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From the Editor

Community Spirit

The way our community has recently come together to discuss, consider and respond to the large-scale development proposal by Redbrown has been fantastic. Over 500 objections were posted online or emailed to East Hampshire District Council, nearly all of which contained detailed, well-structured arguments against the scale of the current proposal. The tone of them all was restrained and well informed. It was a great example of our underlying community spirit rising to the surface when required. These are the moments when our identity as a village is at its most visible, but it is always there in the background, evidenced by the thriving village clubs and organisations, and the daily kindnesses and support offered by neighbours – both physically and on our digital support channel. A special place indeed.

Spring Issue

Our last issue contained a feature on Holybourne's springs and their relationship to the village pond. The article generated a great deal of interest around the village, along with a number of questions about how the information was gathered. In response, this issue contains an article describing how Andy Hankin, over a period of eighteen months, physically surveyed the network of streams and surface water drainage systems that lie beneath the village. Together with Bob Page's analysis, the information created has led to a much better understanding of our local landscape.

Hart-Felt Thanks

It's my belief that a walk in the country on a fine summer's day should be rounded off with an excellent pint or a glass of chilled wine. I'm clearly not alone in this thinking as, during one of our finest summers in years, the White Hart has been busier than ever. It's also better than it's ever been, thanks to Thanasi & Steph and their excellent 'front of house' team of Jane, Mike, Cullem, Mae, Rae, Theo, Abi, Olivia and Gabby. So, as you relax in the summer sun with your favourite tippie, spare a thought for the hard-working professionals behind the bar and in the kitchen who ensure that you remain refreshed, relaxed and content. A village pub is a precious asset – as is the Village Shop (thanks Sid), and they – and the people that run them - are key parts of what makes this such a wonderful place to live.

John Bound editor@holybourne.com

Copy Date for next issue

Friday 31st October 2025

Cover Photo

Holybourne Cricket Club Colts team members

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Village Hall News

Fundraising Quiz Update

A huge thank-you to everyone who joined us for our Spring fundraising quiz on Saturday, 22nd March! Thanks to your wonderful support, we raised an impressive £620.58—an achievement we're thrilled to be able to share now that the final accounts are in (the total wasn't available at the deadline for copy for the last issue of this magazine). We're already looking ahead to our next quiz, planned for Spring 2026, and delighted that a couple of enthusiastic volunteers have stepped up to write the questions.

Village Hall Working Party

In late April, a cheerful Saturday morning saw a fantastic working party at the Village Hall. For those who may prefer to contribute time instead of money, these gatherings are a brilliant way to help out. Just an hour or two makes a big difference and doesn't require any special skills. Huge thanks to Lis for her diligent weeding, and to Sid from Holybourne Shop and Post Office for generously donating coffee and milk to fuel the team. If you haven't been to one yet, we'd love to see you next time—it's friendly, flexible, and fun. Come and meet our warm and welcoming trustees. You might even feel inspired to join us!

Village Hall AGM – May 20th

Our Annual General Meeting in May saw a small turnout, with only our current trustees present. The Village Hall is a precious community asset — maybe it doesn't grab the imagination like the proposed housing development, but how much poorer would Holybourne be without it? We hope the low attendance means people are happy

with the way things are being managed, but we'd still love fresh voices and ideas. The UK Charity Commission suggests rotating trustees every three years, yet one trustee has proudly served for 22 years, and three others for 17. With over a thousand residents in Holybourne, we know there's plenty of talent out there waiting to be discovered. The trustees were re-elected 'en bloc', with Michelle Reid taking over as secretary from Andy Muir. If you have any thoughts on how we can boost community involvement then we'd be thrilled to hear it!

Enhancements to Village Hall Security

In May, our friends at Holybourne Village Pre-School funded a new fence to replace the temporary orange netting in front of the Hall during Pre-School sessions —creating a safer - and more attractive - space for children.

CCTV System Installed

On the last Tuesday in July, several trustees came together to install a two-camera CCTV system on the Church Lane exterior of the Village Hall. It's designed to deter vandalism, like broken windows, and theft, and we hope it will also discourage people from misusing the Hall's bins. The system is focused solely on the Hall's premises, with Church Lane areas purposely excluded. Clear signage is in place, regular user groups have been notified, and our CCTV and Data Protection Policies are being updated and will be reviewed at our next trustees' meeting. Importantly, the system is motion-activated during the night only—no daytime recording takes place.

Please Share Your Ideas!

As always, your Village Hall trustees welcome suggestions to help improve this vital community space. Got an idea? Please send it to ideas@h-v-h.co.uk. We appreciate all constructive feedback!

Ben Kemp, Trustee



'Unplughthewood' ukulele group performing at the Village Hall in Sept 2019 - we need more photos of activities in the hall please



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Vindomis/Neatham Roman History on Our Doorstep

Holybourne's official objections to the recent planning application by Redbrown, threw a spotlight onto one of southern Britain's lesser-known yet archaeologically rich Roman settlements - the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Cuckoos Corner. Most villagers know that there are important Roman remains beneath the village Sports & Cricket field, stretching down to Neatham and the River Wey, but probably not much else. This article aims to give a brief overview of the scope of the remains, their origin and history

Identified by many scholars as Vindomis, this site once held a strategic position at the crossroads of two important roads. Today, its buried remains tell a story of commerce, infrastructure, belief systems, and a shifting social landscape from Roman Britain to the Saxon age, when it became known as Neatham.

Historical Background

Roman administration in Britain lasted about 370 years – the same length of time as between now and the end of the English Civil Wars in 1651. It was a complex era of frequent change, which spanned the reigns of more than 80 emperors and saw periods of peace, prosperity and expansion, as well as times of raids, war, fear and recession. It began in AD 43 when the Emperor Claudius sent an army to quell the growing power of the Catuvellauni tribe in southern England. Landing at Richborough on the eastern Kent coast, the Roman army rapidly established control. Within five years it had a firm grip in the South and East, with a broad frontier zone heading north-east from Exeter to the Humber.



For the next few hundred and fifty years, the Romans (and the old tribal chieftains) in the occupied areas prospered before instability and power struggles within the Empire led to the gradual withdrawal of Roman governance

Vindomis/Neatham's roots reach back to the late 1st century AD, during the early part of the Roman occupation of Britain. The name "Vindomis" appears in the Antonine Itinerary (an early Roman road atlas), hinting at the site's official role in the imperial road network, serving both as a waystation for travellers and a regional market centre.

Its decline coincided with the broader withdrawal of Roman administration from Britain, eventually giving rise to a Saxon community whose name, Neatham, likely derives from "neat-ham," meaning cattle settlement.

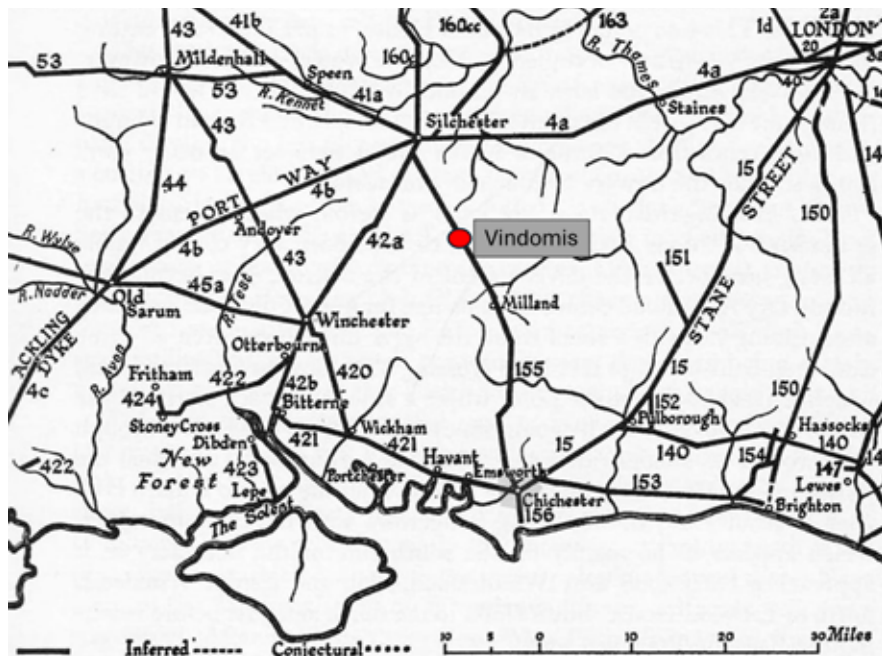
Location

The Roman site occupied a key location at the junction of two significant roads:

The first is the north-south road from Silchester (Calleva Atrebatum) (west of Basingstoke) to the important port of Chichester (Noviomagus Reginorum). Part of this road runs under today's cricket field (New Lane to the west of the field is not the Roman road).

The second is the east-west road linking London to Winchester. However, there is no evidence of a Roman road directly linking Vindomis/Neatham with Winchester, but there is evidence of a Roman road from Winchester to Silchester (running north of present-day Basingstoke) thence to London. What appears more certain is that, later on, the present London-Winchester Road evolved in the post-Roman period and the Middle Ages, creating a crossroads at Neatham.

continued...



Source: *The Roman Roads of Britain* (1955) - Ivan Margary

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Vindomis/Neatham – Roman History on Our Doorstep continued

The construction of the A31, in 1970, revealed the Roman settlement at Cuckoo's Corner / Neatham as the roadworks had exposed the ancient features. This discovery prompted a series of rescue excavations throughout the 1970s and early 1980s that revealed:

- A Roman bath-house with painted plaster and hypocaust heating system, suggesting a degree of affluence and Romanised culture.
- Timber-framed buildings, likely to have been shops and dwellings, aligned in ribbon fashion along the old London Road.
- Bronze-smelting workshop, indicating industrial activity.
- Coins, pottery, brooches, and evidence of trade.
- A triple-ditched mansio (official Roman inn) for couriers and state officials. This was an important building that provided accommodation and fresh means of travel for the imperial postal network.

Further finds from wells and pits included ritual deposits, such as animal bones and over 190 coins, hinting at ancient votive practices. The presence of imported pottery also shows ties to wider trade networks across the Roman Empire, probably imported via Chichester.

Decline and Fall

The end of Roman rule in Britain occurred as the military forces of Roman Britain withdrew to defend or seize the Western Roman Empire's continental core, leaving behind an autonomous post-Roman Britain. In 383, a Roman general based in Britain, Magnus Maximus, withdrew troops from northern and western Britain to fight the existing Western Emperor Gratian in a rebellion, probably leaving local warlords in charge. In 407, usurper Constantine III took the remaining mobile Roman soldiers to Gaul in response to the crossing of the Rhine into Gaul by Germanic tribes. As a result, Britain was undefended against external raids, particularly from the Scoti, Picts and Saxons. In 410, Emperor Honorius refused an appeal from the Romano-British authorities in Britain for military assistance. Around the same time, the Romano-British deposed Roman officials, and government

(and defence) largely reverted to city level - the inhabitants of Britain were on their own. The following decades saw the collapse of the Roman urban way of life and the start of the Anglo-Saxon settlement of Britain.

Anglo-Saxon Era

The archaeology around Neatham reveals that by the late 4th century, signs of economic decline emerge, including fewer coins and building repairs. Occupation of the site persisted into the early 5th century, but as Roman governance collapsed, Neatham's character changed. The Saxons repurposed the area, transforming it into a cattle-farming settlement that retained importance throughout the Middle Ages. The Neatham estate later became the centre of the Neatham Hundred - an administrative division in Saxon and Norman times.

1066 And All That

Recorded in the Norman Domesday Book in 1085 with 96 households, Neatham Hundred eventually became known as Alton Hundred by the 12th century, reflecting the growing importance of Alton. The 'Hundreds' were involved in royal administration and the collection of taxes. The importance of the Hundred courts declined significantly from the 17th century onwards, before their eventual replacement by county-level courts, a process completed in 1894.

Legacy

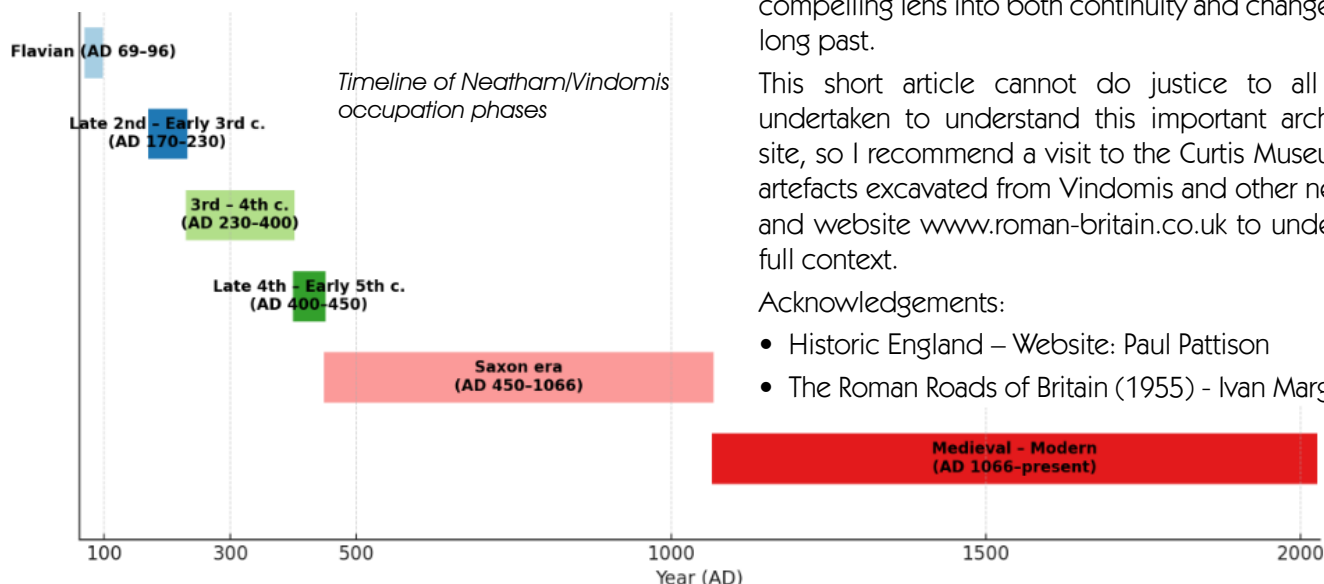
Neatham is now a Scheduled Monument protected by Historic England. While much of it lies beneath farmland and modern infrastructure, it remains a vital part of Hampshire's Roman heritage and continues to inform historical understanding through limited excavations and aerial surveys.

The Neatham Settlement is a vivid reminder of how even modest places held strategic and cultural importance in Roman Britain. As Vindomis, it connected the vast imperial road network, provided amenities to travellers, and supported a lively local economy. As Neatham, it endured the transformation into a Saxon community and remained significant into the medieval period. Today, it offers a compelling lens into both continuity and change in Britain's long past.

This short article cannot do justice to all the work undertaken to understand this important archaeological site, so I recommend a visit to the Curtis Museum to view artefacts excavated from Vindomis and other nearby sites, and website www.roman-britain.co.uk to understand the full context.

Acknowledgements:

- Historic England – Website: Paul Pattison
- The Roman Roads of Britain (1955) - Ivan Margary



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Ukraine relief

“Oh you’re so brave” remarked one friend when I announced my intention to visit Ukraine to deliver relief supplies donated by people in the village. The truth is, it requires more courage to cross the road at school time than to travel to the areas we visited. It was however, an eye opening experience and one I hope to repeat soon. People had begun to ask me what actually happens to stuff that is donated. I felt it was time to find out.

How I ever became the “middle man” for items donated for Ukraine now escapes me. My garage has however become a repository for all sorts of things over the last year or so as people have demonstrated extraordinary generosity in donating things from computers to kitchenware. All has now gone to new homes and to families in desperate need.

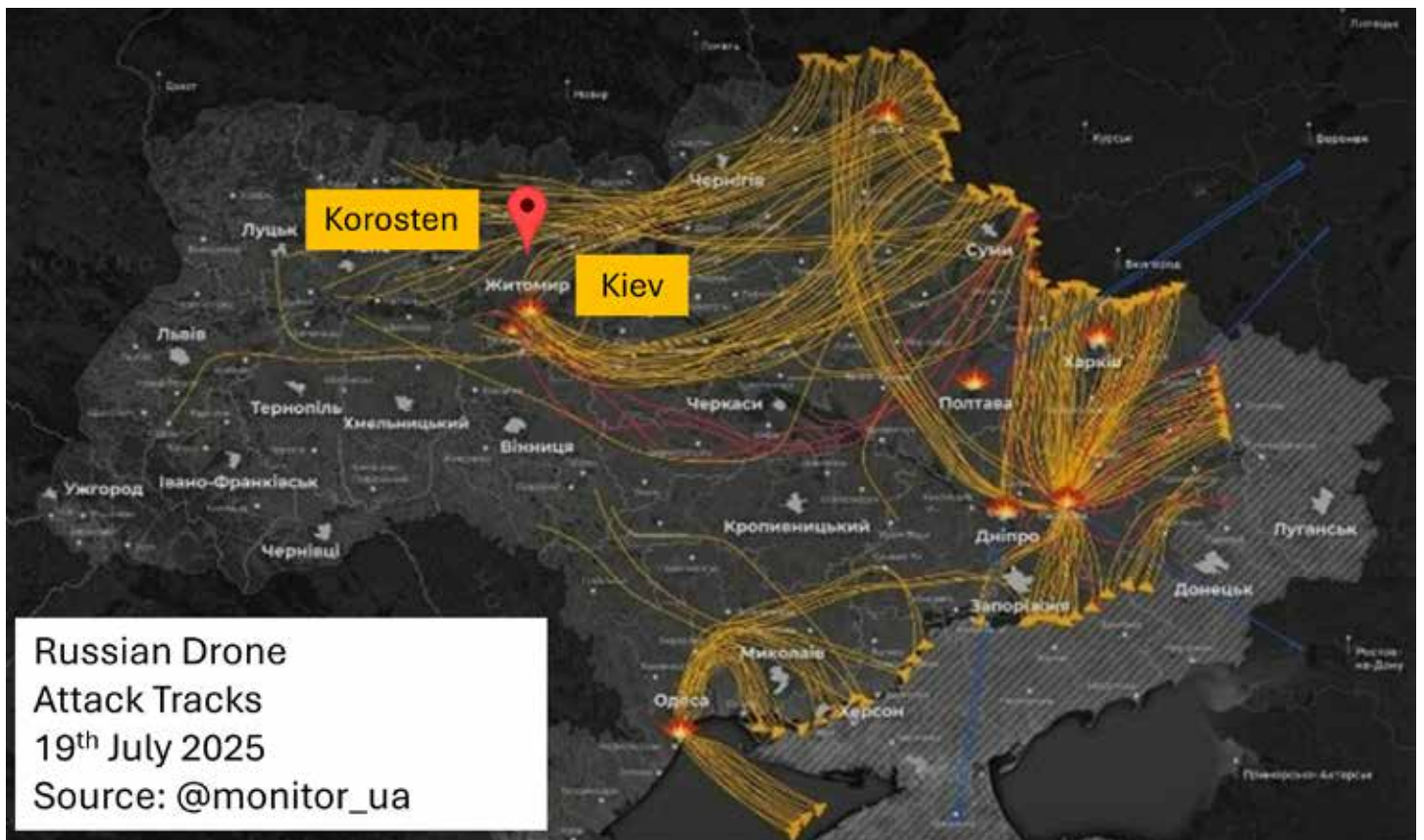
I drove with a group called Boxers and Barbers for Ukraine, mostly ex-service personnel who share a motivation to help a nation facing Russian aggression. I had spent a weekend previously loading a van with items from Holybourne and then joined another two vans at Basildon in Essex to travel in convoy to the Hook of Holland, right across Germany, then across Poland before crossing the border into Ukraine. The trip seemed never ending and my naïve assumption that I’d get to do some sightseeing en route, vanished as we raced down autobahns to our destination. The value of life in the EU is so clearly demonstrated in the contrast between Poland’s fabulous new roads and Ukraine, struggling even before the war to maintain its highways.

Having entered Ukraine we set up camp in a “safe house” in Korosten, which appeared as normal as Alton,

supermarkets, Soviet bloc flats and people going about their lives. At times it was difficult to believe we were in a war zone and only heard one air raid siren, during a night when I and the others simply ignored it and like the general population, simply turned over and went back to sleep. It could get more unpleasant however and a drone tracker image taken the night we left showed unwelcome activity in the sky over the town. The orange lines show drones en route to targets. Every bridge we crossed was mined however and every crossing had machine gun pill boxes beside it. It was a tad scary hoping the vans would not trigger the explosives strapped to the bridges.

We were always greeted, wherever we went, with immense gratitude and warmth and if ever I needed convincing that what we were doing was right it was when we visited a local orphanage. Most children were war orphans, suddenly deprived of parents and home, often with little more than what they stood up in. The contrast with my own grandchildren was painful and I’d have cheerfully brought home one little girl, probably about 18 months old who just seemed so bewildered by what had happened to her. A chocolate Easter egg removed the need for a shared language and we rapidly became best mates until the much more sensible care staff took what remained off her to save for later. Many of the children are now dressed in clothes donated by the village. Thank you!

From Korosten we moved on to Borodyanka, a town that had been occupied by the Russians for a couple of months before being retaken by the Ukraine forces. This



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Ukraine relief continued



was a shock and they are making fantastic efforts to rebuild after the occupying force's wanton destruction. The Russians simply took pleasure in blowing up community buildings, even to the extent of ploughing up the town's football pitch so it couldn't be used by local children.

We delivered aid to a hospital, (two commercial washing machines), a sports collective and to a community centre on the outside of the town. Once again we received a moving welcome, with residents keen to share what little they had in way of treats with us. Though they are aware that the Russians can destroy it all over again, they are determinedly rebuilding a new town which is rising, inspirationally, from the wreckage of the war.

The distance we travelled to our destinations in Ukraine and then back to the UK totalled about 3,000 miles in 4 days of driving with a day and a half spent in Ukraine itself. It costs about £1500 per van for each trip for fuel, accommodation, running costs and so on, so the trips can only happen as often as the charities can afford it. Ironically the greatest need is often not relief packages but money to fund the trips.

Now once back in the UK I am left to reflect on the absolute pointlessness of war. The world has learnt what a poor army the Russians have, what a megalomaniac their leader is and how dreadful the cost of war is. I will continue to help Ukraine and I am so grateful to everyone who helps me to do that. It is almost unbelievable that a few days travel is all that separates us from a land where killing civilians and children is commonplace. Where kidnapping children and taking them away from their parents and families to be "Russianised" is happening every day. The support for Ukraine must continue in my opinion. It is simply the right thing to do.

Jerry Janes



The Holybourne Sand Club

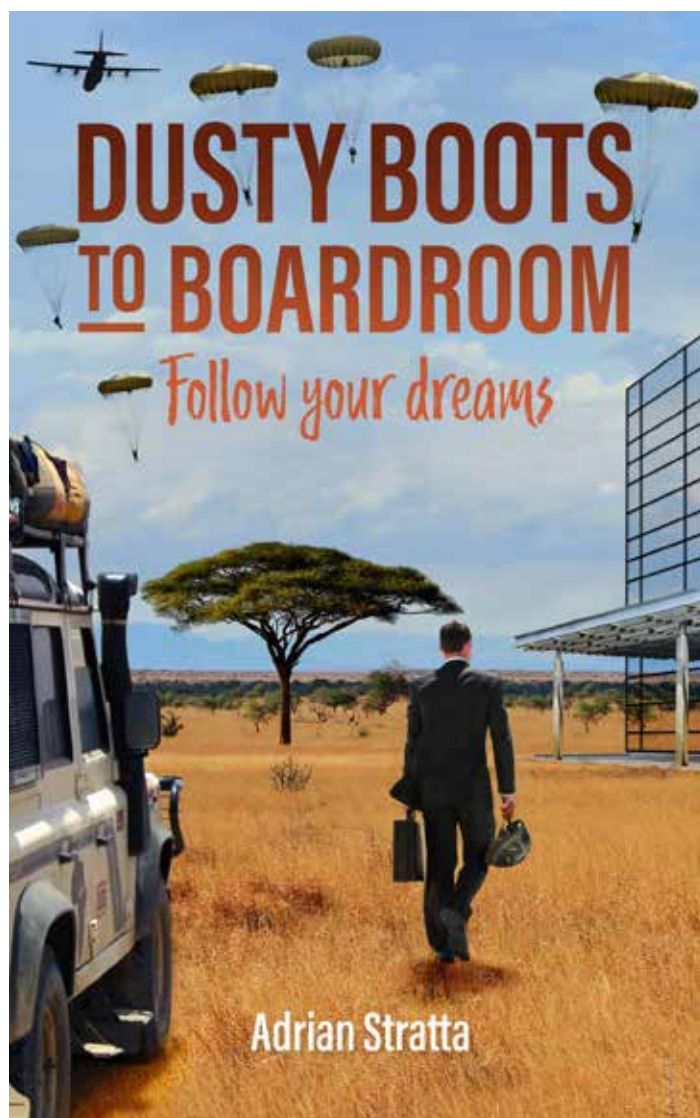
Uniting two African adventures, 44 years apart

Readers here may be questioning the connection between Africa and Holybourne, as most would be unaware of the Holybourne Sand Club! It was formed within minutes of my meeting with Dr Christopher Everett and his wife Geraldine, some 10 years or more ago. Christopher, as long-term village elder, was moving to be close to family and he was handing over his position as Chair of HVA to David Tomlinson. In turn David sought someone to assume responsibility for the annual Remembrance Service and as David and I both rode with the village's cycling club (the White Hart Vueltas), it is not hard to see how I ended up in Church Cottage, whiskey in hand, amid packing boxes. Christopher asked, "are you able to organise the parade?" "No problem" I replied. "Good – let's talk Africa".

I was unaware that Chris, along with five fellow medical students from Westminster Medical School, rotated around various African hospitals and clinics, as part of their medical elective (work-experience). They drove to the Belgium Congo and back in two new sponsored Land Rovers, in 1958. Chris was selling Church Cottage to Dr Paul Aichroth, the main instigator of their trip and the only one who kept a diary. It was a copy of this diary that Chris presented to me, along with his blessing, should I ever publish our story. I never really expected to write a book about the experience, but today I am delighted to say I have. I believe delaying the writing has allowed for mature reflection and a richer texture to story *Dusty Boots to Boardroom: follow your dreams*.

This was only the start of the coincidences that evening; it transpired Christopher and team had driven the exact same route across the Sahara as us, albeit 44 years earlier. In their day, Algeria was an open country seeking independence. We never expected to cross the Sahara; we had hoped to follow the Nile, up through Egypt to the Mediterranean. We understood travellers could not access Algeria, it had been a 'closed' country for 30 or more years. I won't spoil the book's story on how we ended up crossing the Sahara, but we managed it! Today this route is clogged by ISIS and other Sahel migrants seeking economic freedom in Europe. An ex-colleague (and now village resident) was deployed in 2022 with the French as part of their Operation Enduring Freedom – Trans Sahara, an initiative to quell the regions lawlessness.

I should explain the 'we': my wife Catherine and I ended up driving from South Africa to our home in Holybourne in 2002. It may sound strange to the uninitiated, but what do you do when you decide it is time to leave the Army? I swung my final appointment in South Africa, to support the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, to restructure the South African Department of Defence. It was a fantastic



and privileged opportunity. But how do you resettle on leaving the Forces? Catherine and I had been leading successful, yet divergent careers, and re-bonded over our love for African safari holidays. But an 'all-catered and fully supported' holiday is quite different to a self-supported 9-month transit the length of the Continent; 'driving the road less driven'. It was during one of those East African 'no effort required personal safaris' that I mused to Catherine, whilst lounging on a kopje amidst the Serengeti enjoying a sundowner having followed the Great Migration all-day, that it might be fun to drive from London to Cape Town, should I ever leave the Forces. I had no real notion where the thought came from, aware that such ambitions are rarely (if ever) realised, but I should have known. All Catherine heard was a statement of fact. In her mind, we were going to do it (not that either of us knew it at the time). We kicked back on our kopje, gazing at the emerging Milky Way, just before we were refreshed with another obligatory sundowner.

Life has a habit of taking over, ideas are 'parked' as activity supersedes them, but a few years later I was then assessing my options to stay or leave the Forces. But what to do? What were my 'transferable' skills for a commercial career. Demand for an 'overhead parachute assault' on the City was scant (however much some folk might desire it!). But



life is too short to settle. Back then, we were aware of the environment and its shrinking base long before climate activism and the associated diminishing resources of this planet. How many opportunities in life does one have to reach back into the mind's store cupboard and drag out a long-held dream or aspiration? Life takes over; jobs, careers and family predominate. Before realising it, people are looking at retirement. So, we bucked that trend.

Why write the book now; our trip was in 2002, twenty-three years ago? Well, what did you do in lockdown? Aside from regaling the snakes and ladders of African travel, the book outlines how we went about achieving our aim. Should anyone wish to emulate our trip, we offer a head start. We comment on our research and reading, route selection and other trips (past and present), with implications of the changing Continent today. As the title implies, I also present insight into how the military mind adapts and embraces commercial experiences, offering some thoughts and tips. Lockdown offered the chance to step-back, create a more mature reflection of the Continent, rather than just recant tales from the bush.

The book seeks to amplify 'the voice of Africa', tales from ordinary people just making the Continent work on a daily basis. Indeed, the book is more about those we met and events along the way, than ourselves. That said, we did bump into the great and the good in Africa; people from Central Casting; Hollywood actresses and

environmentalists, old War Horses and received help from modern-day mercenary, Simon Mann. It also provides a useful backdrop to reflect on my soldiering and those of the Regiment in Africa. This explains why a percentage of the profits are going to the Support Our PARAs charity, not least because of what we uncovered about Catherine's father and his early days – he never said!

Getting 'on the road' is akin to starting most businesses; planning a trip starts with the why? This is supported by research and due diligence, before some form of trial and testing, prior to the main execution. Success depends on many factors, but the why remains fundamental, as all endeavours will be tested; and we were tested! Whilst we took the slow road into remote places, were held up at gunpoint when traversing a warzone, endured a bungled mugging attempt in Addis Adaba and had many mechanical setbacks. We travelled 35,248km, but suffered only one slow puncture! Well, two Land Rovers, a few clutches, many oil leaks, a bent steering rod and assorted other issues, but only one slow puncture! The two Land Rovers comes back to the 'why' being sufficiently strong!

As we headed north out of Cape Town on the main road, we swapped drivers and were fresh, in the right place, doing the right things with a well-prepared vehicle. All of a sudden, we were faced with an articulated lorry being overtaken on a blind bend by a bakkie (pick-up truck). Catherine had to instantly choose between smashing into

continued...

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The Holybourne Sand Club continued

the lorry, the bakkie or the rock wall. She did fantastically well, instinctively swerving to prevent the head-on collisions. But, being a vehicle with a high centre of gravity, she was unable to avoid the inevitable, we smashed, then rolled into the rock wall. When we stopped, we were left hanging upside-down like bats in our seatbelts; I looked down at her, covered in blood, lying at a funny angle and she looked up to see blood pouring from my head. Long story short, we clambered out of the Land Rover and eventually got recovered, ultimately to a Cape Town hospital. As Catherine was being admitted with a broken shoulder, she gripped my hand and said 'we will carry on won't we'? I cannot attest to much strength or reassurance (as far as I was concerned, she was injured so all bets were off), but no. Catherine's resistance was burning strong, the 'why' needed to be completed. So that is what we did, journeying from Cap Agulhas (the most southerly tip of the continent) to Cap Blanc (the most northerly tip, in Tunisia).

The full story is explained in my new book *Dusty Boots to Boardroom*; follow your dreams, by Adrian Stratta. It can be found at all good retailers, Amazon and our website: www.dustybootstoboardroom.com

Adrian Stratta



What's on at Treloar's



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Friday 21 November

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Redbrown Development Update

Much has already been written about this proposal on the village's social media channels. However, as the Village magazine is the 'publication of record' for the village, we have summarised the actions and events that have been undertaken over the past few months, into a single coherent narrative, up to 20th August 2025, when we went to print.

Background

The proposal to build 160 houses on land behind and on top of the Holybourne Play Park (opposite Town & Country Cars) was officially submitted to East Hampshire District Council on 2nd July this year. This had been expected by the Holybourne Village Association (HVA), so we were prepared with our comprehensive response, objecting to the proposal.

That response was carefully formulated based on existing planning policies and consisted of thirteen documents covering our ten key objections. They are available on the village website (Holybourne.com/swamp). Most of you will know what they are but we are listing them here in the village magazine as it is the publication of record for the village. The objections are:

1. **Impact upon Cuckoo's Corner Roman Settlement Scheduled Monument**
2. **Impact Upon Other Heritage Assets (Holybourne Conservation Area)**
3. **Loss of Holybourne Play Area: a Designated Local Green Space**
4. **Flood Risk and Drainage – Failure to Undertake a Sequential Test**
5. **Size and Scale of the Development & Impact on the Character of the Village & Existing Community**
6. **Landscape Character and Visual Impact**
7. **Failure to Support EHDC's Sustainable Transport Objectives**
8. **Highways Impact**
9. **Impacts upon existing Village Infrastructure**
10. **Loss of Best and Most Versatile (BMV) Agricultural Land**

DON'T SWAMP HOLYBOURNE



Once these had been officially submitted to EHDC on 5th July, we began our campaign with a leaflet summarising our objections delivered to every house in the village. Many thanks to Stuart Hunt and his team of magazine deliverers for swinging into action and ensuring that everyone received a copy as soon as possible. The leaflet directed readers to the new online planning portal created by EHDC, which enables users to write comments and objections in response to published planning applications. development proposal has created.

Village Meeting

The leaflet also publicised a village meeting in the church on 22nd July. We ran two meetings, afternoon and evening, and several hundred villagers attended. At the meeting, Jerry Janes introduced HVA Chairman Rob Law, who highlighted the very large scale of the proposed development. Following this, John Bound took the audience through a detailed presentation explaining the HVA's ten key objections, their basis in planning policy and, where relevant, planning appeal cases that supported our case. Finally, villagers were informed about to use EHDC's online planning portal to register their objections, should they wish to do so.

continued...

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Development Update continued

Objections Registered exceed 500!

The response from the village has been outstanding. The first of the online objections was logged on 7th July and by the time the Consultation period officially closed on 14th August, five weeks later, over 500 objections had been posted on the site (some of which had been directly emailed to EHDC planning department).

Each objection was thoughtful and detailed, with people clearly taking both time and care to express their opinions. For a village with a population of around 1,500 people, this is an astounding level of objection and protest, sending a clear message about the level of concern the current Redbrown development proposal.

Alton Town Council

The Town Council is an official consultee on planning matters and their opinion carries weight. They held an Extraordinary Full Council meeting on 6th August (pictured) to discuss and respond to the Redbrown proposal. The venue was the Alton Assembly Rooms as a large number of people were expected to attend. Prior to the main meeting, the HVA's core objections to the Redbrown development proposal were communicated with a short presentation and Q&A session with councillors.

Holybourne turned out in force, with nearly one hundred and eighty villagers attending, filling the Assembly Rooms to standing room only. The atmosphere was tense but respectful, as a number of selected speakers were given three minutes to state their point of view. The only supporting comments for the development came from Charles Buckley, Managing Director for Redbrown. We reproduce his comments as recorded in the official Town Council minutes:

"Charles Buckley from Redbrown then spoke. He reiterated the thanks from Jerry Janes to the Council for meeting in

August. He said it would be silly of them not to recognise that there are a lot of objections to their proposals. They have made a lot of investment in the estate and in the area. They are not wanting to do a conventional development but have done three pre-applications with the planning authority. Redbrown believe very strongly that it is incumbent upon them to work closely with neighbouring people to come up with a scheme that is suitable. They want to engage. They can continue to make changes and they believe they can deliver this scheme and do a really good job".

Following debate among the Town Councillors, and aided by their development proposal checklist, the Town Council unanimously voted to object to the proposed development of 160 houses in Holybourne, communicating its decision to East Hampshire District Council later that week.

Next Steps

There are number of other official consultees who have responded to the planning consultation, such as Historic England and Hampshire County Council, and these will be reviewed, along with our objections, by EHDC's planning officers. This is likely to occur during August and September.

Graham Hill, who is both a town councillor for Holybourne and a District Councillor for Alton, has requested that this application be assessed by East Hampshire District Council's Planning Committee, which is a public meeting. This is yet to be confirmed.

There are a number of directions that the planning process could now potentially take, depending on the view of EHDC's planning officers. At the time of writing, we don't know what EHDC's response will be and the subsequent steps. For the latest information, use our digital channels: What's App: 'Don't Swamp Holybourne', or the village website: Holybourne.com/swamp

John Bound, 20th August 2025

Researching the Springs

In the last issue we published a fascinating feature on the springs of Holybourne, based on eighteen months of fieldwork conducted by Andy Hankin and flow analysis by Bob Page, two long-term Holybourne residents. Andy's fieldwork discovered a spring emerged in the centre of the village pond, but that the head source of the Bourne was actually a separate spring, independent of the pond, that emerges just to the side of the current weir.

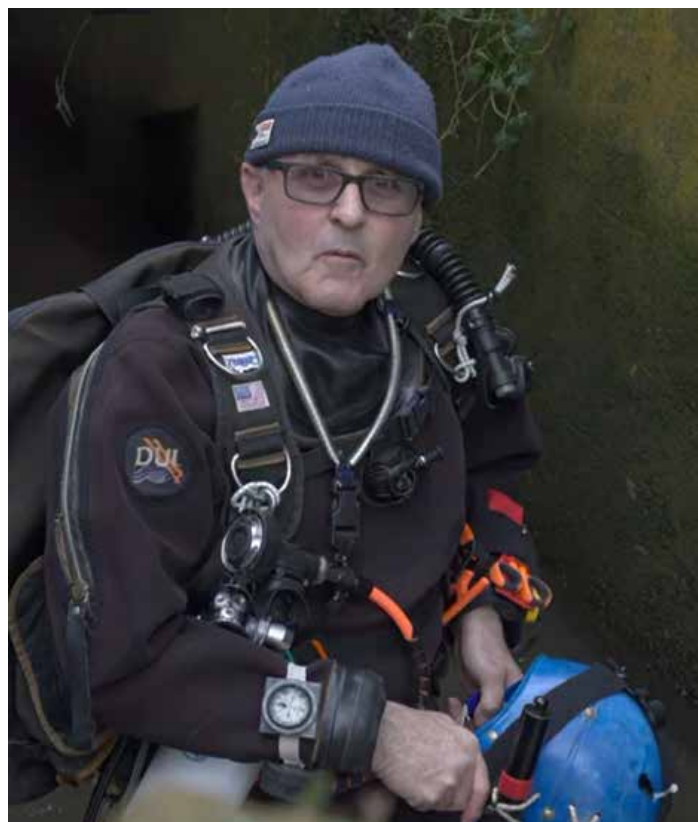
Other fieldwork confirmed the location of active springs and a lavant stream in the field to the north of Holybourne Play Park, along with observations confirming that the depth of water in that field during winter/spring often reaches 60 cm (two feet deep in old money). Further exploration – including climbing inside large surface water (clean) drainage systems – enabled Andy to map the key drainage channels down to the River Wey, and Bob used the data to estimate the volume of water discharged during the winter. This detailed information has proved invaluable in challenging the recent proposals by Redbrown to build a 160-dwelling housing estate on that land, highlighting the flood risk to the new houses and other parts of the village and (in our opinion) their inadequate mitigation measures.

But how did Andy gather information and why did he start the project? *"I had recently retired, so needed something to focus my energies on. As a diver and an explorer of underwater cave systems, I was interested in the rivers, springs and ecology of the local area and started to*



Top: The floating filming unit in use on the village pond

Above: Andy emerging from a large surface water drain emptying into a river, at an undisclosed location, somewhere in Southern England.



map them. One thing led to another and before I knew it, I was squeezing myself into 30-inch drainage pipes, like you do."

Using his experience of underwater photography, Andy designed his own remote-controlled underwater camera, to film the bed of the pond in detail. It was this rig that captured the remarkable picture of the spring in the middle of the pond, used on the cover of the Spring issue of this magazine. The rig has also been used to assess the condition of some of the surface water drainage infrastructure around the village. In addition, the use of a harmless biodegradable dye enabled him to trace the routes of several springs as well as the underground drainage systems that run under the houses south of the London Road.

Keen to find out more about the physical properties of some of the drainage systems, Andy has physically explored, measured and filmed them, using his cave diving gear and employing the sport's strict safety procedures. All this effort has produced a treasure trove of information, plans, images and videos – creating a unique view of the hidden world beneath our village.

Andy is well-known locally for his electrical contracting business, but what is less well known is that he is a highly-experienced cave diver. With over 30 years of experience, Andy has not only dived submerged caves in the UK, but many overseas – including the famous 'Great Blue Hole', which is a large marine sinkhole off the coast of Belize, 320 metres wide and 125 metres deep. Most of his dives have been recorded on photo and video, producing some stunning and unique images.

In the near future, Andy will consolidate all the information and donate it to the village archive, as part of our rich local history.

Designing a Revolution

I've recently returned from a trip to Germany installing what is the probably the World's third-largest orrery. At 4m diameter this is a mechanical model of the solar system, demonstrating the orbits of the planets around the Sun. It was named, annoyingly, after the fourth Earl of Orrery who commissioned the first one in 1712, rather than John Rowley who designed and built it for him, but such is the lot of brilliant engineers.

A colleague and I both arrived in Holybourne a couple of years ago when the educational charity we work for re-located to Hampshire. The charity runs a science centre at the old Royal Observatory in the grounds of Herstmonceux Castle in East Sussex (see www.the-observatory.org) which is funded in part by our work designing science exhibits for museums around the World. The Observatory's Science Centre, incidentally, is home to what is probably the second largest Orrery at 4.5m. The first, and largest one we've built at 5m diameter, is in the visitor centre at the Jodrell Bank Observatory in the shadow of their giant, iconic radio telescope, and it was one of the most entertaining design challenges I've faced at work.

Jodrell Bank Orrery

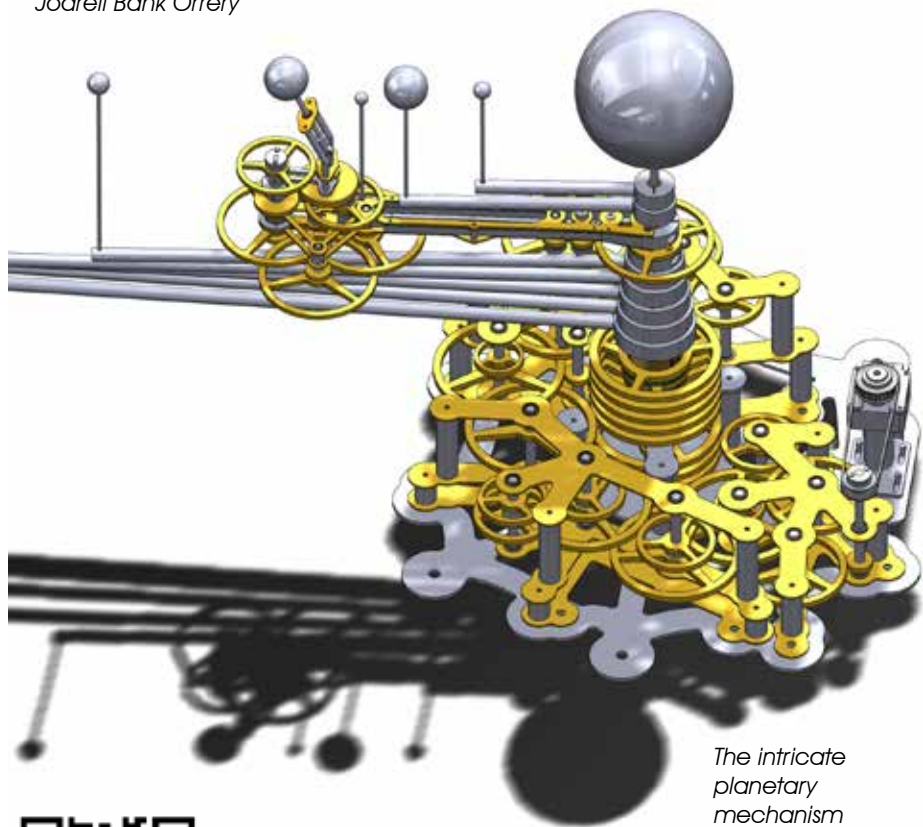
Having worked out all the gear ratios on paper to achieve each planet's rotation time, then worked out each gear's position and bearing mounts, it was time to bite the bullet and purchase the 48 brass gears required for the construction. The central spine of the mechanism consists of nine increasing diameter brass tubes which needed machining to fit together like a telescope, each tube rotating smoothly inside and around its neighbours. The planets each connect to one of the rotating tubes which is then driven around by the gears surrounding it – see the diagram right.

It took about three months to design and build, and an enormous amount of the work needed to be completed before we could connect a drive motor and see if it was actually going to work! I had many sleepless nights worrying that when we turned the motor on, one of the planets would be going the wrong way round the Sun but, in the end, the planets came into alignment and everything ran like clockwork.

Ian Walters



Jodrell Bank Orrery



The intricate planetary mechanism



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Beer Reviewed Research!

This week my carers proposed doing something useful for villagers. So I selected a pub (at random) to go and review. After much consulting of the Michelin guide, I settled on 'The White Hart', proceeded to the building society to withdraw a chunk of pension and scooted off to the aforementioned establishment. The greeting by bar staff was nothing short of phenomenal; "What would you like Sir?" (and I was flattered that they knew of my forthcoming peerage a little). "I shall have a pint of your finest beer" was my somewhat learned reply. Then the problems started. The establishment had quite a few!

So I started with a pint of Amstel, a beer named after the river that flows through Amsterdam no less. Brewed in the traditional pilsner method it was both cold, crisp and refreshing. I noted hints of seedless hops and Dutch recreational smoke. "That's a great start" I thought to myself and progressed immediately to a pint (none of this metric rubbish around here) of Cruzcampo. As befits an Iberian libation it took a while to pour, but was characteristically deep in tone, colour and with hints of chorizo. A winner in any competition for sure.

Before taking my next step into this drinking odyssey, I handed in the keys to my mobility scooter to ensure no octogenarian road rage en route to chez moi ensued. Next up was the mythical black gold; Guinness. I've been told that the Irish know a thing or two about drinking, and the quality was beyond criticism. However, I have to say it reminded me of ash tray (remember them - or as we call them the good old days) contents, mixed with dishwater - clearly not my tippie. In order to do my correspondent duty thoroughly, I quaffed it down and moved onto the next 'jar'. Next up, a pint of Neck Oil, but what is this monstrosity of a glass? Beer is a serious business and comic art on a glass has no place in a small Hampshire village. I'm pleased to report that the contents were more



than agreeable; smooth, crystalline and large overtones of Shoreditch arty smugness.

I then ordered a nutritious hydrogenated potato snack to accompany and my taste buds were tantalised; what is this ambrosia? The legendary blend of Soya protein, Potassium chloride, malic acid, salt AND monosodium glutamate is a worthy creation of any Grodon Ramsay wannabee. You can order them too - ask for Monster Munch. By now I am having a good time, although the German Shepherd dog that is dry humping my leg is a little distracting. Insider tip; there are gravy bones on the bar - great for removing amorous canines. Next up a pint of Owd Gruntfuttock. A beer that tastes a little bit like me; avoid. The White Hart ale is commendabul, Hampshire at its finest; quiet, rich and with hints of Nimbyism.

My pension wad had taken a big hint, but I'm on a roll now, and maybe a little light heated. Before ordering my next, the charming bar lady suggested an 'alcohol free lager'? What! What is this absolute noncesense? I shall not give it the time of day, and intend to write to The Times tomorrow - alcohol made this country great, and we need to take back control of our abv. The commitment of the pub to align with the Village's Romany roots is impressive - I headed off to avail myself of the Vomitorium to make mere space. Next up, Level Head, more hipshter tomfoolery; smug, astute and with undercurrents of big bushy beards. By Now I'm feeling confused.com so order Timothy Taylor to get himself out of the barrel and into my bowel - to the Billy Ocean tune. Feeling schleepy, need a quick nap. The pub has amazing rooms to sleep in but I was a little embarrassed to find out you had to book them - but not as embarrassed as the amorous couple that I stumbled across. Walking home now seems impossible, so I need my scooter back. The bar staff were not for moving, and I had to walk - took me 25 mins back, whilst only 5 to get there - the differunce is staggering. Overall's a succsheshfull evening. I would recommend all flavours of beer (except Oirish joose); 5 stars.

Jeffrey Barnard (unwell)



Growing Success

As the 2025 cricket season draws to a close, we take a moment to celebrate the remarkable achievements of our young cricketers over the past three months. With a record 55 children representing Holybourne across five teams, it's been a season to remember!

Under 9 Development Squad

Our two U9 development teams featured 26 players, including 12 rookies who had never played a competitive match before. Despite their inexperience, every one of them contributed with both bat and ball, scoring runs and taking wickets throughout the season. A fantastic introduction to cricket and a sign of great things to come.

Under 11 Squad

The U11s finished the season in style, ending with six consecutive wins and pushing Frensham all the way in the title race. The team amassed 683 runs and took 69 wickets, both major improvements on last year's totals. A huge credit goes to the players and coaches, whose hard work and commitment during winter training clearly paid off.

Under 13 & Under 15 Combined Squad

Building on last year's momentum, our combined U13 and U15 squad delivered thrilling, high-scoring matches filled with boundaries and plenty of flair, finishing the season with over 1,000 runs. A standout moment came in the nail-biting win over Hartley Wintney U15s, where Holybourne edged the match by just 3 runs (217 vs 214).

Another proud moment for the club came when two of our Colts made their 1st Team debuts, a massive achievement and testament to the strength of our youth development.

2025 marks another great year of cricket and another stepping-stone in continuing to grow the game of cricket for local children in the Holybourne area. Our mantra is for

everyone to PLAY and ENJOY cricket whatever their age or ability and this year we have made that happen again.

Fundraising

Holybourne Cricket Club is volunteer run and dependent on generous donations from our local community for additional money to help support our development. So far this season our fundraising highlights have been the Highland Fling and Pizza night.

Highland Fling

The second running of the Holybourne Highland Fling saw a fantastic increase in competitors, spectators, and fundraising compared to its debut year, cementing its place as a firm favourite in the local calendar.

With the now traditional Caber Toss, Tug of War, Stone Put, and the soon to be legendary run up Holybourne Hill, the event delivered on spectacle, strength, and plenty of laughs. The enthusiasm and energy from participants and supporters made it a day to remember.

Pizza night was a success! And will be back next year

Stubby's famous pizza oven made another appearance at Friday night cricket training in June, and an incredible 140 pizzas were sold. Hundreds of pounds were therefore made for the club.

We are super grateful to Pete (who made all the dough ahead of time), Lauren, and their team of volunteer servers on the night who kept the whole thing flowing. Thank you.

It's just one example of the great relationship Holybourne Cricket Club has with its current sponsor – Stubby's, who support us generously in many ways.

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