

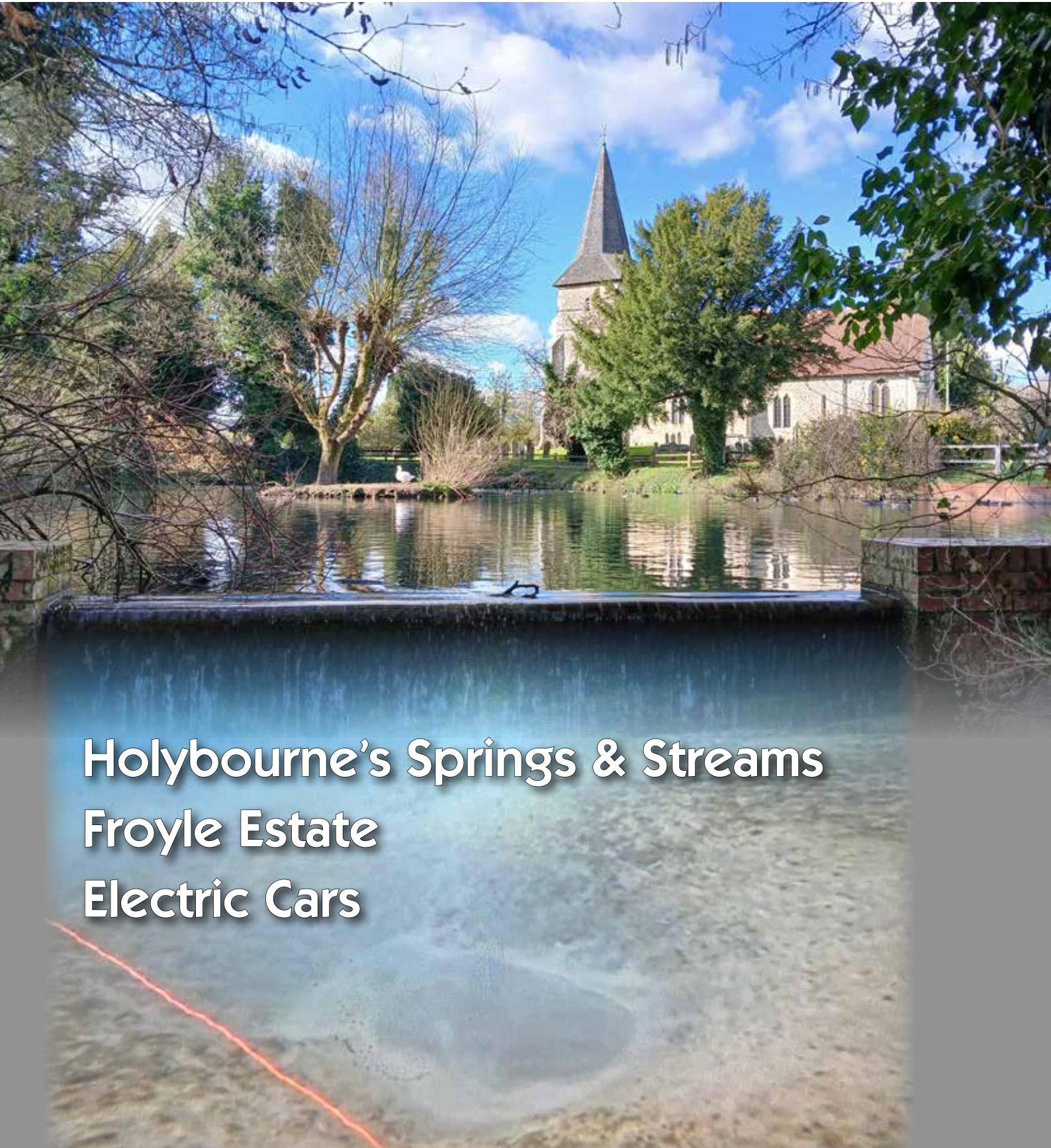
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From the Editor

Appropriately enough, this issue is a 'Spring Special' containing the results of a year-long survey by Andy Hankin to map the springs and streams of Holybourne. Together with Bob Page, they have created maps and flow models that significantly improve our understanding of the springs and streams of Holybourne. These natural features are key to the history of our village: in fact, the very name 'Holybourne' is thought to be derived from the Old English Haligburna which means "sacred stream" and the village is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 as Haliborne and appears in 1418 as Halibourn.

Andy has confirmed that there is a large spring in the centre of the village Pond, as seen on the front cover. His work also confirms the primary source of the Bourne is another spring not located in the pond, and the result may surprise many. The fieldwork undertaken by Andy has been extraordinary and required much dedication. Whether it's been developing mobile filming units, exploring large underground pipes or standing in an icy village pond taking measurements, it is a story that must be told. There is not sufficient room in this issue, so we'll be returning to this topic in the Summer issue, along with more detail on the technical observations and the results of further modelling and calculations by Bob Page. When the project is completed, they will be donating the videos, photos, maps and measurements to the Holybourne Village Archive.

Andy Hankin's survey of springs and streams is also highly relevant to the proposed development of 200 houses in Streamacres, promoted by Redbrown, the new owners and managers of the Froyle Estate. The HVA is currently working on how best to oppose this large-scale development, and it is too early to report on the situation as the official planning proposal is not expected to be submitted until early May. However, there is much more to the Froyle Estate than this proposal, so this issue carries a detailed interview with Andy Kirby, Estates Manager, who has been running the farming and estate operations here for many years. In the interests of better understanding our most consequential neighbour, and their plans for the countryside around us, I spent several hours talking to Andy during a tour of the estate a few weeks ago to understand their point of view. The full interview is inside this issue.

Finally, Spring generates a sense of a new start and new possibilities and should be a time for optimism and hope. Recent political events suggest that they may be in short supply in a rapidly changing world. There's not much we really can do about the current chaos, but don't forget to enjoy the everyday pleasures of living in a village like ours.

John Bound editor@holybourne.com

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Cover Photo

Holybourne pond and the underwater photo of the spring

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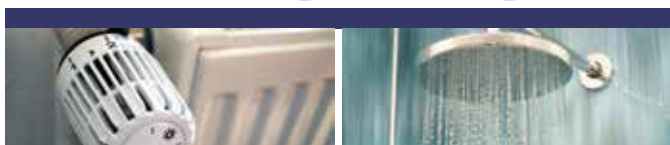


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Holybourne Village Defibrillator

Firstly, may I begin with a big thank-you to all who generously contributed towards the new defibrillator battery at last year's annual firework display. We raised sufficient money to buy a new battery, which is not cheap at circa £400, and which is now ready to be fitted when the existing unit tells us it is time to do so. These batteries are single-use items which cannot be recharged. Hopefully, our new one should last for the next few years.

If you do not know, the Holybourne Village defibrillator is located outside the White Hart pub (indicated on image of pub, above right). It is only defibrillator in Holybourne that is available for use at any time, by anyone in need.

This unit was purchased by public subscription a few years ago and is now maintained by the Holybourne Village Association. I perform a monthly check to ensure that it is "rescue ready" (green "eyeball" as indicated in the image – it will be red if the unit is unavailable for any reason) and that all components that are "time-limited" are routinely replaced. I have also been asked to briefly describe how easy it is to use:

- The defibrillator is stored in a heated weatherproof enclosure. It is always kept locked.
- A keycode is required to unlock the enclosure. To find out the keycode, simply dial 999, ask for the Ambulance Service and ask for the Holybourne White Hart Pub Defibrillator Code.
- Once the keycode has been entered (4-digit code followed by the √ key), the enclosure will unlock and the lid can be opened (warning - it's a bit sticky!) by pulling the top outwards and rotate down. The defibrillator can then be removed.
- CHECK THAT THE RESCUE-READY INDICATOR (HIGHLIGHTED BY THE RED ARROW IN THE PICTURE) IS GREEN!

Then, simply, open the defibrillator lid and follow the voice instructions that this intelligent unit automatically provides.

I would also like to request your assistance in regularly checking that the defibrillator remains "rescue-ready" as indicated by the "green eyeball" highlighted in the picture. I try to do this whenever I am passing. If this ever changes to a red indication, I would be immensely grateful if you



would contact me directly on my mobile number or email below.

Thanks again to everyone. Although we all hope never to have to use our defibrillator, it is essential that it is always kept "rescue-ready" and that requires constant alertness.

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Village Hall News

The Christmas Day hirers had problems with the hall's oven repeatedly tripping out the electricity. There are no qualified electricians on our committee, and as it was Christmas Day, there were no professionals we could call in. All we could do was ask them to persevere – which they did. Our thanks to them for their forbearance. As soon as we could, we engaged an electrician to investigate... the practical upshot is that a new oven has been purchased and installed. Some minor electrical issues – nothing dangerous, just inconvenient and irritating! – were identified between our fuse boxes (the original one is in the main hall, and a later one installed in the kitchen/WC's extension) – a configuration anomaly meant power went out for the whole building rather than just the extension, but this has now been corrected. Some of the emergency lighting failed its annual test – it must remain illuminated for at least three hours in the event of any long-term interruption to the electricity supply. Installed some years ago, the system has been extended and modified, but some components are now obsolete, so it wasn't a simple case of installing a new rechargeable battery, as originally hoped. Any such units have now been replaced with more modern versions, the total outlay being just over £1000. The safety of our users is our primary responsibility, so we had to proceed.

Many thanks to the ladies at Holybourne Hobbies for their generous donation of £200 to the Village Hall, raised at their Christmas Craft Fayre in December. Your support is very much appreciated.

Our website is now live at www.h-v-h.co.uk – created without any professional help. If anyone has any suggestions for improvements, then we'd be pleased to have them.

The General Risk Assessment has been performed and updated, and the Health and Safety Policy and Fire Safety Risk Assessment have been reviewed and reissued. These documents can be found in the Village Hall and online at www.h-v-h.co.uk/documents.

Our Spring 2025 Fundraising Quiz was a near sell-out, with only a couple of seats left out of the maximum of 60. We welcomed experienced quizmaster Tim Newman, who presided over a very close competition between the seven teams, with a mere eleven points separating the first and last-placed teams. Congratulations to Simple Minds, scoring 99, who just pipped The Eejits into second by a single point. Thanks to Lis Gray who worked like a Trojan in the bar, to everyone who stayed behind afterwards to help clear up, and to Graham Trott at Triple FFF for organising the ale. Some invoices are yet to be received, so we do not yet know how much we made, but we will post an update on our Facebook page and the hall noticeboard as soon as we can. We have collated the feedback sheets and have had some interesting and useful observations and suggestions, and these will be discussed by the trustees. Our thanks to everyone who came along and supported it, we hope to welcome you back to the Village Hall soon. We include a gallery of photos to inspire you.





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|-----------------------|--------|
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| Weekends before 18:00 | £14.50 |
| Weekends after 18:00 | £19.00 |

New prices as shown from 1st January 2022. The china, glass and cutlery in the kitchen are all included in the cost of the hire.

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

Down on the Farm The Froyle Estate

The Froyle Estate is now owned by Redbrown Ltd, which is a privately owned UK-based farming and property company founded in November 2020. They acquired the Froyle Estate in December 2020.

The scale and position of the estate makes it Holybourne's most important neighbour, managing all of the agricultural land north and northwest of the village, up to the Froyle Road and along to Froyle itself (see map).

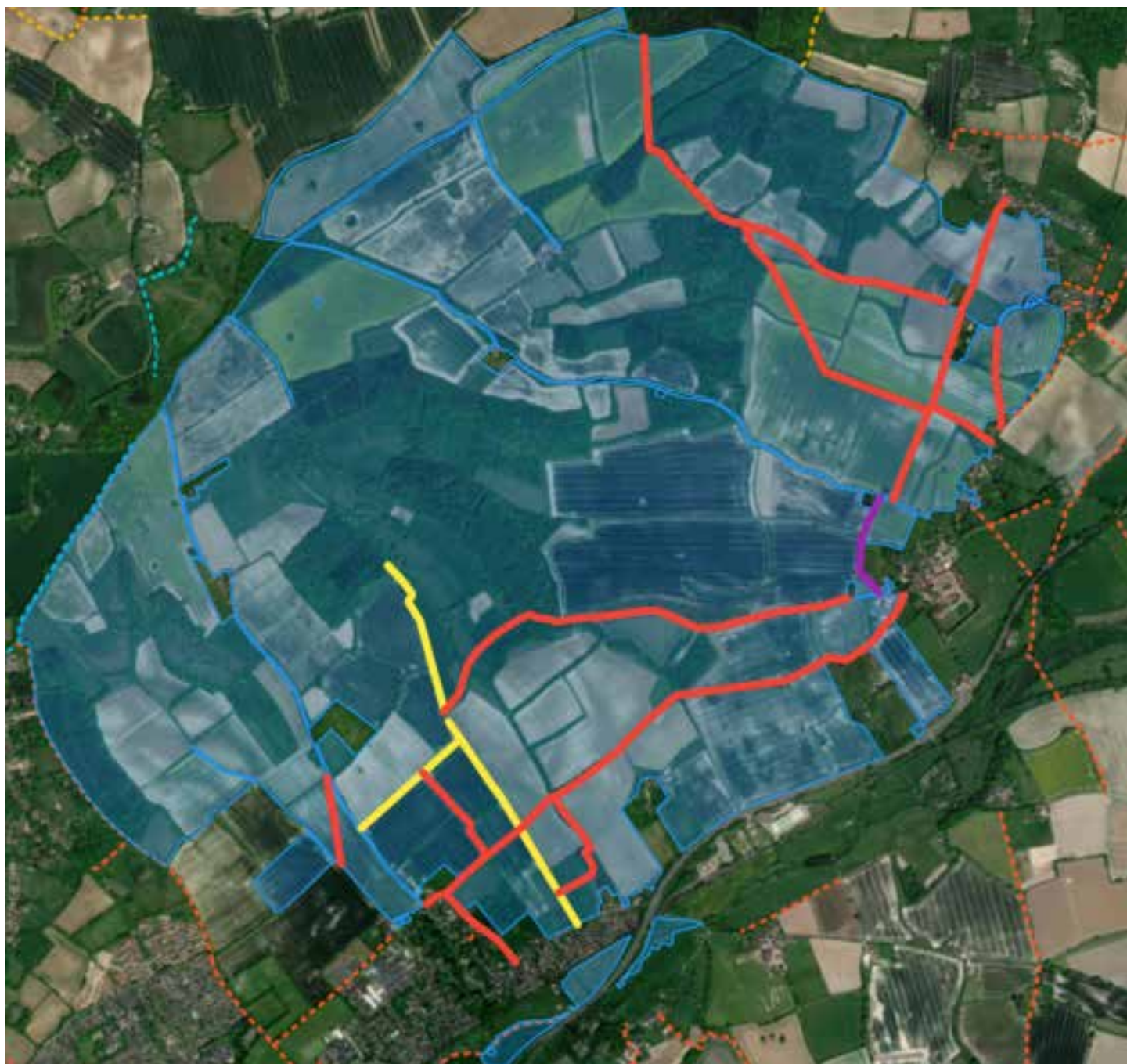
In recent months, there have been a lot of changes going on in the countryside in which we exercise ourselves and our dogs.

I wanted to better understand our neighbours and to set some context, so I contacted Andy Kirby, The Estates

Manager, to see if we could discuss what's going on. Andy agreed to see me, and I interviewed him in his office for around 35 minutes, after which he took me on an extensive tour of the entire estate and its new facilities, explaining in detail the purpose of various land management activities and farming operations.

Prior to this interview, I wrote to him and requested that we specifically exclude the topic of the development proposal, as my objective was to better understand our largest and most consequential neighbour and enable Holybourne residents to have a more informed view of what is happening in the fields and footpaths that we so cherish.

continued...



Froyle Estate showing official footpaths & bridleways

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Down on the Farm: The Froyle Estate continued

Andy greeted me in the Estate office, in the Bonhams Farm Barn, which he shares with the farming and estate team. Andy's been farming parts of this estate for all of his working life of over 36 years, starting as a contract farmer for the Sword family at Yarnhams, then additionally becoming the tenant farmer for Five Heads Farm (near the Church). He also manages another 6,000 acres elsewhere in Hampshire, both as a professional farm manager and as a tenant farmer. Overall, he has operational responsibility for a total of nine farms. Farming is clearly his life and his passion.

A Brief History

Originally, the estate was owned by Bootle Wilbraham and it then passed as the Froyle settled Estate to Mrs Cherida Cannon, before being sold to Redbrown in 2020. The estate is around 3,000 acres, divided into five separate farms: Manor Farm, Five Heads Farm, Yarnhams Farm, West End Farm and Bonhams Farm (see map). Andy explains that smaller farms, particularly when tenanted, don't really have the resources to invest for the long term or to undertake activities which are not crucial to their survival. This means that many of the Estate's farm buildings are from the 1960's, existing facilities and equipment are ageing and not fit for purpose, and the time required to navigate the maze of ever-changing Food Safety regulations and Environmental requirements was becoming unmanageable for a single farmer without the support of specialist staff.

The previous page shows the extent of the Froyle Estate, with official footpaths & bridleways marked (a copy of this map is available on the village website:

www.holybourne.com

Consolidation & Scale

The solution was to create larger scale and so Redbrown has begun the process of consolidating all these smaller farms into one larger operation. A good example of this is the new grain store and drying facility on the hill overlooking Froyle. Not only is this a state of art grain drying and sorting

facility, but it also acts as the core operational hub of the new consolidated farm, with all new farm machinery based there. Andy points out that they have put in over five miles of new internal farm tracks, so that all the large tractors and trailers can reach any part of the estate without the reliance of using public roads. *"Machinery is getting bigger, but the lanes aren't getting any bigger, not to mention my concerns for road safety"* he says.

Footpaths

One consequence of the farm tracks is that farm vehicles can now move swiftly across the estate and this, together with the re introduction of shooting across the Estate, represents a potential Health & Safety problem. Andy's team are working with Hampshire County Council to Waymark the public footpaths to ensure that walkers are kept safe and away from potential risk. The previous permissive footpaths will be withdrawn as they have expired. From Andy's perspective, it has all been a bit haphazard in the past: *"...so the Holybourne side is a warren of little paths that aren't necessarily official footpaths... So, if you're on the footpath, absolutely fine. We know where you are or where you should be. Dogs should be on a lead or under very close control, and then they can't run out in front of the combine or other large farm machinery"*

New footpath signs will be put up to guide walkers over the next year and Andy says *"So every path will be marked. People who are not on the correct path will be asked politely to move back onto a footpath and pointed in the right direction. We want everybody to enjoy the countryside in safety. It's a beautiful place."*

Andy's clear that the investments in farming are very large and for the long term: *"The estate has been bought with a long-term view for multi generations. So, the money that we're spending now ..., we're doing it for the next 50 years... there's (been) little investment since the 60s... so there's a lot going on:"*

continued...



Down on the Farm: The Froyle Estate continued

After the interview, Andy invites me to take a tour of the new facility (called 'Home Farm'), and it is clear that significant investments have been made.

Grain Drying (building pictured on previous page)

Crops are brought here for quality grading, drying and storage. There are plans to install a biomass-fuelled dryer in the future, using wood waste from the estate.

Agrichemicals

The new facilities meet the latest regulatory requirements on drainage and storage to protect the local environment, including a filtration system that prevents chemical pollutants from entering local water sources.

Farm Roads

Nearly all parts of the Estate can now be reached by substantial farm roads, able to take heavy tractors and trailers. A new farm road is planned to link the Brockham Hill end of Whatvere Lane to Howards Lane across a field, to avoid using the road outside the Church.

Hedge Fund

In this context of investment and change I ask the question "What's happening with the Hedgerows?"

Andy explains that many of the hedgerows around Holybourne have not been maintained to the level that would be considered best practice. Although there

Top

Eventually, this view will change to fewer trees and lower, but denser hedgerows

Centre

The gaps in the hedges will be filled with new planting

Lower left

This stump is already showing new growth

Lower right

An example of what to expect in a few years' time.



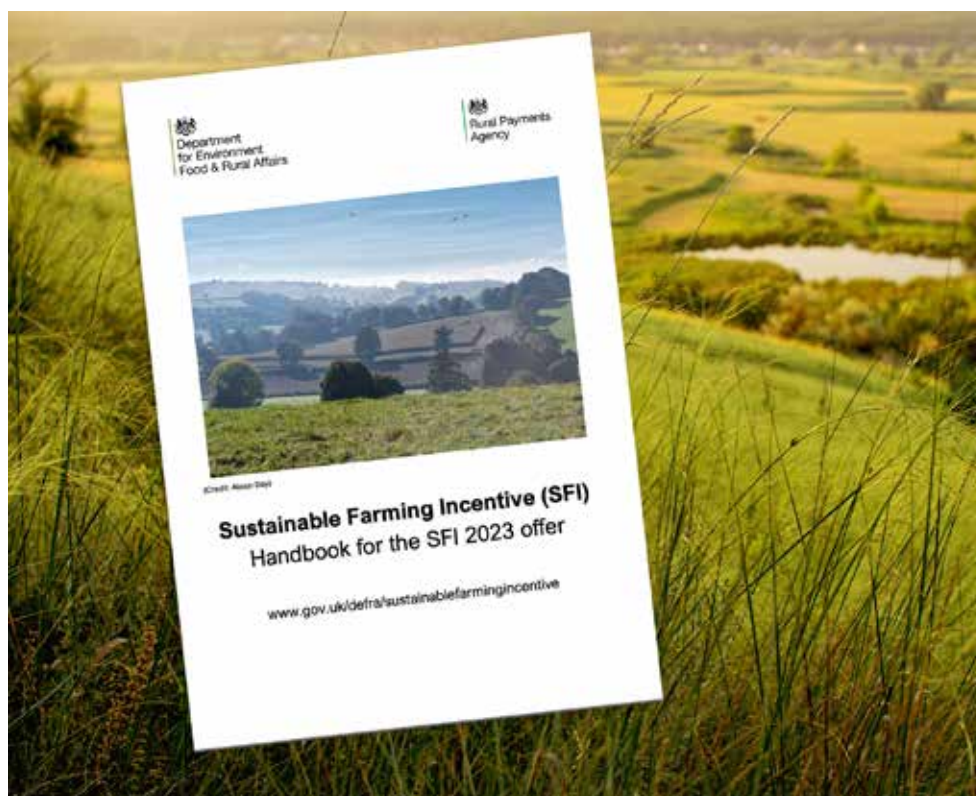
were lots of hedges planted, they still have the plastic spirals at their bases that should be removed after two years, so that the bottom of the hedge then grows sideways, creating a network of branches at ground level. Secondly, if the hedges are regularly pruned then multiple stems will grow, creating a denser body of hedge. At the moment, the hedgerows around Holybourne are mainly spindly hazel which, from a wildlife perspective has very little value. Birds can't securely nest in tall flexible stems and small animals have no cover or protection if the hedges are not at ground level. These tall avenues of hazel also meant that the tracks stayed wet. In addition, the big machinery couldn't get down there. Andy outlines the plan and the level of investment in time and money: *"Basically, we are snipping them off at the bottom, removing all the growth. They will then start to grow again this spring and in the gaps between what had died out and the original hedge, we will replant with new hedging. I think there's about 1,500 metres of new hedge planting and about 9,500 metres of gapping up of hedges to be planted over the next three years"*

I also ask about all the trees that have been cut down and Andy explains there are several reasons for this. Felling the trees in the hedgerows not only removes obstructions to farm traffic but also opens up the field margins to more light, allows space to plant new hedgerow and removes those trees overgrown with ivy that would die within a few years. The Estate will have to fell 186 trees that line the roads tracks and footpaths that are considered dangerous due to ivy or Ash Dieback. Including the forest areas, over 60 acres of Ash will have to be felled due to dieback, and he compares the epidemic to the Dutch Elm Disease of the 1970s, which changed the appearance of the English countryside with the loss of millions of Elm trees. Evidence from Europe suggests that we will lose up to 80% of our ash trees to the disease over the next decade, representing a major environmental and visual loss.

It's clear that the lanes around Holybourne are going to dramatically and permanently change in appearance as this work progresses, losing their overgrown and 'natural' look for a more managed and controlled alternative.

Sustainable Farming Initiative

Andy goes on to explain that a new Government scheme called the Sustainable Farming Initiative (SFI) will also modify the appearance of the land around Holybourne. Not only does the scheme make payments to farmers to plant new and maintain existing hedgerows but also helps to pay for planting crops that are essentially food for wild birds and



pollinators, as they are not harvested. This also supports small animals. In addition, the edges of fields, known as margins, will be planted with wildflowers that support pollen and nectar species to attract insect pollinators. In two or three areas across the Estate, bee hives will also be installed to help crop pollination.

I ask Andy what sort of crops villagers can expect to see in the coming season.

'This spring We'll be growing some maize, and spring barley as well as Legume fallow and wild bird feed and covers. What was drilled in the winter consisted of mainly winter barley and winter wheat. So as the season progresses, we go from drilling the crops to feeding them, spraying to look after it, some weed killer and fungicides will be applied, and then eventually we come to harvest, and hopefully we finish up with a barn full of grain at the end of that'

Finally, the tour ends back at the Estate Office at Bonhams. It has been a very interesting afternoon and Andy has taken significant time to show me the various operations and the whole Estate, and I have learnt a lot. It's clear that both he and the Redbrown team are farming professionals committed to making the Estate a success and that significant long-term investment is being ploughed in. From their viewpoint, changes on the land need to reflect the changes in the way British agriculture is being subsidised and managed by Government. They are also keen to keep the local community informed, so that people understand what is going on and appreciate the risks of freely roaming about an operational farm. From a village perspective, we also need to understand what our largest neighbour is doing and why, as it significantly impacts the reason many of us live here: access to the beautiful countryside.

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Holybourne's Hidden Waters: A Village Shaped by Springs

Our village is blessed with a rich network of springs and streams that not only shape the landscape but have also influenced its history and development over the centuries. These natural water sources feed into the River Wey and have long been an integral part of village life, past and present.

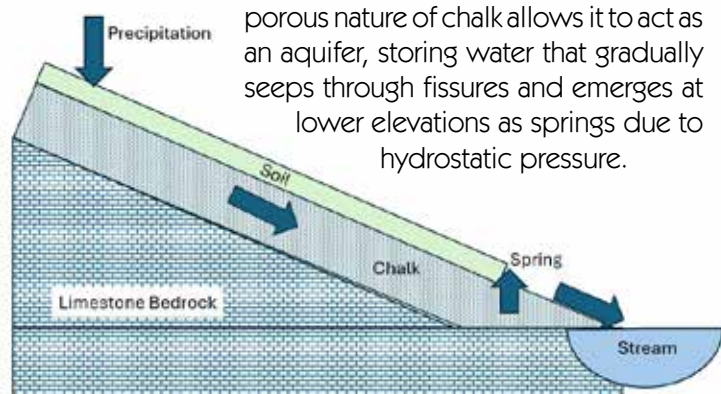
A Journey into the Earth's Past

Bob's fascination with the natural world began in childhood and deepened during his career on oil and gas drilling rigs, mainly in the North Sea. Sharing quarters with geologists provided a unique opportunity to study rock samples brought up from thousands of feet below the seabed—an experience that fostered an appreciation for the deep history beneath our feet.

Andy having cave and cave diving experience, and an interest in anything underground, has pondered for many years about the large water flow that comes into the River Wey via a 36-inch diameter pipe that flows into Lower Neatham Mill.

According to the British Geological Survey, Holybourne sits atop sedimentary bedrock formed between 100.5 and 93.9 million years ago during the Cretaceous period. This foundation is primarily composed of chalk, created by the compression of plankton settling on the seabed when the

area was covered by ancient seas. The porous nature of chalk allows it to act as an aquifer, storing water that gradually seeps through fissures and emerges at lower elevations as springs due to hydrostatic pressure.



Mapping the Springs of Holybourne

Holybourne is home to four main spring-fed streams, which contribute to the River Wey through seven of the ten culverts between Cuckoo's Corner and Anstey Mill Lane. In addition, many smaller lavant (called "winterbourne in Dorset") springs appear and shift location, mainly during periods of heavy rainfall when the ground becomes saturated.

When our Victorian forefathers constructed the railway line in 1852 they understood the flooding hazard that the springs could pose so constructed culverts under the railway embankments to carry the resulting water safely to

the river. Using a railway data sheet listing the bridges and culverts from Tongham Junction to Alton Station, we identified key pathways these streams take. Given that all watercourses must cross the railway before reaching the River Wey, these records provided culvert numbers and distances from Waterloo Station - critical in locating some of the more elusive culverts.



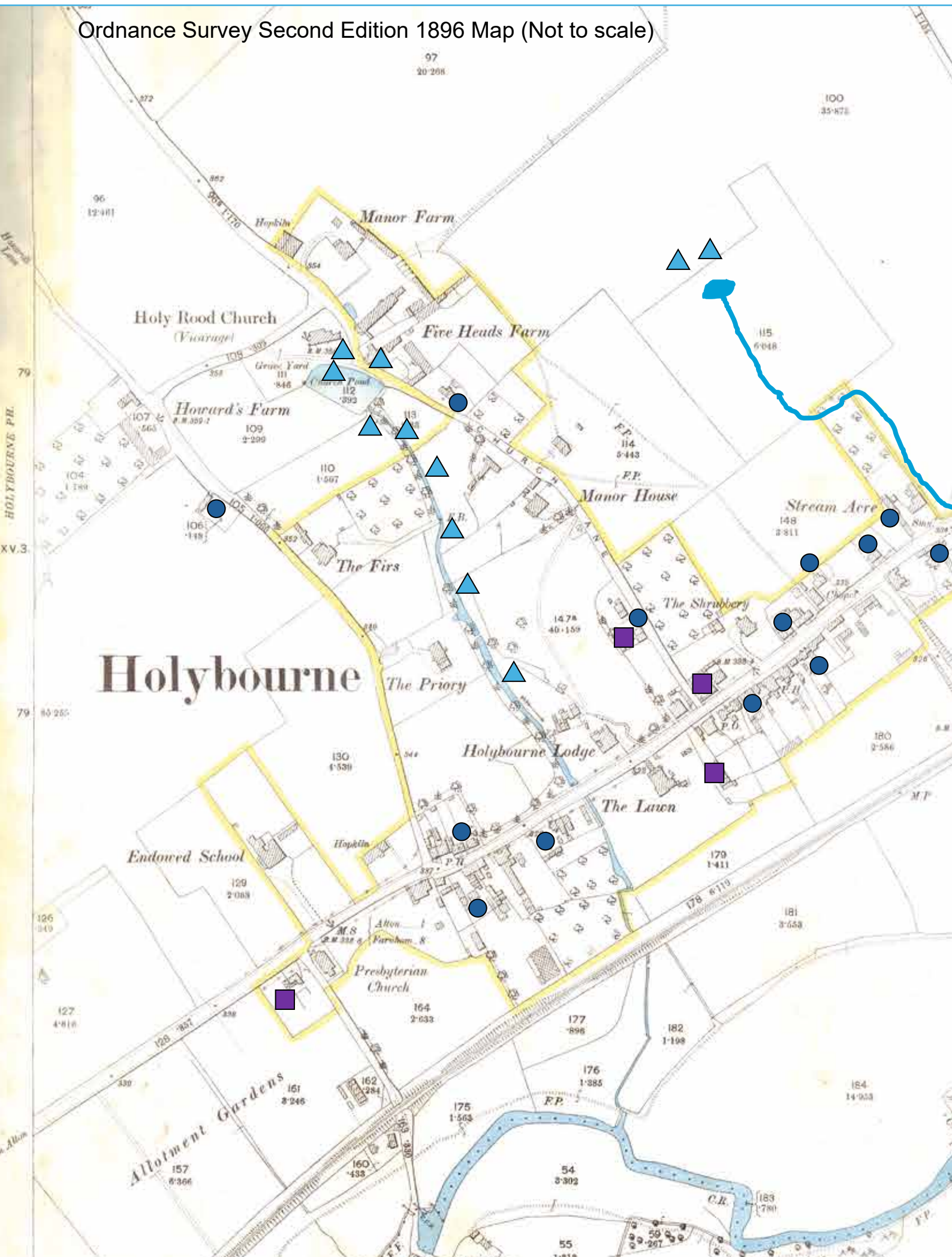
By employing non-toxic dye tracing, an adapted remote-controlled underwater filming unit, with lighting, and cave line markers, we were able to track these streams and ensure their culverts remained unblocked.

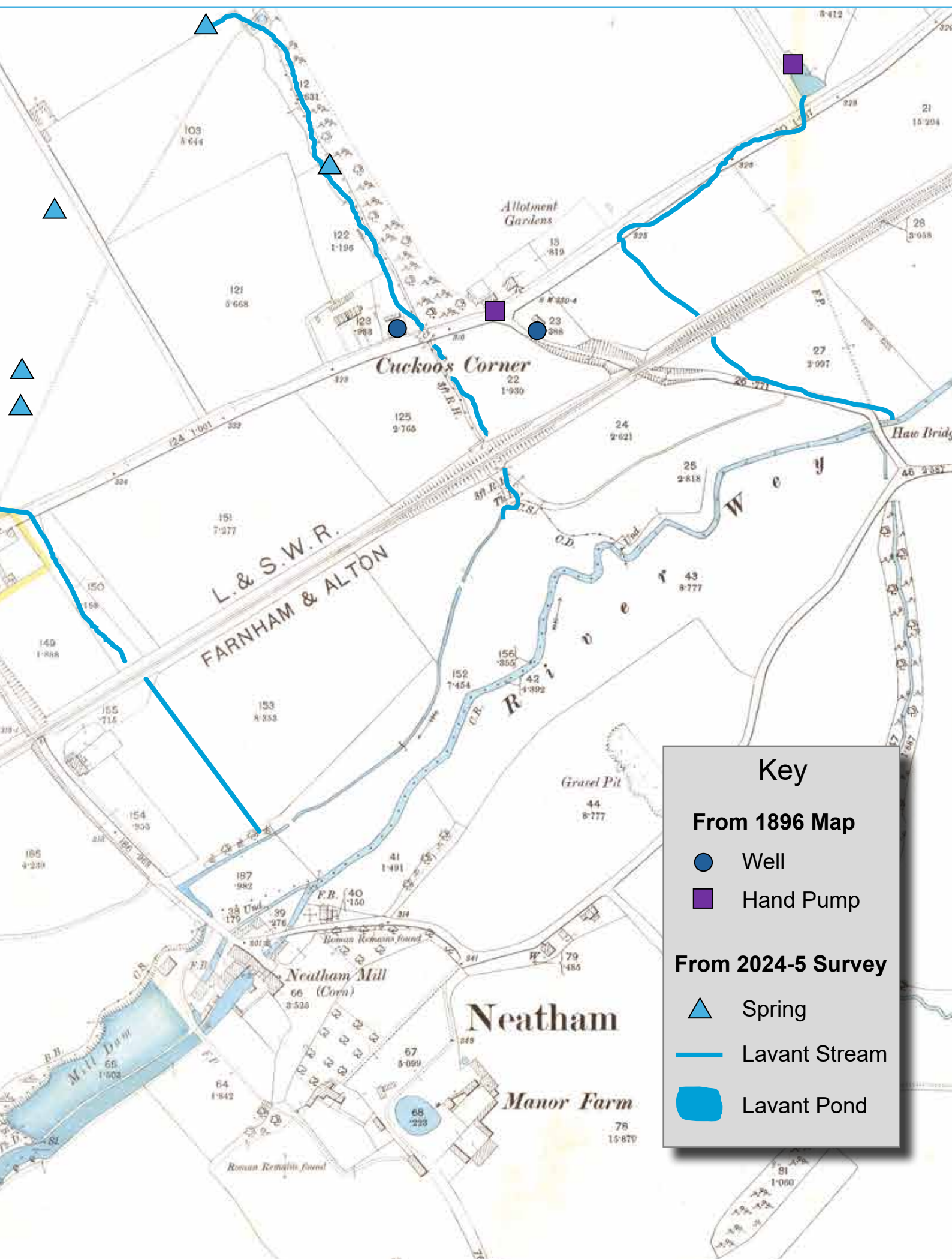
Key Findings

- The Bourne Streamway:** The only stream in Holybourne that flows year-round, it originates from a spring near the pond weir. Additional springs, such as those in gardens close to the Bourne contribute to its flow. It crosses under London Road, meanders through The Lawns garden, and passes beneath the railway via two culverts before joining the River Wey. In the literature, the source for this is the spring "30 yards from the west door of the church" but we have not been able confirm this yet. The discharge from close to and lower than the pond dam issues at a rate of approximately 28 litres per second and at the confluence with the river Wey is 190 litres per second thus picking up discharges from many springs in gardens along Church Lane.
- Stream Acre Field:** This area hosts multiple small springs and one significant lavant spring, visible even in satellite imagery. The field acts as a natural sponge, regulating the flow before the water passes through gardens at the Old Forge. It remains on the surface for over 200 metres before going underground, reemerging south of the railway at culvert 20/42D, before continuing towards the River Wey at Lower Neatham Mill. The flow can be as much as 74 litres/second but generally in the winter a steady 8 litres per second.
- The Cricket Club Streamway:** Another substantial lavant stream originates beyond the cricket club. It crosses London Road and Bonhams Close before entering the railway culvert 20/42/AX. Emerging briefly beside the A31 embankment, it runs for 150 metres before submerging again, resurfacing 230 metres later to join the River Wey at Lower Neatham Mill.

continued...

Ordnance Survey Second Edition 1896 Map (Not to scale)





Key

From 1896 Map

- Well
- Hand Pump

From 2024-5 Survey

- ▲ Spring
- Lavant Stream
- Lavant Pond

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Holybourne's Hidden Waters... continued

Key Findings continued

- **Bonhams House Lavant Stream:** This stream originates near Bonhams House drive and flows into a manhole by the entrance gates. Likely fed by an old spring and pond that has since been farmed over, it travels underground beneath the A31 and railway via culvert 20/4/A. Surfacing for 70 metres along a field, it then reappears at Haw Bridge, where it enters the River Wey from the north side.

The Church and the Springs

A significant spring is believed to exist beneath the altar of the Church of the Holy Rood, flowing into the adjacent pond. Interestingly, the primary spring feeding the river emerges from the south side of this pond at a level lower than the pond floor. This led us to wonder whether the movement of water through the chalk aquifer could undermine the church's foundations. However, given that the church has stood since the 12th century, it is clear that the structure is well supported. Though damp conditions may be present, calculations confirm that the chalk can support both the church and its tower.

The Impact of Development

Long-time resident Tom Hamm, who has lived in Holybourne since 1928, recalls ditches alongside Upper and Lower Neatham railway bridges. These have since been replaced by underground pipes, effectively turning the bridges into large culverts. This likely contributes to flooding at Lower Neatham (bridge 20/43) and at the footpath junction near Neatham Upper Mill, where additional small streams join the river.

From our observations—though I must stress we have no formal training—it is clear that any proposal to develop the field behind Stream Acre Field, where a key lavant spring rises, would be detrimental. The field plays a crucial role in controlling water flow, and any construction that reduces its absorption capacity could increase flood risks elsewhere in Holybourne.

Sacred Waters of the Past

Wherever fresh, clean water is found, human settlement follows. It is easy to imagine that the presence of abundant water and fertile land drew our ancestors here long before recorded history. In both pagan and early Christian times, springs were often regarded as sacred, believed to possess healing properties.

Local folklore suggests that the spring beneath our church altar once had eye-healing properties, although some believe this legend may be linked to the elusive "Goswell Spring," marked on early maps but yet to be definitively located.

Archaeological discoveries confirm that Holybourne was a place of human activity dating back thousands of years. Flint tools and axes found in the area, now housed in the Willis Museum in Basingstoke and collected by local historian

Jane Hurst, point to a transition from a Mesolithic hunter-gatherer lifestyle to Neolithic agriculture. Our village's connection with water has, without a doubt, played a vital role in its long and fascinating history.

Acknowledgements and Future Work

We are grateful to, John Bound for his support with dye tracing, and the many residents who kindly allowed us access to their land or shared their stories. Special thanks go to Jane Hurst for providing historical maps and invaluable local knowledge.

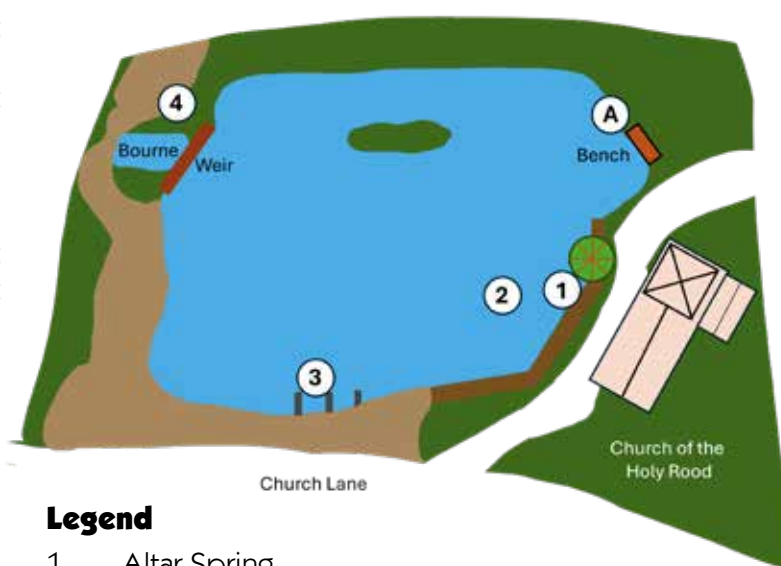
As we continue to study and map these historic springs and streams, we gain not only a deeper understanding of our village's past but also an appreciation for the forces of nature that continue to shape our home today.

Andy Hankin & Bob Page

Holybourne Pond A Hidden Spring Revealed

Andy Hankin's surveys suggest that the pond is fed by several springs, one from the edge of the pond, which we believe emerges under the altar, one or two from Church Cottage (which is now piped to the pond under the road) and a significant 'hidden spring' in the centre of pond. This was recently discovered by Andy this February. Using an underwater filming unit, capturing compelling video of the clear water emerging from the bed of the pond, something never seen before. (see photo over the page and on the magazine cover).

continued...



Legend

- 1 Altar Spring
- 2 Hidden Spring
- 3 Church Cottage spring water outlets
- 4 Head Spring
- A Road run-off drain

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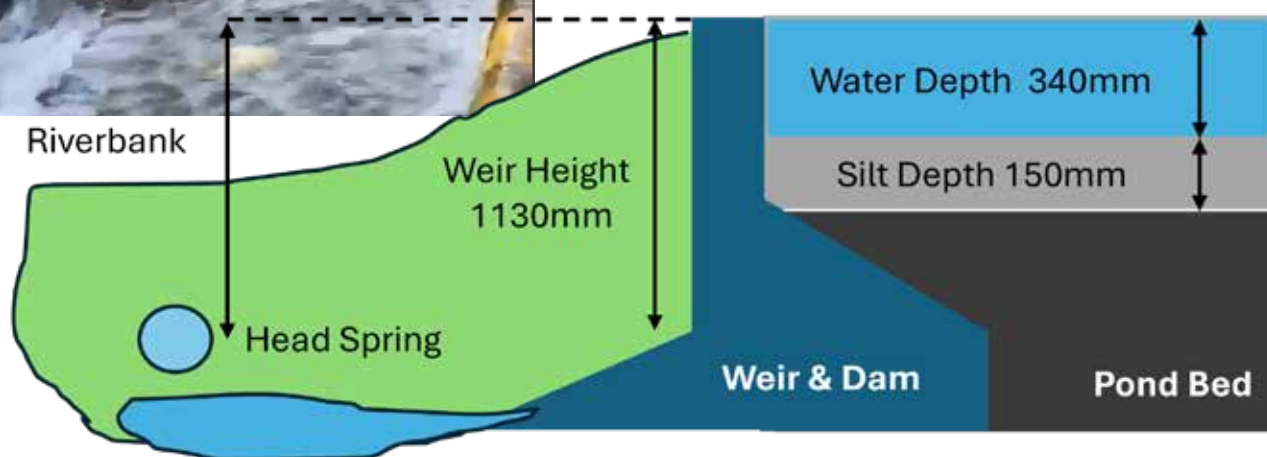
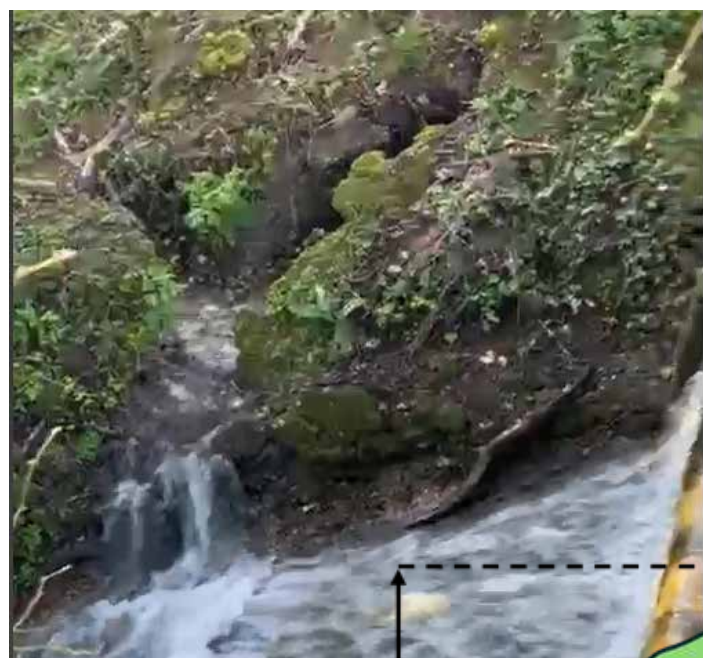
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Holybourne Pond: A Hidden Spring Revealed continued

The True Source of the Bourne?

In addition, Andy has proved that there is a separate major spring that emerges next to the western side of the weir, with such a strong flow rate that it could be the principal source of the Bourne (the 'Head Spring'). Although it looks like this water is flowing from a leak in the pond weir, the flow rate would empty the pond in around eight hours. Bob's calculations estimate the pond's volume at 750,000 litres and the flow rate of the spring at 28 litres/second (over 100,000 litres/hour). In addition, this water is clear, unlike the turbid waters of the pond which often contain silt from surface water run-off from the surrounding fields and roads. Video survey of the pond floor also cannot find evidence of any large leak that would support such a flow rate, so this is a separate and substantial spring. This is why the Bourne still flows during the summer, when the pond is not flowing over the weir.

Further downstream, more ground springs along the banks and riverbed add to the Bourne's flow, and survey measurements and calculations by Andy and Bob indicate that the water volume of the Bourne is **seven times** larger (with a flow rate of 190l/s) by the time it enters the River Wey, just 640 metres downstream from the head spring.



Top: The 'hidden spring' viewed from the side of the Church Pond

Above: The 'Church Cottage spring' water outlets seen from underwater – the orange blob on the right in this video capture is the Koi Carp that was released into the pond a few months ago.

Left: The Bourne head spring, as indicated on diagram below



What's on at Treloar's



Friends of Treloar's Plant Sale, Treloar's Saturday 10 May

Spruce up your garden this springtime. Browse a wide range of quality plants grown by students at Treloar's.



Charity Golf Day, Old Thorns Wednesday 4 June

We're back at Old Thorns for another day on the greens! Begin your day with breakfast before taking on the Par 72 course. Reward yourself with a two-course carvery dinner followed by prizes, auctions and more!



The Lady Mayoress's Bottomless Brunch, Mansion House, London Tuesday 8 July

Join The Lady Mayoress, Florence King, for a brunch like no other! You'll enjoy a glass of fizz on arrival, a delicious brunch and plenty of fun in our auctions, raffle and fundraising games.



Summer Skydive, Salisbury Saturday 19 July

Don't miss the experience of a lifetime! Take to the skies for our students with a breathtaking skydive.



The Dummer Fair, Basingstoke Wednesday 8 and Thursday 9 October

Featuring over 90 stalls, and attended by more than 1,000 visitors, our annual fair is perfect for early Christmas shopping or a treat for yourself.



Beyond the Frame: An immersive art experience with Luxmuralis, Mansion House, London Friday 21 November

Prepare to see Mansion House in a whole new light as we collaborate with the creators of Luxmuralis! Join us for a captivating, immersive evening where light, sound, architecture and the creativity of our students come together in a mesmerising display of art.



Christmas Fair, Treloar's Friday 12 December

Join us for festive fun at our annual Christmas Fair! Shop from a selection of student-made gifts, enter our popular hamper raffle, enjoy tasty treats and support our students.

Electric Cars

The biggest misinformation target since you were told sprouts were good for you

We have now owned and driven an electric vehicle for the last three years. The car industry and ill-informed public influencers (often sponsored by the car industry) have mounted an incredible campaign against electric vehicles which sadly, has taken in a large number of people. Let's be clear, Electric vehicles are clean, safe and an infinitely better

option than ICE (Internal Combustion Engines) with respect to environmental damage. Let's take a look and evaluate some of the false statements that ICE supporters have been fond of spreading for the last decade.

"EVs generate a huge amount of CO₂ in the manufacture of their batteries."

Not true. It takes about two years for EVs to repay the carbon debt of battery manufacture. ICE vehicles go on contributing to CO₂ throughout their lives and EV associated emissions are about three times lower than ICE vehicles.

"EV batteries are unstable and prone to failure."

False. Most EV manufacturers guarantee their batteries for at least eight years and Tesla tell us that their batteries will outlast the life of their cars.

"Electric vehicle batteries cannot be recycled."

False. All the major EV manufacturers now recover and recycle batteries from their vehicles and indeed this is a legal requirement in the EU for them to do so.

"EVs simply replace vehicle emissions with emissions from electricity generating power stations."

Not true. The UK is producing a greater proportion of its power from renewable sources; wind, solar, waves etc. The power generated by coal fired power stations continues to fall. As of April 2024, just over half of the UK's electricity came from renewable sources. If your electricity supplier is Octopus, 100% of your power comes from renewable resources. This figure is going to increase as the number of renewable generating facilities come on line. The Government has removed the embargo on Wind turbines that the previous government imposed.

"Electric vehicles alone cannot solve climate change."

True. Surely we all recognise that other components promoting climate change must also be addressed? The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change argues that "Widespread electrification of the transport sector is likely



to be crucial for reducing transport emissions." If we accept any responsibility for the health and wellbeing of future generations, then ICE vehicles have to go.

"Electric vehicles are dangerous and catch fire all the time"

Totally and absolutely false. This is a certain Top Gear presenter's imbecility. The evidence, not hearsay from the bloke down at the pub, actually tells us that in Norway where a fifth of all cars are EVs, ICE cars catch fire five or six times more often than EVs. Additionally, if the fuel source of an ICE car catches fire, it explodes and you are unlikely to survive that. If an EV fuel source catches fire, you have time to get out, get your children out and walk away. And no, EVs don't burn for three days if they catch fire.

"Hydrogen vehicles are a better alternative to EVs."


Not true. A lifecycle analysis for the UK government, (https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1062603/lifecycle-analysis-of-UK-road-vehicles.pdf) found that EVs are "much more efficient" than hydrogen cars, using only a third of the energy. It also said lifecycle emissions from hydrogen cars would be 60-70% higher than EVs, even assuming that the hydrogen was from low-carbon sources.

"Electric vehicles are impractical for long journeys."

False. I have driven our electric car to the French Alps, getting on for a thousand miles each way without any major issues. We drive between twelve and fifteen thousand miles a year (depending on child care demands) and make use of public charging facilities when not at home. We are fortunate enough to have solar panels on our house roof which means we drive on sunshine throughout the summer and enjoy the contribution they make for the rest of the year. I know not everyone can do this but how many of you have a petrol refuelling station at the end of your drive? The charging infrastructure is improving all the time and with new EVs having a single charge range of between three

continued...

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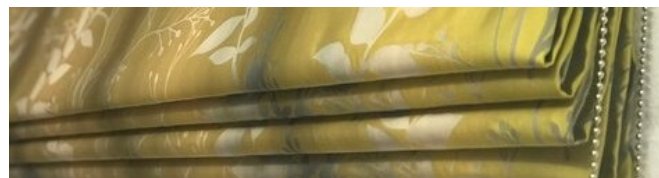
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Electric Cars continued

and four hundred miles, the “range anxiety” need not worry you. How many of us have to drive more than 400 miles in day on a regular basis? Toyota are releasing new vehicles in 2026 that offer a range that rivals ICE vehicles with a charging time of under twenty minutes due to development in solid state batteries. Not only are the batteries more efficient, they are cheaper too.

“Electric cars are hugely expensive compared to ICE cars.”

False. Do the maths. Fuel costs in EV are lower than ICE cars as electricity is cheaper than fossil fuels. Maintenance costs are much cheaper on EVs, no oil to change, brake pads can last up to a hundred thousand miles as braking is rarely used if driven sensibly. Our last full service cost £80! Up until now, EVs paid no road tax but that has now changed (quite right, they wear out the roads too). Depreciation on EVs is slower than on ICE cars because there is a smaller second hand pool but that is obviously going to change. The £10,000 you lose as you drive your brand new ICE vehicle off a garage forecourt does not apply to EVs which sustain their value for longer.

“Electric vehicles are hugely more efficient than ICE vehicles.”

True. This for me, is the most compelling reason for ditching ICE vehicles. Do you know that a typical ICE car loses up to 80% of its energy due to various inefficiencies? Ever tried to touch an engine component after a journey? Don't! It will be blistering hot. Ever wondered where that heat comes from? Your fuel tank. Now do the same with an EV. Stone cold. No energy is expended due to heat loss. An ICE vehicle uses up to 80% of its fuel doing things you don't need it to. An EV loses about 11%!

I accept that most people in Holybourne do not drive an electric car. I know that for many, for practical or financial reasons, solar panels are not a viable option. I know how lucky we are. However, if you can overcome the tabloid Press's rabid bias against EVs, then please, do your own research. Car manufacturers are putting huge pressure on the government to delay the embargo on ICE vehicle manufacture which is due to take effect in 2035. It would be an attack on the health and well-being of future generations if they bow to this pressure. Living opposite Andrews Endowed School and having to suffer the exhaust from thoughtless parents who keep their engines running while waiting to collect offspring demonstrates so clearly the dangers from polluting vehicles. Don't just take my word for it, do your own research from reputable sources. And if I sound evangelical about EVs, it's because I am. They have to be the future.

(Oh and for the boy racers out there, take a look at this. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=upJ7jSUoRwo>)

Jerry Janes

Church Coffee mornings



Whether regular churchgoer or not, all are welcome at our weekly coffee mornings in the beautiful Church of the Holy Rood.

These are every Wednesday between 10am and Midday, with coffee, pastries and good company. So, if you fancy a taste of café society and good chat, come on in – we'd love to see you!

EHDC Councillor grants

East Hampshire District Council (EHDC) has for several years been providing grants to District Councillor to enable them to support community projects. Starting in April this year EHDC will increase these grants to £7,000 per Councillor per year. The maximum grant that can be given to any project is £1,000 and the grant funding has to be spent by April 2026.

For example in previous years I have supported many community projects such as :

- Holybourne theatre: new lighting, defibrillator
- Holybourne cricket club: lawnmower
- Holybourne church: heating system and computer monitor
- Dementia Friendly Alton: social events
- Alton Men's shed: thermal insulation
- Andrews' Endowed School: reading shelters
- Treloar College: “Neater Eater” system

If you have any community projects that you would like me to support then please contact me by email or telephone for an initial discussion.

Cllr Graham Hill , EHDC Councillor, Holybourne Ward
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SCAN ME



Porridge anyone?

Let me take you back to the halcyon days of business in the 1980s. Maggie Thatcher was in full flow championing home ownership and encouraging us all to become entrepreneurs. This was the era of the free market with minimal interference by the State. Here was the stimulation for individuals to start a new business. "Yes," I thought, "that's for me!" I could see a prosperous future ahead, with myself as the director, buying and selling houses and eventually holding a significant property portfolio.

London. Yes! That's the place to make serious money! I couldn't wait to get started; to throw the dice and see if I could make a million or two in the City. Look out you financiers "I'm a-coming!"

In a short space of time, with careful negotiation, I did a couple of purchases for relatively small sums and was feeling very pleased with my start. The master plan was up and running and this was going to be a walk in the park. Wouldn't Maggie be pleased with me!

But then, would you believe it, Catastrophe! Just when I was getting on my feet and looking to make my third 'free enterprise' trade, everything went horribly wrong. This was a complete shock. It would appear that one of my two purchases was a dodgy deal, perhaps involving laundered money, though I knew nothing about that. What I did know was that I ended up in prison! Me, of all people, in Clink! This cannot be right! I am totally innocent!

I've always loved the great outdoors, the feeling of the air rushing past my face as I cycle along, seeing only the clear sky with no constraints on what I did or when I did it. Now, all the future holds is four stark and dank walls with a door that doesn't have a handle on the inside.

All of a sudden, in jail, I am totally impotent to put my business strategies into action! It's not as if I've been coveting my neighbour's ox or my neighbour's ass, or even borrowing his lawn-mower without giving it back! This is just not fair! I'm sure I've done nothing fraudulent!

Where is the justice? Surely this is a nightmare and I'll wake up soon. But when I pinch myself very hard, "Ow," I realise I'm not asleep and I am indeed doing "porridge" – and it is very lumpy porridge at that!

I'm sorry but I am not going to be enrolling in woodwork classes or make-your-own-jewellery sessions. I don't like it here and I don't want to be taking part in any of your do-me-good schemes, thank you! I still can't believe that this upstanding, even noble, sometime property developer, has ended up in this SINK!

And worst of all, stuck in here, I am missing you, my love. You, my beautiful butterfly, out there free to flit around the bye-ways of London wherever you will – flashing those gorgeous sparkling eyes at others, throwing your head back

in laughter in that delightful way of yours. Flicking back that kiss-curl in your inimitable style! Even with your teeth in braces, my darling, when you smile it's like the sun coming up over a scrap yard. Oh, I love every centimetre of you! "Shall I compere thee to a summer's day? Thou art more lovely and more temperate".

And you. Are you thinking of me as I think of you? Me, imprisoned, trapped like a caged animal. Of course, they can imprison my body, but nobody can confine my soul. In my mind I am as free as a bird. I can walk with you, hand in hand, along the golden sands of a tropical island, swim with you in a turquoise sea, roll down a snow covered hill with my arms wrapped around you, laughing as we go, and dance! Oh how we dance together! What a couple we make!

As I lie on this bench, Whitney Houston comes to mind:

"Oh, I wanna dance with somebody
I wanna feel the heat with somebody
Yeah, I wanna dance with somebody
With somebody who loves me"

Oh! That you were here to make me feel better – surely, you'll soon visit me here in my cell when next you pass this way. You do love me don't you? You'd never double cross me, would you?

I have to say I'm haunted by the sound of your cruel laughter when after I left Regent Street I took my Chance – and drew that fateful card "Go to jail. DO NOT PASS GO. Do not collect £200" And you LAUGHED! Laughed about my predicament and my misfortune. How hurtful that was! How heart breaking!

Now, here I am trapped in this hell hole and all I need is Lady Luck to change my fortune. Please! Lady Luck, give me a double next time I roll the dice. ANY double, that's all I ask! One double and I'm out of here.

Yes, I know that all I own is the Waterworks and the flea-bitten Angel Pub in Islington, whilst you have rows of houses all over the place as well as a string of hotels in Pall Mall and Mayfair.

All the time I have been here, held against my wishes, you have been out there in London streets making deals and earning a fortune. Now, you are rich and I am destitute.

What is that you say? You have a 'Get out of Jail Card'? For how many rounds have you had that? Really? That many! And now, I can't believe it, you are offering to sell me, SELL me, that card! How much are you asking? HOW MUCH?!

Thanks but no thanks. I'd rather stay in jail, as miserable as it is! In my soul I can hear the Three Degrees' Sheila Ferguson singing:

When will I see you again?
When will we share precious moments?
Are we in love or just friends?
Is this the beginning or is this the end?

I have to say, my Darling, there are days when I wonder what I saw in you in the first place. And today is, definitely, one of those days!

Jailbird M.O. N'opoly. M.Litt, MPhil, PGDip, OMG





Old soldiers never die... they walk in the countryside

Our beautiful countryside is not only for the locals to treasure the walks around our chalk downlands and pathways from Holybourne

The day before the event, a past colleague, Spike called me to enquire if I was aware that Aldershot Branch of the Airborne Forces Walking Group were scheduled to start and finish their weekly walk from the White Hart the following day? I wasn't. Although Spike, like others, lives further afield and now semi-retired, he enjoys joining former colleagues to bond and share collective experiences and memories. As our keynote speaker for our last Remembrance Service in November, the White Hart struck a chord to Spike, hence the call.

On the appointed chilly morning, a group of around twenty retired 'old and bold' of all ages and abilities assembled to stretch their legs, recant stories and eventually enjoy a pie-and-a-pint at the given hostelry of the week. One of the potential pleasures of 'working from home' sometimes means work commitments can be adjusted, provided one delivers the desired outcome. Regrettably, on this occasion, I was engaged in calls and meetings between Amsterdam and New York, so sadly I could not join the ramble, but I was able to slip out and greet the assembling crowd at the White Hart. I knew a number from my Service, a few Colonels (who had joined as boy-soldiers), a retired judge and one of the two Guinness World Record holders who conducted the 'Grandads who rowed the Atlantic', pre-COVID.

After a short (military) briefing about the route, they tabbed-off up past the Church to 'capture' Brockham Hill. Although the day was cold and dry, their walk came on the back of the few weeks of solid rain we had. Hence, on the tracks and paths towards Froyle they endured the familiar mud and tough going familiar to all walkers and the dog-walking fraternity at this time of the year. Never mind their ages, being of strong stock, their 'never say die' attitudes came to the fore as they assaulted Brockham Hill (or was that capturing Mount Longdon once again) to secure their objective. *Other battle honours can be substituted!

Ten or so kilometres later, they returned to lunch at the White Hart, happily exhausted by their day in the country. They had seen our resident Red Kites, some deer fleeing away and met the farmer, who sought to discuss land management with the lads. Worse of all I also missed the lunch, but Holybourne's surroundings received high praise and kudos for such a lovely part of the world and sympathy at the threat of the housing development plans.

Still, now I am aware of the weekly walks; I can now source my time. Like the song Eton Rifles, I gather it is Old Basing next week. Thank you Thanasi, having secured their objective, the 'Old and Bold' regrouped and planned further offensives, proving the adage that old soldiers never die! Utrinque Paratus.

Adrian Stratta



Holybourne Cricket Club



Come and celebrate the opening of our new artificial wicket

As reported in the Winter Edition, we're delighted that a new artificial wicket has been installed, thanks to the amazing fundraising from our local community and grant from East Hampshire District Council.

We really couldn't have done this without you, so please do come and celebrate at our opening ceremony on Friday 25th April 2025, from 6pm to coincide with the first 'Summer' training evening for our youth teams. Bar and BBQ open. Hosting and welcoming the Current and Future Chairs of East Hampshire District Council.

All Stars for five-year-olds returning to Holybourne CC this May – can you help?

After the success of last year's All Stars cricket sessions, we're delighted to confirm we will be running this again. It's perfect for five-to-eight-year-olds who would love to start learning to play cricket, but who are not yet ready to join an official team. Please look out on our website and social channels for the exact start date and how to sign up.

We'd love a couple more 'Activators' - volunteers to help from 5pm for 45 minutes each Friday.

If you can help, please contact Youth Manager, Tom Ellis, colts@hollybournecc.com

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, please get in touch with our Youth Manager, Tom Ellis, colts@hollybournecc.com

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, we're keen to expand our 1st X1 this 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 hollybournecc@hollybournecc.com.

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