carol singing outside the pub, accompanying the Men's Walking Group, village events such as the Summer Fete and Fireworks, and the outdoor Nativity Play plus loads more. Gordon also spoke of the enormous privilege he has felt whilst officiating at many baptisms, weddings and funerals. He still can't quite believe that he has been entrusted with presiding at such significant events in people's lives.

Ruth has also been hugely committed to the pastoral care of the parish. She was also a volunteer in a variety of different organisations. For example, Alton Community Cupboard, Christians Against Poverty where she worked as a befriender, she was a Trustee of Resurrection Furniture and a regular active member of Holybourne Honeys (the Women's Institute). Ruth also was a member of the Open the Book team, taking Bible stories into local schools, and she helped at Teddies (a mums and tots church group) as well as leading the popular Tuesday Coffee Mornings, originally initiated by Alan and Corinne Armstrong. This event has grown during their time and students from Treloars now attend with their carers, as do adults from Ashdale Residential Care.

Both Gordon and Ruth have been involved with Andrews' Endowed School. Gordon was a School Governor there for a while and regularly led Collective Worship (school assemblies). Pupils also visited the Church from time to time sometimes as individual Year Groups and sometimes for School Services at Christmas, Easter, Harvest etc. Gordon and Ruth have particularly enjoyed seeing the young and old mingling together. After the Covid lockdown, even the Deputy Lord Lieutenant, Alan Titchmarsh, joined them in full regalia at one of their coffee mornings to thank the church family formally for all the work they had done for the community during the pandemic.

Gordon and Ruth have moved to St Mary Bourne near Andover but return regularly to Alton where their daughter and family still live. While looking forward to their retirement, they are both very sad to leave and will greatly miss the many people they have come to know not just as parishioners but as friends.

### Andrew Gist

Gordon asked for the following message to be included with this article: Being Associate Vicar for the Parish of the Resurrection has been my shortest ever role but it has also been the most fulfilling, enjoyable and enriching job I've ever had. The village of Holybourne has been a wonderful place to live, with countryside all around and lots of excellent local facilities. However, it's the people that make the difference. The Holybourne local community has been first class. We've felt so welcomed, blessed and loved and we want to say a huge 'thank you' to Holybourne. The Church Family (congregation) that gathers on a regular basis at the Church of the Holy Rood in Church Lane consists of a wonderful bunch of people. So, if you have never visited the Church please give it a go... it might just transform your life. God Bless.

### Gordon and Ruth

#### Rev Gordon has gone - what happens now?

On 27<sup>th</sup> October Rev Gordon Randall retired and he, and his wife Ruth, moved out of the Vicarage and the village. A standing-room-only farewell service demonstrated how much they will both be missed. Plans are well underway to find a replacement Assistant Vicar with interviews scheduled in the Bishop's diary for 28<sup>th</sup> November. The new Assistant Vicar will, like Rev Gordon, be part of the wider Parish of the Resurrection which brings together Holybourne Church with St. Lawrence and All Saints churches in Alton and St Peters church in Beech. But, rest assured, the new Assistant Vicar will, like Rev Gordon, be living in the Holybourne Vicarage and will have a special responsibility for the village. So the village will still have a resident cleric who we can all get to know and can get to know us and our ways.

Whoever that person is (and we might well know by the time you are reading this) we hope they will feel very welcome in Holybourne and rapidly become part of our lively community.

**Helen Walters** (church warden)

## 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.

If you have any questions please contact Sarah, who leads the group. We look forward to greeting some new 'Teddies' very soon.

The Teddies Team

**Sarah** (sarahebbutt@gmail.com)

## Tuesday Cafe

It was a day tinged with sadness when the Tuesday Café bid a final farewell to its resident hosts Gordon and Ruth as they left to begin their well-deserved retirement. Under their warm and energetic hosting, the café has grown from its humble beginnings into a popular weekly venue for all comers, including children and dogs, to enjoy coffee, cake, conversation, and companionship.

Over time the range of cakes on offer have become more varied and adventurous. Often, including seasonal fruits and vegetables from the vicarage garden such as courgettes, parsnips and even tomato soup which makes for a very moist cake.

Along with eating his wife's delicious cakes Gordon introduced a short prayer session at the end of each coffee morning. A time for those who wished to join in and pray for our community and the world. Ruth and Gordon will be greatly missed (and their vegetables) but thanks to a willing band of hosts, cake makers, and washer-uppers Tuesday Café will continue to open its doors from 10am – 11.45am. Everyone is welcome.

So please make a note in your diary and drop in and say hello. You will find us at The Church of the Holy Rood in Church Lane. There is no charge, but any donations will be gratefully received. The short prayer sessions will also continue from 11.45am to 12pm for anyone who wishes to join in. We look forward to welcoming you soon.



Neatham Mill was bought by A Denyer who modernised the mill building and also established a turbine engine. While retaining to the end of the mill's productive life the milling of stone ground wholemeal flour, Denyer brought in new roller mills for white flour that were later to replace stone mills nationally. A Denyer died in 1935 and was followed in the business by his sons. In a rural area in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century as well as grinding grain into flour for human consumption locally, were the demands of the farming community for the milling of animal foodstuff and poultry mixes.

A notebook of recollections of the mill from a former mill worker at Denyer's mill, George W Self, written in 1976 was given

## Our River

In summer 2022 we featured the late Trevor Weston and his acquisition of Neatham Mill (Holybourne Village Magazine back issues online). During the restoration of the mill Janet and Trevor Weston assembled a collection of documents or copies that give the recent history of the mill in its last working years. Amongst these is a brochure for sale by auction on 12<sup>th</sup> July 1892 at The Swan in Alton by order of the Trustees of the will of the late Mr Thomas Lillywhite. It gives a good description of the mill at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century before it was enlarged in 1895 by the next mill owner, A Denyer. The sale was in three lots, the first being the mill house, mill and outbuildings, two cottages and meadowland and the second and third were fields in Holybourne at Howards Lane and Five Lanes respectively.

The Mill is Brick and Timber-built and adjoins the House.... A Breast wheel 22 feet in diameter and an Overshot wheel driving 8 pairs of stones and shafting for other Machinery ...On the top floor are large corn bins...Milling Machinery .... will be included in the purchase. Outhouses included Large stores, Brick and Stone-built and Slated. A large Brick and Slated Building used as a bone manure manufactory. Two lofty cart houses, stable for three horses with Loft over, Pigeon and Poultry Houses, Hog House ...Cow-stall for 3 cows, large Barn, Timber-built and Tiled, Range of Piggeries, six-horse Stable Brick-built and Slated with Fodder and Straw Houses and a recently erected Hop Kiln...

Also Two cottages with good Gardens and some capital Meadows, large Mill Pond etc.

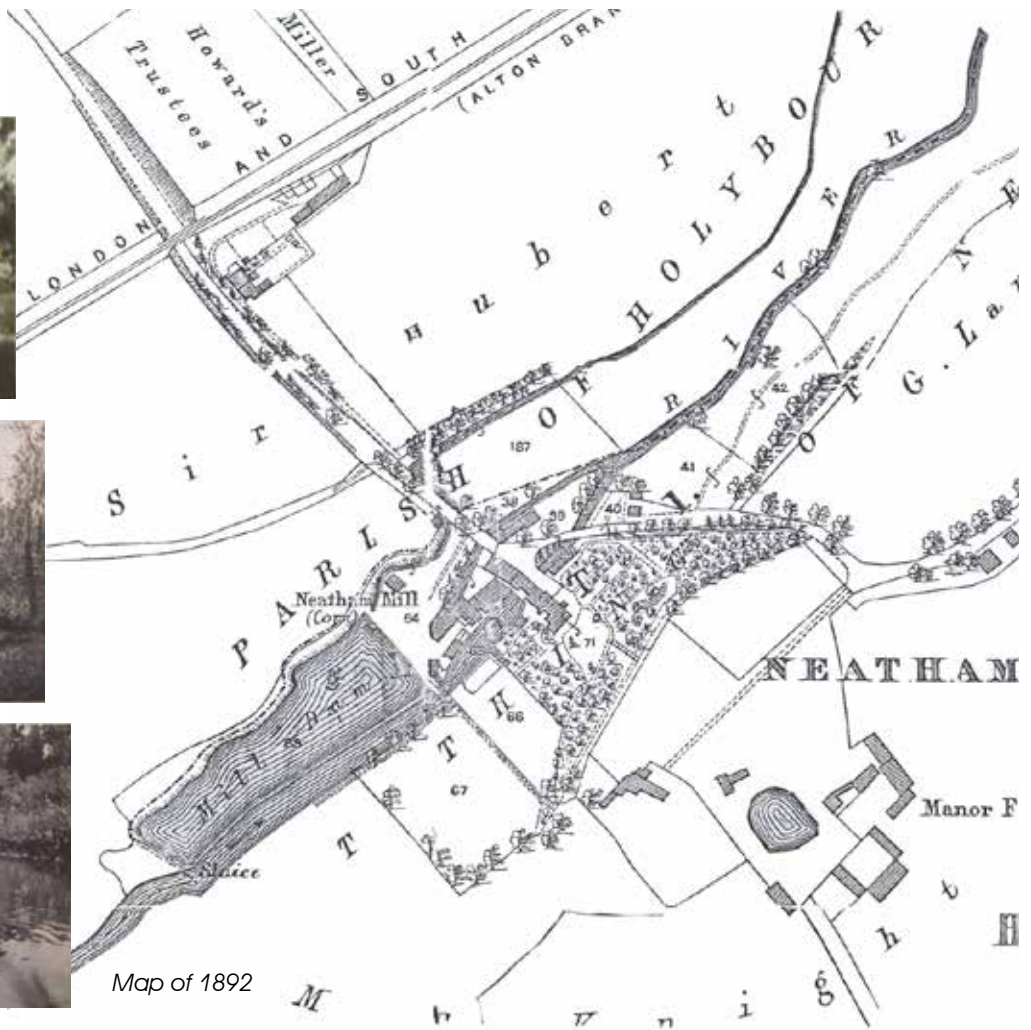
The mill was described as being for several generations in the possession of the late owner's family and described as a capital water corn mill with wheel of extraordinary size and power, and unlimited water supply. Appended is a copy of the then current large scale Ordnance Survey map of the site giving visual detail including the mill pond. It was obviously a going concern but the milling industry was changing.

to the Westons and these merit a separate article. The mill was very busy during the 1920s to the 1960s. During the 1960s the agricultural world was changing fast and water mills no longer an important part of the business. The mill was acquired from the Denyers by J H and P G Ellis of Headley Mill, Bordon whose family had owned and worked water and wind mills in Sussex and Hampshire over the last four or five generations. They scrapped the roller plant and decided to manufacture pure wheat flour by the age-old process of Burr Mill Stone using local wheat, a niche market then developing. John Ellis produced a leaflet giving a brief history of the mill, description of Denyer's 100% wholemeal flour and recipes for wholemeal bread and scones.

They discontinued the Neatham Mill business in 1969 whilst retaining that at Headley Mill which was the last commercially working water mill in Hampshire. Two issues appeared to be involved as affecting the business, one the diminished supply of water (mentioned in recollections by George Self) due to abstraction from the aquifers following the steep rise in population in Alton from the mid-1960s and also, from a hand-written note on the back of a photograph of the mill pond taken by George Self but annotated in 1970: "the bypass will obliterate this mill pond?". In the fullness of time the bypass cut off Neatham Mill Lane from the centre of Holybourne village to wheeled traffic, substituting a pedestrian underpass to the mill. The only vehicular access being a narrow lane from Haw Bridge in the eastern end of the village. This latter change was instrumental in the refusal of planning permission for a storage facility by a pharmaceutical firm that ended commercial life at the mill and enabled its purchase by the Westons for restoration as a dwelling described in the previous article (Summer 2022). As George Self predicted, the mill pond is no more.

The mill in its derelict stage is recorded in photographs; these will be the topic of a separate article and some "then and now" photographic views. I am grateful to Janet Weston for her help with and commenting on this article and loan of archive material.

**Dr. June Chatfield OBE**



Map of 1892

# 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.hollybourne.com](http://www.hollybourne.com)  
Select the 'Village Hall'  
Press "Click Here to Book"

### HOURLY HIRE RATES

#### Hollybourne Residents

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

#### Non-Hollybourne Residents

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

New prices as shown from 1<sup>st</sup> 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.



*The Custom House (by river Liffey), Dublin*

## It Looks like a Vespa, rides like a Vespa, but doesn't smell like a Vespa!

Go on. Google 'smells like a Vespa' and you'll get the full back story of how a Holybourne invention made the front page of the New York Times (business section of course). Having introduced the design, after many swears days and nights in the garage of Mapeys, it was time to put the product to the sternest of tests (albeit six years later). 'The design' by the way is the conversion of 1950's, 60's and 70's Vespas and Lambrettas to electric propulsion. The plan? "We're going to go to Dublin and turn left". If the wind, the hills, or the rain doesn't finish us off, then Irish hospitality will. We would need a coat.

So on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> Sep, myself and Niall (Owner of Retrospective Scooters in London), set off on a circumnavigation of Ireland and the unknown. How long would it take us? Where would we stay? Where would we re-charge and would we make it? There were no plans, no route, and no time to complete.

Having alighted the ferry in Dublin it became clear that navigation could be a problem. We enquired to a local "How do you get to Wexford?", to which the response came "Well I wouldn't start here." Wexford was followed by fish and chips on the beach at Tramore, and then on to Dungarvan, where we enjoyed a night of Irish hospitality

with 'Oirish Dave' (whom Niall repeatedly informed me that I could only call him this when we were not in Ireland). With the liver (just about) intact we headed over to Cork (lunch and a quick re-charge of the batteries) and an evening in Killarney (famous Son Michael Fassbender). Then Tralee, Ballybunion, a ferry and over the 'Cliffs of Moher' onto the 'Wild Atlantic Way'. Whilst the rolling hills of Kerry were a joy to ride over, the Wild Atlantic Way is just spectacular. I wondered why it was called 'Wild', until we got there. Let's just say it was particularly angry as we made our transit.

Next up, Galway and on to Westport, where Michelin Chef, Frankie Mallon (Niall's best friend from school) cooked us a meal to remember. No menu, just his choice of dishes; cooking from the heart. To say it was outstanding would be an understatement, and that's probably why Joe Biden ate there on his recent visit to Ireland.

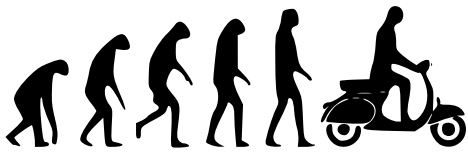
Having survived more hospitality, we travelled through Sligo and spent a night at the seaside town of Bundoran. If you get a chance to go there, I would say "don't". Through Donegal and then up to Derry (or is that Londonderry?). Murals viewed, batteries recharged and on to Port Stewart. A visit to Giants Causeway and more hospitality ensued





'Derry Girls' mural, Derry-Londonderry, N.I.

An advertisement for 'mintcondition' fitness studio. It features a woman with long, curly brown hair smiling while holding a white and red sneaker. The background is a modern, brightly lit interior. Text on the ad includes: 'your fitness experts', 'Personal training | Pilates', 'Injury Rehabilitation', 'WWW.MINT-CONDITION.COM', 'GYM@MINT-CONDITION.COM', '01420 590590', and 'Mint Condition, Steyne Farm, Binsted, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 4NU'.



before we headed south to Niall's hometown of Armagh (where about 30 scooters gave us an escort into town). By now, seven days of 'damp' riding and gratuitous hospitality had taken its toll and whilst Armagh was celebrating Ireland thrashing Scotland I bowed out of the festivities for an early night. "Lightweight" I hear you say.

On the final days riding to Dublin a strange golden orb appeared in the sky. I enquired of the locals as to what it might be but nobody had a clue. I googled it - it was the sun. We made Dublin easily. Ten days, a thousand miles, not a single Euro spent on recharging, and not even the slightest technical problem. The riders? Well I'm writing this from The Priory; draw your own conclusion.

**Don Fabio Lambretta**  
(AKA **John Chubb**)



Doonagore Castle, County Clare (west coast of Irish republic)



# Holybourne Cricket Club



## HOLYBOURNE U11S WIN THE LEAGUE!

Our brilliant young cricketers have all done well over the summer season, with many wins, runs and catches across the cricket pitches of Hampshire, watched faithfully by family and friends.

But a particular shout out goes to our u11s, who won the league! They were presented with a big trophy at the North Hampshire Cricket Awards, Elizabeth Hall, Hook on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October (pictured above). 'We are delighted that all the hard work paid off, and it was a pleasure to be there to celebrate with our young cricketers', said Tom Ellis, Youth Coordinator. Huge thanks to all our volunteer coaches, bar tenders, BBQ chefs and parents.

## COLTS WINTER TRAINING MONDAY EVENINGS AT EGGAR'S SCHOOL

The evenings might be darker, but that doesn't mean Holybourne stops playing cricket! Winter training will be back for the lower end of our Youth Teams – U9, U11 and U13s - after Christmas, every Monday evening at Eggar's school from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> Jan through to Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March (no training in February half term, 12<sup>th</sup> February). To book your children's place, visit [holybournecc.com/payments](http://holybournecc.com/payments), but don't delay as places are limited. The 11 Winter Training sessions are run by our Head Coach, Paul Taylor, and 1st XI Club Captain and Coach, Alec Hudson, and cost £55. You can pay online when you book.

## CROWDFUNDING CAMPAIGN YOUR HELP TO KEEP OUR CLUB ON THE MAP

As a not-for-profit, volunteer-run club, we rely upon raising funds through our membership, sponsorship, clubhouse and social events, while continuing to make cricket as accessible and affordable as possible. This means increasing membership fees incrementally and rewarding our members with discounted drinks and food through our clubhouse. Being not-for-profit, means we're not left with much, after essential investments in things like maintaining machinery and equipment. We're lucky to have so many willing volunteers who tirelessly devote their time to manage our club, but we also know when we need to ask for more help, and as our Club Chair, Jane Taylor, explains, that time has come now:

"We urgently need to replace our artificial wicket, and would love to reinstall a permanent cricket net, even two, if we could afford it. We're struggling to compete with other local cricket clubs, who already have these facilities, and naturally want to avoid losing players to them, while continuing to support our local schools like Andrew's Endowed and Alton School. Following a very positive meeting with Hampshire County Cricket and East Hampshire District Council, potential funds and grants are being explored, but they also fully supported the idea of setting up a Crowdfunder campaign that our community can get involved in. So we have launched one! Find out more on our website and social channels."

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET'S ALL STARS PROGRAMME – COMING TO HOLYBOURNE SOON!

Discussions have also taken place with Hampshire County Cricket about providing training and development to our even younger 5 to 8 year old cricketing enthusiasts via the All Stars cricket programme. More on this in the Spring.

## KEEP AN EYE ON OUR WEBSITE AND SOCIAL CHANNELS FOR NEWS & EVENTS!

[www.holybourne.play-cricket.com](http://www.holybourne.play-cricket.com)
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