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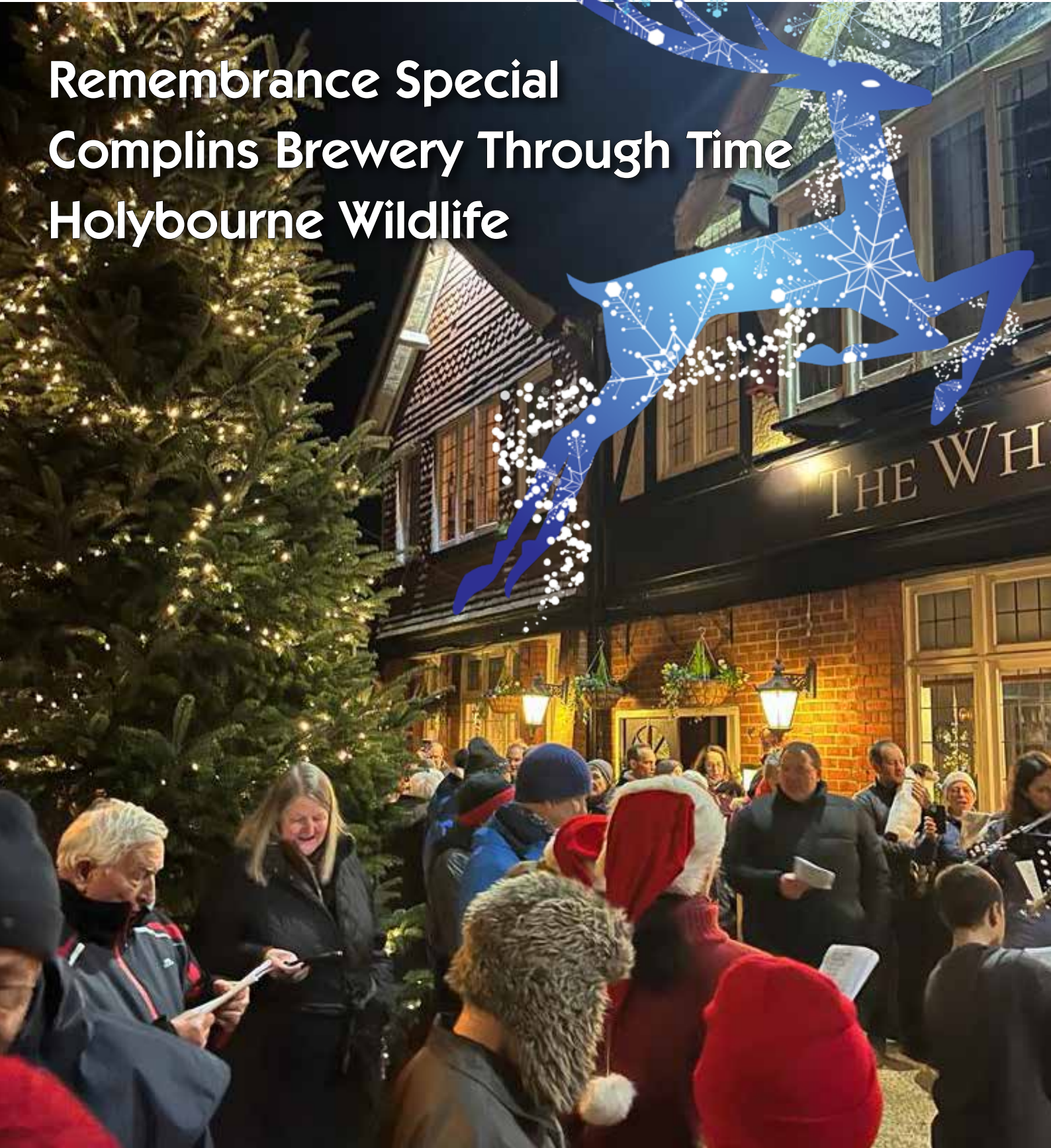
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Winter 2024

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From the Editor

A community is a tenuous beast. It exists but can be hard to define, still harder to understand how it works, but somehow it does. As I followed the Act of Remembrance parade back to the White Hart, I marvelled at how this small village can organise such a professional, respectful and well-supported event, attracting public figures of some standing – our town Mayor, our local MP and a number of VIPs from our Armed Forces and Blue Light Services.

We have created a 'Remembrance Special' section for this issue, explaining the origin of the current service and how, after 80 years, a unique map links us directly to one of the key parts of it. The sense of community and shared understanding of why we were attend the service at our War Memorial was very strong. It is the same sense of community that enables a professional fireworks display, a village Fete/SummerFest, an active village website, thriving pub, village shop and a high-quality village magazine that hopefully remains relevant in this digital age.

Of course, there 'is no such thing as 'community' – to paraphrase a famous Prime Minister – there are only individuals whose energy and enthusiasm motivates and organises others to contribute to a common cause.

So, it is noteworthy that one of our key community figures is bowing out of the limelight.

Jerry Janes has been a crucial member of our community for many, many years. He has held several key posts in local government: District Councillor, Alton Town Mayor and, latterly, Chairman of the Holybourne Village Association (HVA). In addition to these formal responsibilities, Jerry has also been the Editor of this magazine for many years as well as our energetic MC at the many Holybourne SummerFests held over the years.

Unsurprisingly, Jerry is looking for a more relaxed retirement to enjoy with Judith and their grandchildren but, true to form, he has become highly engaged in helping to shape our response to the recent planning and development proposals that have the potential to change the character of the village.

There are several others whose commitment to our community has made a huge difference over the years and their contribution will be recognised at another time - for now though, we say a huge Thank You to Jerry for all the years of effort, energy and enthusiasm that have helped make Holybourne the strong community we have today.

Finally, it only remains for all of us at the editorial, production and distribution team of the Holybourne Village Magazine, to wish all of you a Happy Christmas and our best wishes for 2025.

John Bound editor@hollybourne.com

Copy Date for next issue

Friday 7th March 2025

In This Issue

- 5 Holybourne Village Association Learn & have fun with U3A
- 7 Freedom Through Expression opening
- 8 Wonderful world of Holybourne wildlife
- 9 Holybourne Hobbies Christmas Fayre
- 11 Holybourne Fireworks 2024
- 12 Planning Update
- 15 Remembrance Day Ceremony
- 16 Remembrance Service origins explained
- 17 The Kohima Map
- 19 Battlefields Tour 2024
- 22 Complins Brewery Through Time
- 25 The Brewhouse Act
- 27 Music for the Soul
- 29 Christmas in Holybourne
- 30 Holybourne Cricket Club

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Cover Photo

Carols around the tree outside the White Hart



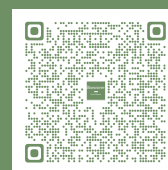
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Holybourne Village Association

When I took on the Chair of the Holybourne Village Association two years ago I had no idea of what a turbulent time we were facing. With an existential threat to the village from developers, a need to formulate a team to fight that and all the other things that come the way of the Chair, it has proved to be an extremely demanding time. It has however been an honour and a privilege to represent the village and to fight the fight on your behalf.

I've been so lucky to draw in incredible volunteers and then to sit back in awe as they take up cudgels on our behalf. I'm not going to name names because I'd be bound to miss someone out but they know who they are and one day their contribution to keeping the village the way we want it, will be revealed.

When I was, a long time ago, the District Councillor for Holybourne, I used to regard the HVA with exasperation because they could be a veritable pain, in demanding for the village what residents of Alton got for the town. Now I have become the voice of that pain and I pay tribute to our three Local Authority Members, Cllrs. Andrew Joy, Graham Hill and Don Hammond for all the time and work they put

in on our behalf. There are occasions when I have given them a hard time but they turn up to all our meetings on top of the many they go to for their Council duties. I am grateful to them.

I will hand over the Chair to my successor in November and I wish him or her the very best of luck in leading the wonderful committee we have assembled over the last few years. If the Committee wish me to continue to coordinate the response to Development in the village, I will do so for another year but then intend to withdraw to a more peaceful and tranquil existence.

The strength of the Village lies in its willingness to support the HVA in the things we organise. Please continue to do so. Our mandate lies in your support and without it, it all becomes pointless. Thank you sincerely for all the help, advice and encouragement you have given to me over my time in the Chair. For me, the public consultation on the Alton Neighbourhood Plan which saw more than half of all attendees coming from the village, was a triumph of community support. We have had to fight to get that representation honestly reported in the draft plan but we hope we have now done so.

Have a great Christmas, a happy New Year and please continue to turn out when we need you.

Jerry Janes, Chairman Holybourne Village Association

Learn & Have Fun with University of the Third Age (U3A)

Are you finding these long, damp winter days are getting you down? Then why not find new interests and friends with Alton u3a? There are now 65 different groups and activities, ranging from backgammon to bird-watching and crafts to current affairs, most of which can welcome new members mid-year: plus monthly coffee mornings at the Allen Gallery and monthly talks with tea at the Alton Community Centre, which are both open to all. We

welcome all ages, and most groups meet in central Alton close to car-parking and bus-stops.

Reduced part-year membership rates of only £15 - £38 are available for January – August 2025, and you are welcome to have a free "taster" visit before joining (group size permitting).

u3a is a UK-wide collection of 1000+ charities that provide the opportunity for those no longer in work to come together and learn for fun.

So, as we start to plan the 2025-6 programme, ideas for new groups are always welcome please. Do pick up a current 2024-5 "Blue Book" annual programme from the Allen Gallery, the Curtis Museum, the Library or the Community Centre; or visit our website at:

www.altonu3a.co.uk



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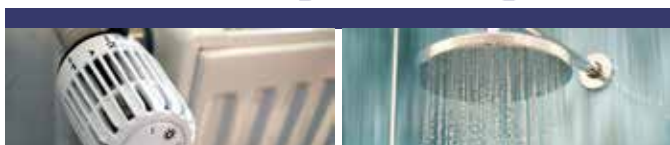


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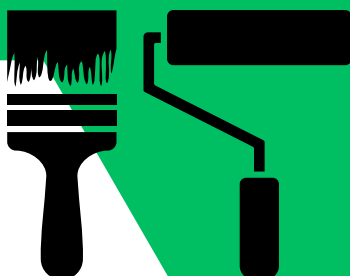
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Freedom Through Expression Grand Opening

Two of Holybourne's celebrities got together to open an exciting new community art project and gallery. Alan Titchmarsh and Tom Yendell formally opened the new centre in Lord Rodney House, next to the Assembly Rooms, – on 15th October 2024

The community art project Freedom Through Expression in Alton is an inspiring initiative designed to empower disabled children through the medium of creative arts. It aims to provide a safe and supportive platform where children can express themselves, build confidence, and develop new skills. Creating art can enhance the communication abilities of children with disabilities, particularly those who struggle with verbal expression.

Engagement with creative activities also fosters emotional well-being by allowing participants to explore and process their feelings through artistic mediums like painting, drawing, and sculpture. Finally, as a result of their efforts, children build a sense of accomplishment and self-esteem as they create and showcase their work. Creating art also improves fine motor skills, enhances cognitive development, and promotes emotional regulation.

What's Going On?

The project involves a collaboration between local artists, therapists, and educators who specialize in working with children with special needs. Families and community volunteers also play a vital role in supporting and celebrating the participants. In addition, there is support from the long-established MFPA (Mouth & Foot Painting Artists) organisation, and the new venture will feature works from well-known mouth painting artists such as Keith Jansz, Bazza West and, of course, Tom Yendell.

Open To All

The new centre will also offer creative art classes to the wider public, who are also welcome to drop in to browse the gallery and chat with the staff about their favourite art and artists.

Tom is as energetic as ever, and this new project can be added to a remarkable list of projects and initiatives he has set up to enable the disabled to lead more fulfilling lives, as



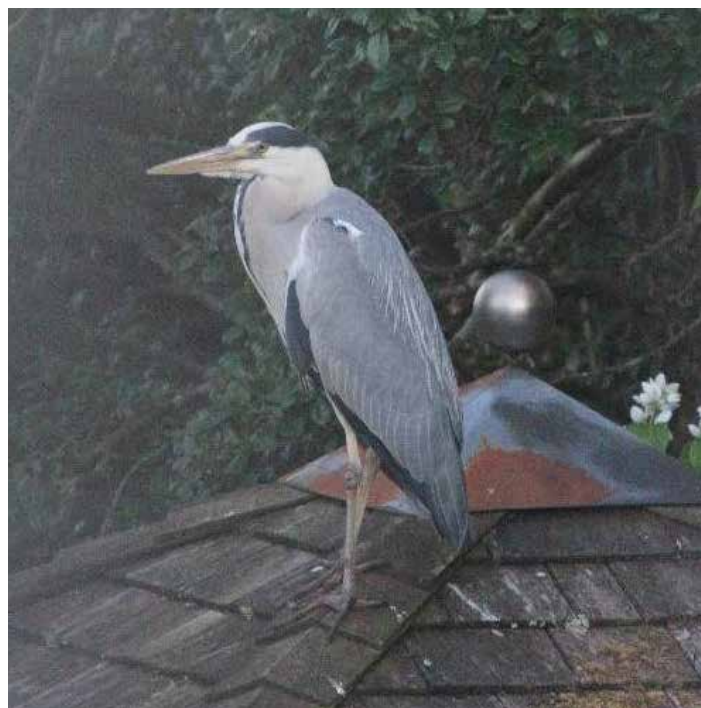
well as his Teabag project in Ghana, that trains local youth to gain long-term employment in the Ghanaian hospitality and tourism industry.

The Wonderful World



We don't own a dog, so can never be really accepted in the village though we have lived here for getting on for thirty years. We do however run our own safari park in the back garden but despite strict rules about acceptable behaviour it is a challenge to keep the visiting birds and creatures in line.

One particular trouble maker is Dave the Squirrel and his mates, Brian and Desmond. Desmond has obviously had an accident at some point, as though he has a tail, it has no hair on it. He looks uncomfortably like a grey rat and his climbing suffers as he cannot use his extra limb to hang on to branches. Dave and Brian like to take the mick out of Desmond so he tends to disappear when they are around.



Dave is the big man though and he has accepted with good grace our attempts to keep him off the bird feeders. He squeaks with derision every time we mount a new defence only to see him ignore the perils of the bird spikes etc and leap from far away trees to hang suspended by his tail as he merrily chomps the sunflower hearts. He and I have exchanged strong words on occasions but his usual ploy is to eat furiously as I approach then leap down, scamper across the lawn, pausing only to turn and give me the squirrel equivalent of a two fingered salute before digging a quick hole and running off giggling as he goes. A few minutes later he returns so we now have put a container of nuts where he knows he can get at them and in return he leaves the bird feeders alone. Mostly.

Villagers on the Whatsapp hub might recall our battle with Kevin the Heron. We have an extremely well stocked garden pond, (mainly because our neighbour's pond developed a leak and they had to rush their shoal of fish around swiftly.) I delight in watching the scores of goldfish thresh about as our granddaughters feed them. So too however did Kevin, watching unobserved from some vantage point. Clearly he noted the location and for about three weeks he would visit us at dawn and dusk to feed from the pond. Once we had clocked him it explained where all our fish had gone and we assumed he had scoffed the lot, about 130 fish! In fact if threatened (and believe me, they were threatened) they plunge deep and stay hidden among the pond foliage for a week or so before venturing back up. Kevin is a magnificent creature but decidedly scary if observed for any length of time. He doesn't walk, he floats, one long spindly leg at a time and his head is so thin, you'd hardly notice him sideways on. His brain must be wafer like but he is a fearsome predator when hungry. Our first attempt to deter him was to throw a net over the pond. He

of Holybourne Wildlife!

simply crawled under it and must have put the fear of God into the fish. I saw him take two on successive days before we pegged the net down and blocked all his approach paths. He would even walk across the bridge I had built over the pond seeking a way in. Eventually he gave up or found richer pickings in someone else's pond. I know he has been spotted all over the village and I wish him well. Just not well in my garden.

The village is a haven for bird life and we have even had a Red Kite bounce down onto the garden a couple of times. He's like a Chinook doing practice landings. Land, take off, land. Like everyone I assume, we have a flock of great big fat wood pigeons who Hoover up any bread we put out and loiter under the bird feeders hoping to feed off the seeds that smaller careless birds scatter. Perhaps they have an arrangement with them? Whatever, we rarely get wheat growing in the lawn now. Magpies, nervous but ever present and we even get excited if we see Starlings. In my day they were the commonest of birds. Where have they all gone? Got a better offer from Europe? We get common (well not very common, it is Holybourne after all) Great Spotted Woodpeckers and the occasional green one. We also had this delightful Kingfisher (above right) eyeing the pond on a particularly cold morning.



Speaking of cold mornings, our night camera has caught the wanderings of a healthy looking hedgehog and as I came into the kitchen early one summer morning I was amazed to see a mature fox in the garden. It disappeared in a flash, presumably over one of the six foot high fences! It's clear that outside our garden there is a whole thriving world of creatures, feathered, scaled and furry that have chosen our rural patch for their wanderings and aren't we blessed that they have?

Jerry (the Warden) Janes

Holybourne Hobbies Christmas Craft Fayre

Every Wednesday morning a group of like-minded women join a 'Knit and Natter' session at the White Hart where they bring together their crafting skills, and create wonderful items, knitted, crocheted, macramé, sewn, you name it, if it can be crafted, they'll be doing it. These wonderfully crafted items are sold at craft fairs, so on 30th November they set-up their stands in the village hall to sell their Christmas wares to local residents from the village and environs.

With some other outside stalls including silver jewellery, wood-turned items, ceramics and paintings these reasonably priced items made perfect Christmas presents.

The Fair opened at Noon and finished at 4pm, with visitors enjoying refreshments and wonderful home-made cakes. There were also games to play such as "Guess the weight of the cake", a Bran Tub, a bottle Tombola and a magnificent raffle. A percentage of the proceedings will go to the Village Hall and Holybourne theatre. Over 100 visitors made their way around the stalls, and all seem delighted with their purchases. Organisers Chris Carpenter, Jackie Gregory, Fran Barbey, Joos Toner and Lynn Kelly were delighted with the success of the event, which raised £700. The Easter Fair this year contributed to the purchase of the village Christmas Tree at the White Hart. This core team were ably assisted by other members of the Holybourne Hobbies group.

This was a delightful event to start the festive season, and as this group run this event every Christmas and Easter,



you will always be able to support the village. , and buy some lovely hand-crafted gifts created by these very talented women. Crafts people from outside the village also attended, with items including silver jewellery, wood-turned items, ceramics and paintings. All these reasonably-priced items made perfect Christmas presents.


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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 Fireworks 2024

Once again, the very professional 'Holybourne Pyromaniacs' team led by Rob Law, treated us to an outstanding display of fireworks on the Village Sports Field on 2nd November this year.

As the numbers of spectators is limited for safety and insurance reasons, tickets tend to sell fast, and this year was no exception. 700 tickets were sold, which is great news for the HVA as this is both our most costly annual event but also the one that raises the most funds to support our work. In addition, due to the generosity of the crowd on the night, a collection raised sufficient funds to replace the defibrillator battery at the White Hart.

This year was a little different in that Historic England realised that we had been burning a bonfire on top of an ancient monument for many years and were not best pleased!

We should point out that the chances of having damaged any buried antiquities is unlikely.

As a way of creating a focal point, Megan-Beth Millar suggested visitors make and bring their own lanterns, with all of them assembled as a display to replace the bonfire. As you can see from the photos, it worked really well and will be repeated next year.

Thanks to all those who attended, to Sid and his team at the village shop, who managed the selling of the tickets and to Rob and his highly-trained posse of pyromaniacs – another fantastic village event that makes Holybourne such a special place to live.



Planning Update

There has been a deal of controversy surrounding the Alton Neighbourhood Plan (ANP) in recent months, culminating in the resignation of most (8) of the 10 members of the ANP Steering Group (SG) following a Town Council meeting in the Assembly Rooms. The purpose of the meeting was to approve the draft Neighbourhood Plan for submission into the formal planning process ('Regulation 14'). The Town Council meeting was held in the Assembly Rooms as a large public presence was expected, principally from members of two local residents groups: The HVA and Windmill Hill.

At that meeting, following impassioned representations from the public, the Town Council decided to defer approving the proposed neighbourhood plan in order to better understand how the controversial proposals were arrived at and to consider the scope for other options.

As result, at the next Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee, the following day, the Steering Group members felt that their personal positions were untenable and resigned. As a member of the Steering group for the past year, I was one of two members who did not feel the need to resign and recognised the importance of continuing the process to ensure that much of the good work on policies and guidance was not lost.

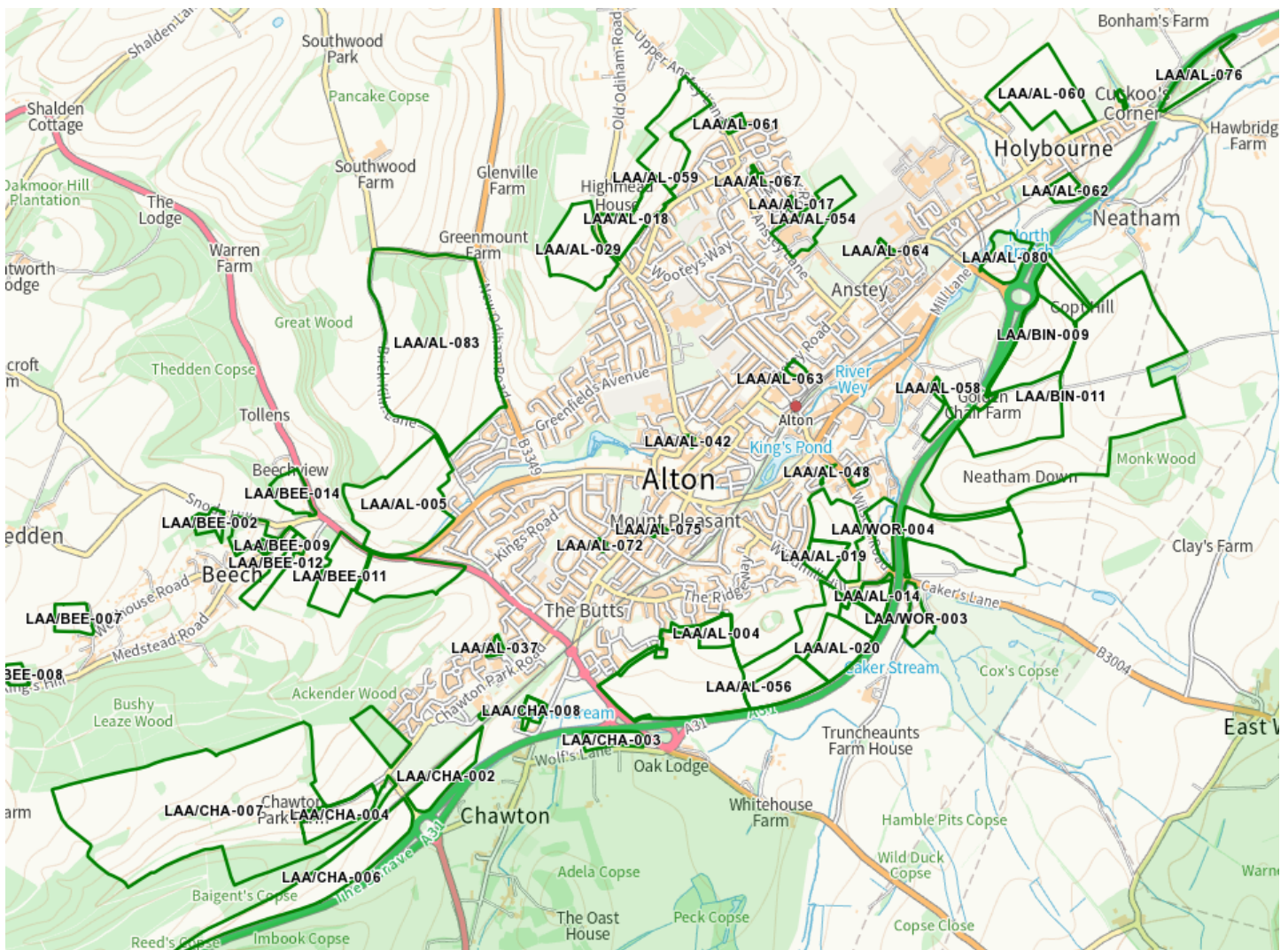
What Next?

The Town Council are now in the process of reviewing the Alton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group processes to understand where improvements could be made – such as a greater degree of public engagement in the process. The intention is to form a new Steering Group to build on the work done to date and create a revised Neighbourhood Plan as soon as possible. The Town Council will be communicating the next steps soon.

However, since the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group was set up nearly two years ago, the new Labour government has changed the entire planning context. The most significant of these is that East Hampshire's housing figures are to increase by 86 per cent, from 575 homes a year to 1,074 between 2025 and 2040. This change has required EHDC to start revising their original draft Local Plan (originally published in May 2024) to accommodate this significant increase in development.

LAA LAA Land

As part of this revision process, EDHC have published a new Land Availability Assessment or LAA. The LAA identifies all the sites that are potentially available for development. This



does not mean that those sites WILL be developed, but that they have – at first glance – development potential. There are many reasons why sites might not be developed, including the fact that their owners might not wish to do this, the sites might have physical limitations (road access, or steep slopes) or they might be legally protected by environmental legislation. In the words of EHDC:

“The role of the LAA is to provide a high-level assessment of sites submitted for particular uses (excluding the SDNP area), including whether sites are considered suitable for development and outlines prospective timescales for a site’s potential development. It is not a statement of Council policy, and the document does not allocate land for development. It is for the Local Plan process itself to determine which of those sites are the most suitable to meet the identified needs.”

“...the LAA will also consider the availability of land for other uses, including, but not limited to, Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation; infrastructure; open space and Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG).”

Land Availability Assessment (LAA) for Alton & Holybourne – November 2024

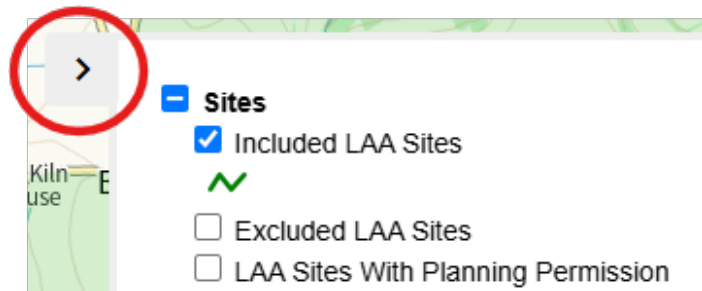


EDHC published recently published the new LAA, as an online interactive map, which can be found by scanning this QR Code. The web address for the introductory EHDC page for their Land Availability Assessment is:

www.easthants.gov.uk/planning-services/planning-policy/local-plan/emerging-local-plan/evidence-base/other-evidence-0

If you go to the interactive map, you can zoom in and out and find detailed information about specific sites by clicking on the relevant site.

To hide the pop-up menu, click on the > symbol (see screen grab below):



Summary

Alton Town Council will be creating a new Neighbourhood Plan group, but they will still have to work within the context of East Hampshire District Council’s Local Plan – a new version that takes account of the new housing targets is planned to be published in January 2025.

John Bound

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Remembrance Special

Remembrance Day Ceremony

At 10:45hrs, with a low sunlight glistening off the bronzed leaves, the pipes and drums of the Rose and Thistle Band led the parade from Andrews Endowed School to the War Memorial on London Road, Holybourne. Resplendent and marching were Veterans, the British Legion Standards, Alton Air Cadets, the Scouts and local schools, being marshalled by Warrant Officer Emily Campbell RAF.

As director of the ceremony, I welcomed the parade and villagers to their annual village ceremony, for us to pay our respects for all who had fallen in the service of their country, having given their tomorrow for our today. I also introduced the two speakers: Captain John Fitzpatrick RN reminded us of the scale and determination of Operation Overlord, eighty years ago. The aim of D-Day, June 1944 was to breach the Nazi stronghold on the European Mainland.

I recalled personal recollections from the 50th Anniversary Commemorative events for both D-Day and Operation Market Garden, where I and the Lt Col DA Redwood AAC had both parachuted into those commemorative events. Lt Col DA Redwood AAC then recalled personal memories about Military Service and how, in part, it had saved him. Escaping a broken home, Col Redwood joined the Army as a boy soldier, aged 16. He joined 2 PARA and served on operations in Northern Ireland and the Falklands in 1982. He served most of his career with the same Regiment, indeed he was my Sergeant Major on operations with B Company 2 PARA.

Col Redwood had enjoyed a flying tour with the Army Air Corps as a sergeant and it was this experience that took him to RAF Odiham in later years, where he deployed the Support Helicopter Force globally, including multiple tours of Iraq and Afghanistan. He spoke of what he thought about, not just on Remembrance but most days. Though he never encouraged Service to his family, each in their own way is now serving in the Armed Forces or Blue Light Services, and he himself is now supporting other veterans working for SSAFA (formerly the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association) aiding those in need.

Our new vicar, Revd David Chattell led our prayers and Captain J Fitzpatrick RN the Exhortation. Tony Wilman played the Last Post at 11:00hrs as the banners dipped and Petty Officer (Retd) Phil Croucher RN lowered the Union flag; each recovering after the two minutes silence and Reveille.

Leading the wreath laying was Damian Hinds MP, followed by Mayor Annette Eyre and Councillors Andrew Joy and Graham Hill. HVA Chair, Jerry Janes laid his wreath, having earlier read the names of the fallen from Holybourne. Representing the Services, Captain John Fitzpatrick RN led with his wreath, followed by Lt Col David Redwood PARA and Lt Will Waters RE, and finally Wg Cdr Rebecca Bassett from RAF Odiham.



The British Legion and Veterans wreaths were laid by Michael Sayers and Dave Parsons respectively, the RAF Association by Maxine Dalton and the Police wreath by Samantha Brown. As always, it is wonderful to see so many of the younger generation on parade with the Scouts, Cadets and schools laying their wreaths. From the Church, Rosemary Arrowsmith-Oliver laid their wreath and Mr John Smith for the Masonic Lodge. Finally, Staff Sgt Mick Byrne laid a personal wreath for his wider military family.

Lt Will Waters RE delivered the Kohima Epitaph and the Revd David Chattell led our prayers and blessing, before the parade marched off to a wonderful reception at the White Hart. While mince pies and punch were served inside, thanks to the generosity of Thanasi, the Pipes and Drums played outside. It was lovely to see the elderly residents of The Lawn waiting for the parade to pass and to speak to the dignitaries.

As always, this is a village event and a big thank you to the many villagers who make this event happen. Phil Croucher is handing onto Mick Byrne and, of special note, I wanted to express real gratitude to David Tigg, who for many years has supported us with his sounds system. Plus, two true village heroes are Peter and Dors Packham, whom for years silently and efficiently manage the road closures on Church Lane and London Road enabling us to parade.

As ever, for so many reasons and everyone's Service, We Will Remember Them.

Major (Retd) Adrian Stratta PARA

Remembrance Special

Service Origins Explained

The Holybourne Remembrance Service was instigated by Dr Chris Everett, a long-time resident of Church Cottage in Holybourne. He felt that the war memorials in both the Church and on London Road were not fully appreciated or understood by a new generation of villagers, so set up the first service and it has grown in stature ever since.

The Royal British Legion is responsible for Remembrance Services and they define them thus: "Remembrance honours those who serve to defend our democratic freedoms and way of life. During Remembrance, we unite across faiths, cultures, and backgrounds to remember the service and sacrifice of the Armed Forces community from Britain and the Commonwealth."

Founded in 1921, the Royal British Legion is the country's largest Armed Forces charity, with 180,000 members, 110,000 volunteers and a network of partners and charities; giving support to ex-servicemen and women wherever and whenever it's needed.

Over the years, most Remembrance services have evolved into a core format and the Royal British Legion has an Order of Service called an Act of Remembrance for those who wish to organise one. There is a recommended procedure and some essential features that should remain as part of the act of Remembrance, such as the Exhortation, placing of the wreaths and the Two Minute Silence. It is also desirable to include sounding the Last Post and the Reveille. Aside from these key elements, local Remembrance services can be tailored to the resources available, and Holybourne's Remembrance service is a good example of this. Major Adrian Stratta (Rtd) has organised our village service for a number of years. Although many people participate in Remembrance services, following the now-familiar structure, few probably know the background to the key elements and their origin.



The Kohima Epitaph

This famous verse is engraved on the war memorial of the 2nd British Division in the Kohima War Cemetery in northeast India:

"When you go home, tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow, we gave our today"

John Maxwell Edmonds (1875-1958)

It commemorates the fallen of the Battle of Kohima, which took place in 1944 during World War II. This intense

battle was key in preventing the Japanese army from sweeping further south into India by halting their advance at Kohima in April 1944. Garrison Hill, a long, wooded spur on a high ridge west of the village, was the scene of perhaps the most bitter fighting of the whole Burma campaign when a small Commonwealth force held out against repeated attacks by a significantly larger Japanese Division. The fiercest hand to hand fighting took place in the garden of the Deputy Commissioner's bungalow, around the tennis court, but the heaviest casualties on both sides occurred after allied reinforcements arrived the Garrison in April 1944 and the Japanese were driven off the ridge, so re-opening the road to Imphal.

The Kohima War Cemetery lies on the battle ground of Garrison Hill. No trace remains of the bungalow, which was destroyed in the fighting, but white concrete lines mark and preserve permanently the historic tennis court. There are three parts to this War Grave:

- The Cemetery and Cross of Sacrifice, containing the graves of 1,420 Commonwealth soldiers of the Second World War.
- The Kohima Cremation Memorial commemorating 917 Hindu and Sikh soldiers whose remains were cremated in accordance with their faith. This is at the highest point in the cemetery.
- Finally, at the lower end of the cemetery, near the entrance, the 2nd Division Memoria, and it is this that bears the famous inscription.

2nd Division Memorial – Kohima, North-East India

Major John Etty-Leal, a classical scholar, suggested the wording for the Kohima Epitaph when the memorial was being planned. He may have recognized the similarity between the battles of Kohima and Thermopylae in 480 BC, where the outnumbered Spartans fought to prevent the Persian Army from advancing into Greece – the famous '300'.

The Exhortation

The Exhortation is said at Remembrance events before the Last Post is played and the Two Minute Silence.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them

This is the fourth of seven verses from the poem 'The Fallen' by Laurence Binyon. The first verse of the poem contains some patriotic elements, but as it progresses, the sense of loss and mourning becomes stronger, with the final verse memorialising the fallen as stars and constellations in the night sky. Remarkably, it was written in 1914, specifically composed in honour of the 1,600 casualties of the British

Chardonnay tucked into the trellis

Remembrance Special

The Kohima Map

Expeditionary Force, following their managed retreat from the Battle of Mons (22nd - 25th August 1914), which was the first major military engagement of the war.

It was written well before the general public's awareness of the huge loss of life of the Great War and is in marked contrast to the jingoistic national sentiment at that time, epitomised by the patriotic sentimentality of Rupert Brooke's famous poem 'The Soldier' ('...there is some corner of a foreign field that is for ever England'). As John Hatcher (Binyon's biographer) noted in 1995: "While other early Great War poems sounded hollow when the true scale and nature of the war slowly permeated the national consciousness, this poem grew in stature with each defeat, each abortive push, and pyrrhic victory"



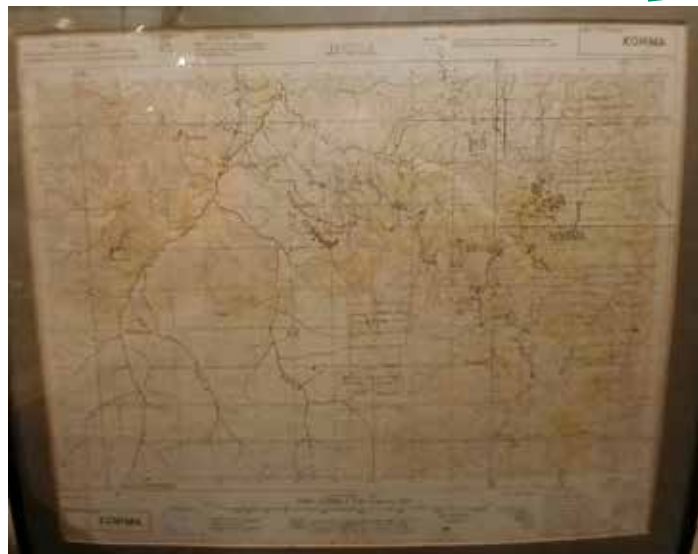
Lest We Forget

This phrase was first used by Rudyard Kipling in a hymn called *Recessional*, written in 1897 for the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria. The poem went against the celebratory mood of the time, providing instead a reminder of the transient nature of British

Imperial power. Whether Kipling displayed great foresight or not, the Diamond Jubilee later proved to be peak of the British Empire. The lines 'lest we forget' were based on a specific passage in the Bible (Old Testament: Deuteronomy 4:7-9) using 'lest thou forget' and Kipling adapted it for repeated use throughout his poem - here is an example from one verse:

'God of our fathers, known of old,
Lord of our far-flung battle line,
Beneath whose awful hand we hold
Dominion over palm and pine-
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget - lest we forget!'

The phrase is used to remind people of the risk of forgetting the core values that made us who we are, and later passed into common usage after World War I across the British Commonwealth, especially becoming linked with Remembrance Day and Anzac Day observations; it became a plea not to forget past sacrifices and was often found as the only wording on war memorials or used as an epitaph.



By remarkable coincidence, villager Simon Millard purchased a map of Kohima a few weeks ago at a car boot sale. He thought it was just an old but interesting map, but upon closer inspection, it turned out to be a map originally created by the Royal Engineers and used in the actual battle of Kohima in April 1944.

Protected under glass, the map had been annotated in pencil with the actual gunnery positions and the firing angles used to support the infantry at the battle. Many soldiers from across the British Empire died preventing the Japanese Imperial Army breaking through this strategically important pass and attacking Northeast India.

Simon felt that such an important artefact should be returned to a regiment that has strong connections with Kohima Campaign, and he presented the map to Major Cooper of the Kohima Company at the Army's training centre in Pirbright (below), where it will hang in pride of place. A fitting end to its long journey across the years.





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Remembrance Special

WW1 Battlefields Tour of Northern France 2024



Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, by Sir Edwin Lutyens

What comes to mind when you think of a tour of the First World War battlefields? I know people who say they can't think of anything more depressing than trooping around cemeteries, or that it's not their "thing" really. However, if it arouses even a flicker of interest in you, I strongly recommend signing up for it - I have yet to meet anyone who regretted it!

You need to be neither a social historian nor an expert on the tactics of warfare, although questions will be answered, should you choose to ask them. It's not a history lesson, nor a military analysis. You'll hear the human cost of the conflict, what it did to both sides and the ramifications for our society, stretching past the Second World War and beyond. It is very moving and thought-provoking. Knowledgeable tour guide Jerry Janes finds something illuminating about each location, whether inspiring, tragic, shocking or of interest. There is much more to experience over the two days than simply visiting a series of cemeteries and memorials.

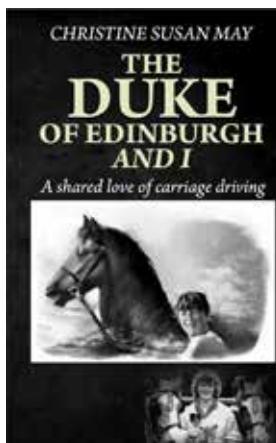
This year's tour took place on the last weekend of September. There is something deeply spiritual and moving

about actually standing on the spot where it all happened over a hundred years ago. With a bit of imagination, you can envisage what it must have been like for the soldiers of both sides, many of whom perished doing their duty, and get some inkling of their experience.

Travel on either side of the Channel Ferry is by luxury coach, and there is only as much walking as you're prepared to handle - although you will miss a lot if you don't leave the coach to experience Jerry's enlightening commentary.

Saturday saw us travelling to Flanders in Belgium, making several stops at sites of interest. We lunched at the café at Sanctuary Wood, where we saw preserved original trenches, shell craters, and a museum containing many interesting and thought-provoking exhibits and a display of contemporary photographs, some of which are quite horrifying to view. We compared the world's largest Commonwealth Cemetery with a German cemetery which starkly exposed the contrast between how the opposing sides commemorated their dead. We then had a couple of hours of free time in the centre of Ypres before attending

continued...



A richly detailed autobiography intricately weaving the life story of the author, from a dead-end child going nowhere to a full and interesting life. Christine takes the reader through various stages of her life. The book is a candid and emotional recounting of her experiences, ranging from her relationships, personal struggles, to her profound connection with animals, especially dogs.

A unique perspective on the Duke of Edinburgh, offering glimpses into his personality and life away from public duties. This aspect adds an intriguing element. Personal photographs throughout the book adds a layer of intimacy and authenticity, making the story more personal and engaging. Reflective and philosophical undertones, encourages the reader to ponder on life, relationships, and the deeper meanings behind our actions and experiences. Available to buy at "Goldfinch book shop and café" 24 High Street Alton. This will be followed by a book signing in December. A message from the author: "I have travelled the world and lived a life full of interest. Now I have found my forever home in Holybourne."

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WW1 Battlefields Tour of Northern France 2024 - continued

Tyne Cot Cemetery in Belgium

the exceptionally moving Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate, after which we were driven down to Arras, where comfortable rooms were waiting, in preparation to tour the Battlefields of The Somme in France on Sunday. Intrepid members of the party discovered a couple of very pleasant bars nearby, if the day hasn't taken too much out of you.

After breakfasting heartily at the hotel, Sunday's programme of events began with a victualling stop at the Lidl superstore in Arras, before journeying to the Serre Road Cemeteries and the Sheffield Memorial Park, then onto the Newfoundland Memorial at Beaumont-Hamel. Both sites are of tremendous historical significance and Jerry gave us the backstories of the events at both locations.

Then onto the imposing, if somewhat brutalist, Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme – where we took the opportunity to take lunch at the restaurant, café and picnic areas. Next, we visited the only preserved mine crater from the first day of the Battle of the Somme, with its informative - and moving - information panels and art installations. Next on the itinerary were some of the smaller cemeteries, off the beaten track, where Jerry related heroic, sad and in some cases tragic stories of those buried there. The tour ended at the staggeringly elegant, magnificent and frankly awe-inspiring Vimy Ridge Canadian National Memorial, visible for miles.

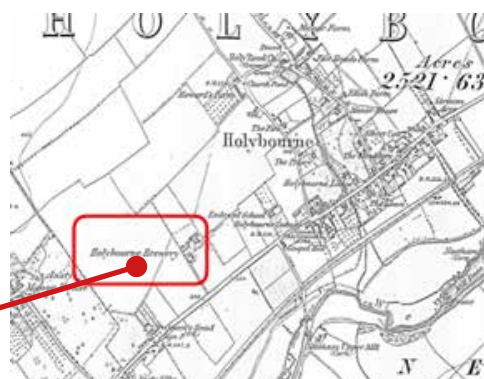
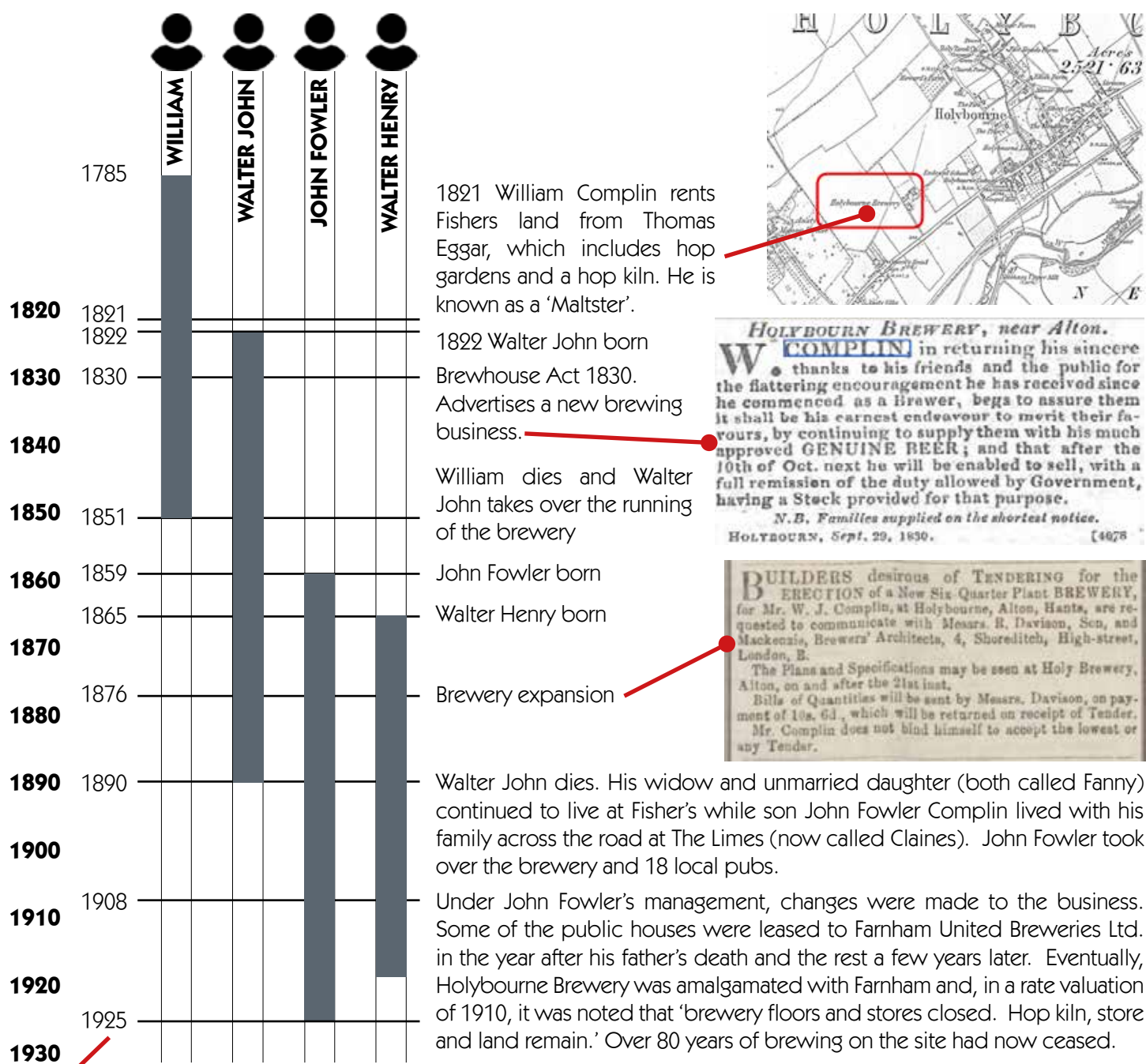
I feel that my words have not done it justice. As I mentioned at the top of this piece, I have found nobody who regrets taking the tour - some people have been only once and felt it enough, whereas others look forward to it every year (you will have guessed that I am one of those people!) and will go for as long as Jerry is willing to run it. It's an early start on the Saturday morning and a late return in – what is by then – the small hours of the Monday morning. It is emotionally draining, and very intense, but so worth it, as so much is crammed in. The trip will deepen your appreciation of the scale of the losses which, even after 100 years, are shocking. Imagine the impact on the people and societies directly involved. The Great War cast a long shadow, destabilising both Russia and Germany, both of whom were in continuous upheaval or revolution for decades afterwards. France and Britain suffered deep civic wounds that would take a generation to heal.

The 2025 tour is planned for the 27th and 28th of September, again a weekend, but - as ever - it depends if there is enough interest to make the trip viable. So, if you can, book the Monday 29th off work, and go!

For more details, or to express an interest, please contact Jerry Janes. His email is jerrymjj@outlook.com. Hope to see you on the tour next year!

Ben Kemp

Complins Brewery Through Time



HOLYBOURN BREWERY, near Alton.
W. COMPLIN in returning his sincere thanks to his friends and the public for the flattering encouragement he has received since he commenced as a Brewer, begs to assure them it shall be his earnest endeavour to merit their favours, by continuing to supply them with his much approved **GENUINE BEER**; and that after the 10th of Oct. next he will be enabled to sell, with a full remission of the duty allowed by Government, having a Stock provided for that purpose.
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BUILDERS desirous of **TENDERING** for the **ERECTION** of a New Six Quarter Plant **BREWERY**, for Mr. W. J. Complin, at Holybourne, Alton, Hants, are requested to communicate with Messrs. R. Davison, Son, and Mackenzie, Brewers' Architects, 4, Shoreditch, High-street, London, E.
 The Plans and Specifications may be seen at Holy Brewery, Alton, on and after the 21st inst.
 Bills of Quantities will be sent by Messrs. Davison, on payment of 10s. 6d., which will be returned on receipt of Tender. Mr. Complin does not bind himself to accept the lowest or any Tender.

When John Complin died in 1925, there was a long obituary in the local papers. He was said to have been a man with many local interests including being churchwarden for over 30 years, president of the village cricket and football clubs, vice-chairman of the PCC and chairman of the Board of Management of Andrew's Endowed School. He died in the same room in which he had been born, leaving his wife Marion and two daughters, Miss Emily and Miss Dorothy.

The ladies continued to live at Fisher's for several years although some of the land was leased out. The Misses Complin were clearly active members of the local community, and in 1926, presented prizes for the best

allotments. By 1931, the Complin ladies had moved and Fisher's was occupied by Mrs Leney while Ronald John Barcham Leney (her son?) was at Holybourne Lodge.

Marion Complin died in 1935 in Guildford and Fisher's was offered for sale by Harrods in November 1937. It was purchased by Mrs Leney, who named it 'Fishers' after the original name for the land. "The house itself did not appear to have a name while the Complin family were in residence, according to the aged Misses Emily and Dorothy Complin, who live in Guildford" (source: Alton Herald 22nd August 1975). Emily Complin passed away in February 1981, and Dorothy followed in March of the same year.



Complins Family at the House c1830; L-R , William, Wife Fanny, Daughters Elizabeth & Emily (standing) & Walter John sitting on donkey

Public Houses owned by Complins Brewery in 1890

Cricketers, Farnham	Fox and Hounds, Crookham
Cricketers, Crondall	Prince of Wales, Holybourne
White Hart, Binsted	Cricketers, Binsted
Rising Sun, Nether St., Alton	Eight Bells, Church St., Alton
Moon, Bentworth	Yew Tree, Lower Wield
Rose and Crown, Farringdon	Wheatsheaf, West Meon
Plough, Bishops Sutton	Lord Clyde, Aldershot
Whitehouse, Long Sutton	Windmill, Wield
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Complins Brewery 1885



Complin Brewery Bung Collar



Complins House c1902

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The Brewhouse Act

The Brewhouse Act of 1830, also known as the Beerhouse Act, was a significant piece of legislation passed in the UK with the primary goal of encouraging the consumption of beer over stronger spirits, particularly gin, which had become a major social problem due to widespread abuse. The act sought to liberalize the production and sale of beer while simultaneously curbing the social ills linked to excessive gin consumption, especially among the working class. Its key objectives were to:

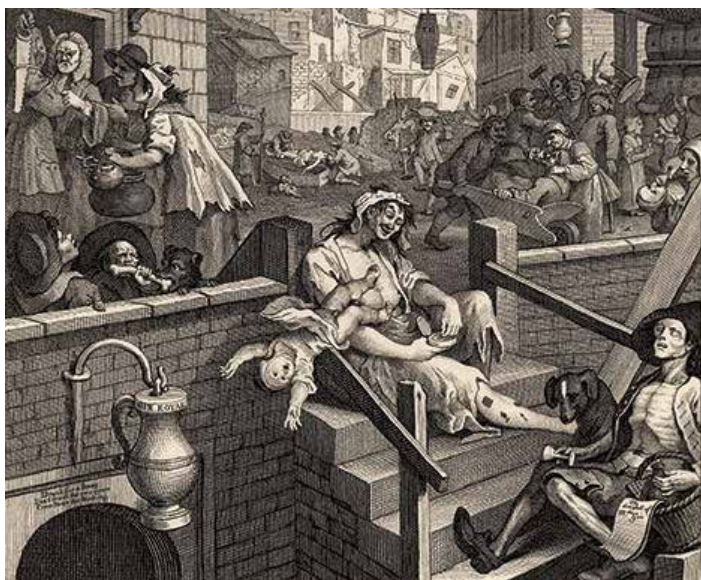
Promote Beer Over Spirits: The government wanted to reduce the consumption of gin, which was associated with public disorder, health issues, and social decay during the early 19th century (often termed the "Gin Craze"). Beer was seen as a safer alternative.

Encourage Small-scale Brewing: The act made it easier for ordinary people to brew and sell beer. For a relatively small fee (2 guineas), anyone could obtain a license to brew and sell beer from their home or beerhouse without needing approval from magistrates, which had previously been required for selling alcohol.

Reduce Tavern and Pub Monopoly: Prior to the act, taverns and public houses were closely regulated, and their licenses were often tied to large breweries. By simplifying the licensing process, the act aimed to create competition and allow smaller operators to enter the market.

The Act of 1830 had a significant effect on the price of beer by drastically lowering its cost and making it more widely available. This price reduction was driven by intense competition from the tens of thousands of new beer houses – by 1838, just eight years after the act was passed, more than 30,000 new beerhouses were established, providing widespread access to beer. This was initially seen as positive, as it shifted drinking habits away from stronger spirits. However, there were some longer-term impacts:

The act spurred the growth of a beer-based culture in England and increased the availability of low-cost drinking establishments, especially in working-class areas. It also



Part of an engraving by Hogarth "Gin Lane"



contributed to the significant expansion of small breweries and local employment related to brewing – Complins and Inwoods of Holybourne being two local examples.

Despite the intention of curbing disorder, many beerhouses became unruly and difficult to regulate. The ease with which people could open beerhouses sometimes led to rowdy establishments contributing to public disorder, not alleviating it.

Due to these negative outcomes, later legislation in the 19th century (such as the Wine and Beerhouse Act of 1869) reimposed stricter controls on beerhouses, requiring them to once again be licensed by local magistrates.

Overall, while the Brewhouse Act succeeded in its short-term goal of shifting alcohol consumption away from gin, it also created new challenges in managing public behaviour in a rapidly changing society driven by industrialisation. Beer became firmly embedded in British working class culture – not perfect but better than the evils of gin addiction. Over the next hundred years, successively stricter licensing and excise laws on spirits meant that distilling gin or other spirits became costly and highly regulated, with licensing fees and tax obligations that were often prohibitive for small, independent producers. During most of the 20th century, only a few large gin distillers were left in the market, with well-known brands.

However, this was set to change due to the growing popularity of 'craft' gins in the 1990s. In response to the potential economic benefits, the Government of the day introduced a Small Distiller's licence in 2008, reducing these financial and bureaucratic hurdles, allowing smaller-scale spirit distilleries to operate legally without the same costs as large-scale producers. This change in the law sparked the UK craft gin boom in 2010s, bringing dozens of new flavours and brands to the market.

As for The Brewhouse Act of 1830, it was modified by subsequent legislation in the many Licensing Acts and was finally repealed in 1993 – 163 years later!

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MUSIC – for the Soul

I am just about to turn off the engine when I hear on the car radio the emotional chords of Colm Wilkinson singing “Bring him home” from the *Les Misérables* musical. The song is so beautiful that there is no way that I can turn Colm off before the song ends. Joining him in this moment, I am the Father willing his Son safely home. Emotionally stuck to the seat



until, eventually, we reach the final bars; the final, almost imperceptible, top note. Only then am I able to gather my senses and walk into the dentist's premises and into the waiting room. As I sit there, there is no doubt in my mind that music is the highest of all art forms. Immersing oneself in such sounds as these leads you to understand not only the music, but also to gain a better understanding of life itself, giving a sense of peace and inner calm, and, I think, leading you to an empathy with your fellow man.

There is no doubt that beautiful music elevates the soul. Of course, I appreciate that music, by its very nature, is subjective and that the music that moves me so strongly may not have the same response in you. But I would be very surprised if you are unmoved by, say, Elgar's *Nimrod* variation when played by the Massed Bands at the Cenotaph or, perhaps, *Ave Maria* sung so exquisitely by a songbird like Renée Fleming. Listen to it now: (Google: *Ave Maria Renée Fleming*).

To create such an incredible moment in time, you not only need a genius to create the music, but also someone with extraordinary talent to deliver the perfect performance.

One of the most stirring pieces I have ever observed was when Natalia Osipova danced to Camille Saint-Saëns' sensuous music of “the Dying Swan”. Such an incredibly moving and heart-rending interpretation that must be heard. (Google: *Natalia Osipova the Dying Swan*)

Another masterpiece guaranteed to keep you trapped in your car is Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto, played, say, by someone as skilled as Lang Lang. Those crashing chords and a haunting melody could well make you very late for your meeting. Certainly, they will be with you all day, and for many days after, pulling you back to its poignant refrains time and time again. (Google: *Lang Lang Rachmaninoff piano concerto No 2*)

It is well known that the health of the human body is intimately connected with the health of the mind and spirit. If you have been through a difficult or sad time and need to raise your spirits, I would recommend three extraordinary pieces. Whether you are religious or not, you'll be infatuated by the beauty of the music, I feel sure.

The first is a recording by Andrea Bocelli, singing the Lord's Prayer with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. This, surely, is an experience that leads to a profound shift of consciousness

and takes you to a serene place. A calm, tranquil place. (Google: *The Lord's Prayer Mormon Tabernacle Choir with Andrea Bocelli*)

Secondly, you could listen to “Light after Darkness” written by Frances Havergal in 1879 and sung by a choir called *Cor Glanaethwy* (in Bangor Cathedral). (Google: *Light after Darkness Cor Glanaethwy*) This will, I believe, help you find greater fulfilment and lift your sadness, possibly even bring you joy. Here are the English words:

Light after darkness, gain after loss,
Strength after weakness, crown after cross;
Sweet after bitter, hope after fears,
Home after wandering, praise after tears.
Sheaves after sowing, sun after rain,
Sight after mystery, peace after pain;
Joy after sorrow, calm after blast,
Rest after weariness, sweet rest at last.
Near after distant, gleam after gloom,
Love after loneliness, life after tomb;
After long agony, rapture of bliss,
Right was the pathway, leading to this.

Such music takes you to a higher plane, a bridge towards a spiritual world.

My third recommendation is, in my view, the most beautiful and moving of all pieces ever written. Although it is appropriate to the winter, nevertheless, the tune and words are simply wonderful and can be appreciated at any time of year. I'm sure you know it well. This is the remarkable music of Harold Darke's “In the Bleak Mid-Winter” sung by the choir of Trinity College Cambridge. What an extraordinarily moving piece of music! (Google: *In the Bleak midwinter Trinity College Cambridge*)

Whether the weather is bleak or not, surely these beautiful tones will lift your spirit.

Excuse me, I'm getting emotional and now I'm lost for words.

B.E.Lawrence



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Christmas in Holybourne

Date	Day	Time	Event	Location
1	Sunday	4.00 pm	Christingle Service	Holy Rood Church
			Start the Advent Sheep Trail	All over the village!
6	Friday	6.00 pm onwards	Santa's Sleigh procession (Alton Lions)	London Road & side streets - Holybourne
22	Sunday	4.00 pm	Carol Service	Holy Rood Church
23	Monday	7.00 pm	Carol Singing	The White Hart
24	Tuesday	3.00 pm	Christmas Eve Crib Service	Holy Rood Church
		11:15 pm	Midnight Mass	
25	Wednesday	9:30 am	Christmas Day Service	Holy Rood Church

As you would expect from such an active community, there is a lot going on in Holybourne this festive season. See also the advert for the Holy Rood Church Advent Sheep Trail below:



Did you know that Alton is twinned with Montecchio Maggiore in Italy and Pertuis in France and has recently celebrated the silver jubilee of our twinning with Montecchio?

The Alton Town Twinning Association (ATTA) organises exchange visits with both of our twin towns, and this year a group from Pertuis will be visiting us in June.

We also hope to arrange a future visit to Montecchio.

We have a programme of social activities throughout the year.

New members would be most welcome.

If you would like further information, please contact Patric Hinde:- 209pcv@gmail.com



Holy Rood Church Advent Sheep Trail



Find the Christmas sheep all around Holybourne from 1st- 30th Dec



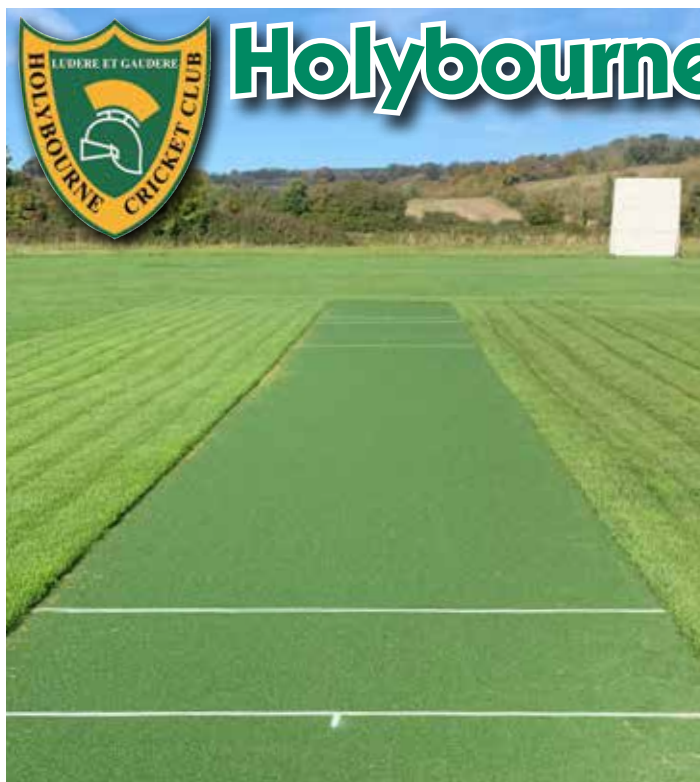
Scan the QR code to view the locations around Holybourne



www.potr-alton.co.uk/holy-rood-church-advent-sheep-trail/

Found them all and their names?

To enter the prize draw to win one of the sheep: write the names of all the sheep in a list and deliver to *The Vicarage 7 Church Lane, Holybourne* or *Holy Rood Church*. Don't forget to add a contact number or e-mail.



Holybourne Cricket Club



Starts Monday 13th January

U9 - 18:00 - 19:00

U11 - 19:00 - 20:00

U13 & U15 - 20:00 - 21:00

HolybourneCC.com

#PLAYandENJOY

Holybourne Cricket's wicket replaced thanks to generous community

We're delighted to confirm that a new wicket has been installed (pictured), thanks to the amazing fundraising from our local community and grant from East Hampshire District Council. We will celebrate with an opening ceremony on Friday 25th April 2025 attended by Councillor Clark and Councillor Hill. More details to follow.

Holybourne's young cricket players recommended for Hampshire trials

This year marked the twentieth anniversary of youth cricket at our local cricket club and this season fourteen players achieved the high standard needed for our coaches to recommend them for county level trials.

Tom Ellis, Colts Manager said: "Our Colts teams have gone from strength to strength this season, and our coaches were impressed with the standard of bowling, batting, and general enthusiasm for the game. We celebrated all our young players at our Awards Night on 13th September and it was fantastic to see the Club House filled with players from age 5 upwards, all in their kit, and supported by their friends and family. For the Hampshire Cricket trials, it was a hard task,

but we narrowed down our recommendations to a total of fourteen players: four from the u9s, four from the u11s and six from the u13". The children and young people are waiting to hear back from Hampshire Cricket.

"An exciting next season awaits, especially with the new wicket to play on."

Winter indoor training return to Eggar's school on a Monday night from January

A big factor in the success of our Colts team is the time and commitment players put in over the winter.

We are therefore returning to Eggar's School on a Monday night from 13th January for our winter training evenings – an hour of nets and skills training from 6pm for u9s, 7pm for u11s and 8pm for u13s and u15s.

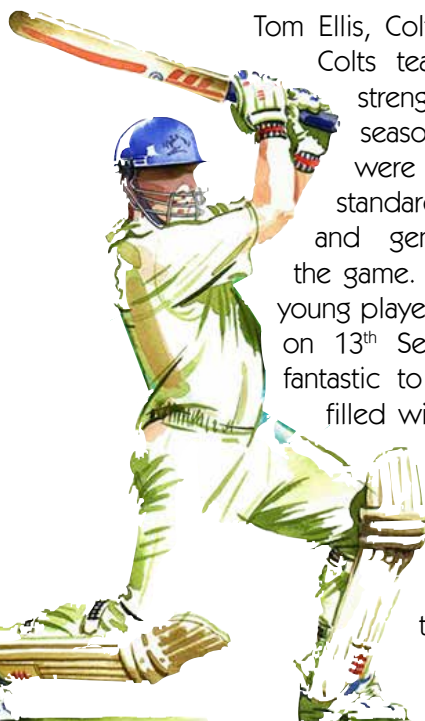
Holybourne u15s looking for more players

Do you have a child in Year 9 or 10 who would love to join a cricket team? They don't need to have played much before (we have excellent coaches) but show an interest in the sport and are keen to play whilst having fun. Since we built the club back after Covid, we have plenty of potential players in our younger teams but could do with a few more to boost the u15s. If you do, get in touch with our Youth Manager, Tom Ellis, holybournecc@holybournecc.com and sign up for our winter training to find out more.

Always looking for new adult players too!

Holybourne CC is not just for the children, we have a 1st X1 adult team too. Open to all genders, we're keen to expand our 1st X1 for the next season, so if you, or anyone you know is interested in playing for the first time or picking up where you left off, please get in touch with our Club Captain, Alec Hudson holybournecc@holybournecc.com

Claire Aston, Holybourne CC



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