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# Holybourne

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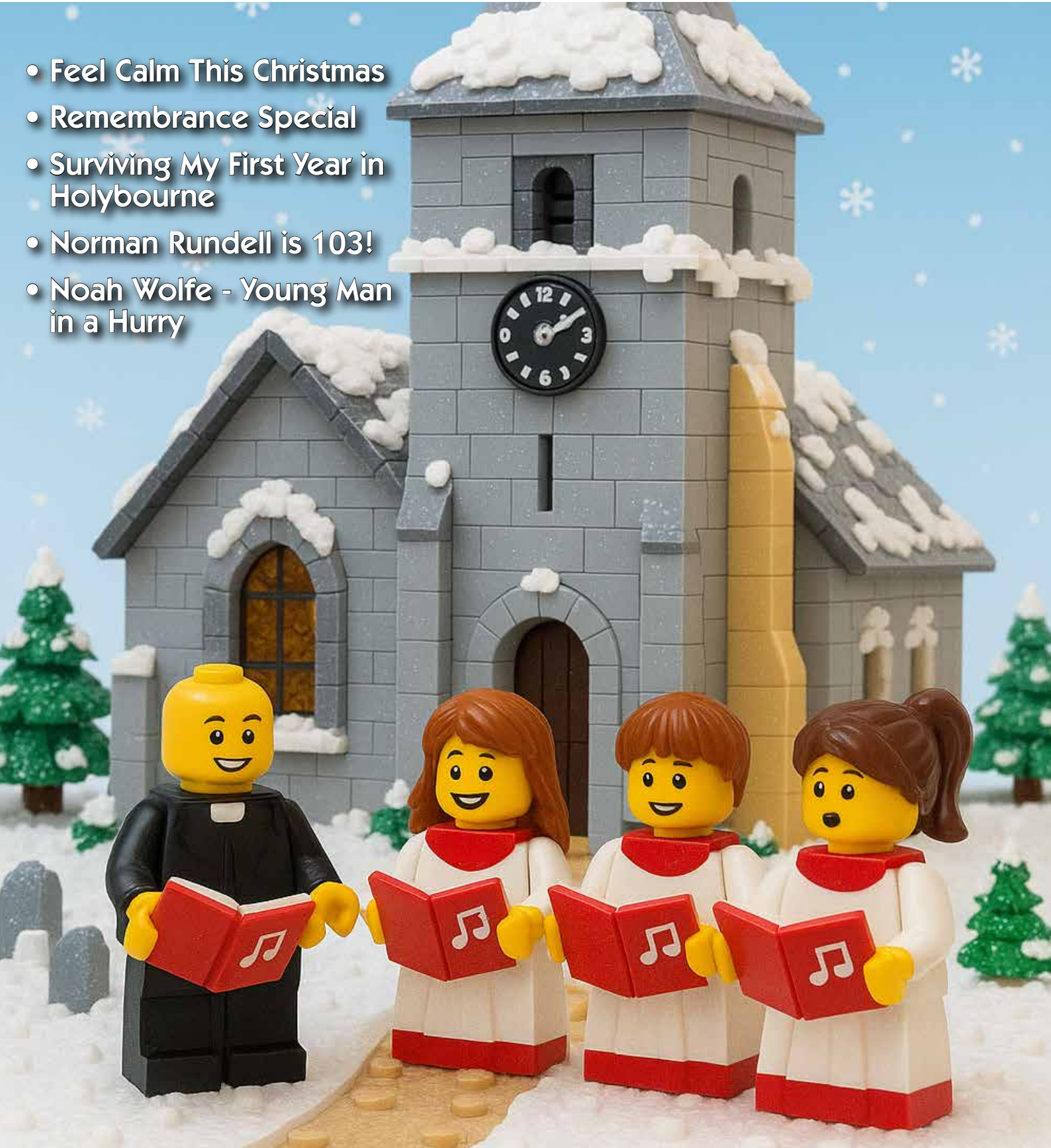
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Winter 2025

- **Feel Calm This Christmas**
- **Remembrance Special**
- **Surviving My First Year in Holybourne**
- **Norman Rundell is 103!**
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# From the Editor

## Developing News

The controversial proposal by Redbrown to develop a 160-house estate on the Holybourne play park and the adjacent fields rumbles on. Key concerns surfaced by the HVA are traffic congestion and the groundwater flooding risk associated with that site.

Redbrown claim to be sensitive to these problems but their proposals to address them, in our view, ignore the impact on residents both in the vicinity of the site and the wider village. An example of this disregard is their proposal to restrict parking along London Road using double-yellow lines and traffic-priority chicanes. The net effect will be to reduce parking capacity to just 37 car spaces, less than half of what is required. Residents of London Road will have to fight for those limited parking spaces and, once full, there are no nearby alternatives. The Village Shop will have no free parking outside. The Play Park and Sports Field will have no parking anywhere near them, hindering their use. These parking restrictions would seriously impact the key community assets that make this village what it is and they are a clear indication of the insincerity of Redbrown's so-called 'community engagement'. Their only objective is to remove a key planning obstacle and enable their heavy construction traffic to move through the village unimpeded (over 4 years). The HVA planning team are working with councillors to persuade the county and district councils of the folly of these proposals and the long-term impact on our community. We'll keep you informed of progress.

## Season's Greetings

With all the upheaval in the world and, possibly, to our own community, it can be difficult to remain positive about life. The shorter days and poor weather only seem to compound the gloom. It seems our pagan ancestors had similar thoughts and created festivals celebrating the middle of a Northern European winter, the turning point when the days start becoming longer and night retreats – it's still cold and potentially miserable, but at least we can see an end to it. Christmas, in addition to its fundamental religious importance, also functions as a mid-winter boost for most of us. However, some find this time of year stressful, so I would recommend reading our 'Guide to a Calm Christmas'. However you manage the festive season, all of us here on the Holybourne Village Magazine wish you a Merry Christmas and good fortune in 2026.

**John Bound** editor@hollybourne.com

**Copy Date for next issue**

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

## Cover

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New prices as shown from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022. The china, glass and cutlery in the kitchen are all included in the cost of the hire. Hirers must ensure that the duration of their booking is sufficient for any setting up and clearing up. Free access to the hall cannot be given for this purpose.



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# Andy Hankin awarded 2025 Holybourne Cup

The Holybourne Cup is awarded each year to a person who has made a significant contribution to our village over the past year.

This year, that honour goes to Andy Hankin for his tireless and dedicated work on surveying, measuring and mapping all the springs, watercourses and surface water drainage around Holybourne.

Some of Andy's work was featured in the Spring issue of this magazine, including the discovery of a hidden spring in the middle of the village pond, confirming the head source of the Bourne and detailing the significant springs emerging in the middle of the site of the controversial development proposal by Redbrown.

Together with Bob Page – himself a Holybourne Cup winner for his work on project managing Thames Water's reparations to our drains back in 2014 – Andy has enabled us to point out the very real flood risks of building on that part of the site.

Andy and Bob are continuing their watery work by understanding how best to renovate the village pond in the near future and secure its long term management.



Andy receiving the Holybourne Cup from HVA Chairman Rob Law, at the HVA meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2025

## Holybourne Gains Another SID...

Just to be clear, nothing could replicate Sid, our postmaster and village shop entrepreneur! This particular SID is a 'Speed Indicator Device' that has been obtained for use in and around Holybourne. These devices indicate a vehicle's speed to the driver and have been proved to reduce speeding, particularly in residential areas, and are most effective when moved around, so that drivers don't get used to them. The unit will also count traffic flow in one direction.

The unit was set up and installed on 13<sup>th</sup> November by Jerry Janes and Stuart Hunt (John Bound held the ladder). Cllr Graham Hill had worked with Alton Town Council to purchase the unit and its £2,500 cost was funded by grants from the five District Councillors that represent Alton:

Graham Hill (£1,000).  
Suzie Burns (£500),  
Elizabeth Marshall (£366),  
Emily Young (£124) and  
Warren Moore (£500).  
The whole purchase process was managed by the Deputy Town Clerk, Hayley Carter.

The HVA will monitor and publicise any data gathered during the coming year. It is hoped that this will raise the level of traffic safety in the village as well as provide an independent source of traffic data.



The new sign is very sophisticated - here you can see it has calculated the average age of the installation team.

## Wordsearch

### The Christmas Story

A	N	G	E	L	S	M	B	U	H	F	J
H	G	X	L	U	I	R	P	Y	M	J	O
R	A	W	N	M	X	G	E	M	C	B	S
S	E	I	F	V	A	K	B	O	O	X	E
W	Z	G	K	Q	N	R	Q	F	S	V	P
T	N	Z	N	O	H	Q	Y	J	T	C	H
N	V	T	D	A	L	R	I	E	A	B	S
J	H	T	T	W	M	P	K	S	R	V	T
W	U	W	A	S	F	W	K	U	G	B	A
I	B	M	I	D	M	A	W	S	A	T	B
S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	S	N	K	L
P	L	H	E	K	I	N	G	S	C	X	E

Can you find the following words in the Christmas Wordsearch?

shepherds star manger donkey Mary Joseph angels kings Jesus stable



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# Tom Yendell OBE

## Local Artist and Charity Entrepreneur awarded OBE

In June this year, Tom Yendell (pictured) was honoured with an OBE in the King's Birthday Honours List 2025 for his "services to young people with disabilities."

Tom has been an active and visible part of the Holybourne community since he was a pupil at Treloar's and, on return from Brighton University where he studied art, he made the village his home.

His most recent project has been '*Freedom Through Expression*', which teaches young people with physical disabilities or neuro-diverse conditions to express themselves through art. The organisation's venue next to the Curtis Museum at the top of Alton High Street combines a gallery, framing service and space for art tuition and workshops.

Prior to that, Tom set up '*Flat Spaces*', a foundation that provides fully accessible, purpose-built holiday accommodation designed for people with disabilities and their families. The accommodation features a consistent layout with features like level access showers, ceiling hoists, and rise and fall worktops to ensure a relaxed and accessible holiday experience. enabling them and their carers to take a break knowing that their very specific needs will be taken care of in a building equipped with hoists, variable height surfaces, accessible bathrooms and single-level living. The first of these units is based at Ropley, close to the Watercress Line's Railway Station.

But Tom's work with young disadvantaged and disabled people has not only been restricted to these shores, and in 2007 he helped set up The Education and Book Appeal Ghana (TEABAG), In 2014, TEABAG built a college just outside Accra (with the help of volunteers from Holybourne) that provides young people with vocational training in a range of industries, including hospitality, enabling them to find local work in tourism and other sectors.

More locally, Tom set up the legendary Andrews Endowed Music Festival in the late 1990s and early noughties, an event which quickly raised tens of thousands of pounds for our local primary school each year. Eventually it was a victim of its own success and outgrew the ability of the school to host it - but it was a lot of fun!



Chairman of EHDC, District Councillor Graham Hill and Roger Rustell from the Alton Men's Shed proudly show off the new Nativity Crib



Although the King's honour was specifically bestowed for helping young people with disabilities, Tom's energy and creativity has created many projects that support the wider community, particularly in Holybourne and Alton. This official recognition of a lifetime spent helping other people is well-deserved and we should all be proud he is member of our community.

## From Shed to Crib - A Festive Gift

Cllr Graham Hill organised for the Alton Men's Shed to construct a "Crib" using £550 from his District Councillor grant to pay for materials and provide a donation. In turn, they have donated the nativity scene to the HVA. It will be displayed during December outside the Holybourne village shop and used to raise funds for CCLL – The Helping Hand for Ukraine. Anyone wishing to donate has to simply scan the QR code on the crib and donate via the well-known and trusted 'JustGiving' website.

Alton Men's Shed's mission is to develop a welcoming community space for men (and women) to connect, converse and create with the intention to reduce loneliness and isolation, but most importantly have fun at the same time. The main activities at the Shed can vary based on the interests and preferences of the members, but generally cover: Woodworking and Carpentry, Metalworking, DIY and Home Improvement, Electronics and Technology, Arts and Crafts, Socialising/Conversation, Workshops, Skill Sharing and drinking tea/coffee! The Alton Men's Shed is normally open Monday - Friday between 9:30 - 12:00 and can be contacted by email at [info@altonmensshed.org](mailto:info@altonmensshed.org) OR better still, pop along and meet them in person. You can also view the UK Men's Shed Association website for a wider appreciation of the philosophy.

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# Feel Calm This Christmas

## Simple Tools to Ease Holiday Stress

For many people, Christmas is bittersweet. It is meant to be a season of joy, yet so often it brings pressure, strained relationships, financial worry and that endless feeling that you “should be doing more”. If you find yourself tense or anxious as the holidays approach, you are not alone. But there are some simple techniques that you can use to support your body and mind back into calm.

### Every Breath You Take

When you are stressed, the body switches to fight or flight mode, and your heart rate rises, your blood pressure goes up and your breathing becomes shallow as your nervous system stays on high alert. The good news is that you can, with a bit of practice, shift yourself back towards peace and calm with a few minutes of breathwork, mindfulness and vagal nerve activation. These exercises can help switch your body into “rest and recuperation” to counteract the fight or flight mode. Most of us don’t use the whole of our lungs when we breathe, so the first technique to practise is filling our lungs from the bottom upwards. Sit up with a straight back, put one hand on your belly, and breathing in through your nose, fill up the bottom of your lungs first and feel your belly expand. Then when you exhale (again through your nose) feel your belly contract. Use this method of breathing in the following exercises:

Whenever you feel overwhelmed or tense, sit up straight and take a slow breath in through your nose to the count of 4, then exhale to the count of 6. Making the exhale longer than the inhale signals safety to your nervous system. You can also, if you like, gently hum as you breathe out. The vibration activates your vagus nerve and calms the body.

### One, Two, Three... Calm

If you find that things seem chaotic, pause, and notice three things that you can see, two things you can feel and one thing that you can hear. This will help to ground you and bring you back into the present. When we are stressed, we tend to tense our bodies, particularly our shoulders, without being conscious of this. So, take a minute to tense and then drop your shoulders, clench and then unclench your jaw, and tense and relax your belly. Just this small reset can help your whole system soften.

### Get Prepared

The holidays do not have to drain you. If you practise and get familiar with these simple exercises in advance, you can use those that you feel most comfortable with to stay centred, calmer and more present when things get busy.

### Catherine Stratta

Catherine is a behavioural therapist specializing in helping people with Bipolar Disorder. She can be contacted at [www.movebeyondbipolar.com](http://www.movebeyondbipolar.com)

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# On the Record

## The Resurgence of Vinyl Records

It may come as a surprise to anyone who has purchased music in the past 40 years that the humble vinyl record is back – and back in a big way.

A significant proportion of people born before 1980 will have owned 12, 10 and 7-inch vinyl records, the format being the most popular means of music ownership until it was overtaken by cassette tapes in 1984. By the early 1990s, consumers had almost entirely moved to the more convenient, compact and robust CD. Vinyl

was consigned to lofts, basements, charity shops and sadly even landfill, as music streaming services ultimately became the norm.

It's not easy to pinpoint the reasons for vinyl's recent resurgence, but in the digital age it's easy to understand the appeal of a tangible item that connects the owner to a piece of history. In fact, it's Generation Z – the demographic that grew up knowing only digital media – that is currently buying the most vinyl.

The music industry has recognised the boom and started reissuing LPs in significant volume. For many buyers however, the true joy comes from collecting vintage vinyl: the original pressing, much sought after reissues with special edition features like coloured vinyl and individual quirks of a particular press (anyone with a decent copy of Robert Ludwig's 'hot' US pressing of Led Zeppelin II is in for a very pleasant surprise).

The result is a flourishing collector's market and the resurgence of the humble record store, with highly-sought after records exchanging hands for several hundred pounds. But before you start digging out your old records from storage in the hope of making a small fortune, it's worth understanding what collectors are looking for. Generally, the first pressing of early singles and LPs from the big hitters – think the Beatles, Led Zeppelin, Pink Floyd, Bowie and the Rolling Stones – are worth a lot of money. But simply owning an old and famous record will not mean you can book that Caribbean holiday. A great many people bought records in the 60s, 70s and 80s and they bought music by popular bands in vast quantities. Goodbye Yellow Brick Road is a great album, but you'll find a copy in every record store in the UK, so won't be able to retire simply because you bought the first pressing in 1973.



Rarity is an obvious measure of a record's desirability and value and so if you happen to have a copy of July's self-titled album from 1968 in excellent condition, you can expect to make between £3,000 to £4,000 based on current market value. Indeed, the late '60s is something of a goldmine for collectors of obscure bands, given that period saw a boom in record production as a result of the cultural and technological developments of that period.

Rarity is not confined to older vinyl. As the bottom fell out of the market at the end of the 1980s and early 1990s, music company's all but ceased offering vinyl as a format. Very few copies of some wildly popular singles and albums from that period exist. Alanis Morissette's Jagged Little Pill and Oasis' Definitely Maybe are two such examples. If you were a late adopter of CDs and clung on to vinyl during the 1990s, it's possible you're sitting on a small fortune!

So, if you haven't taken a look at your old record collection for a while, now might be the time to do so. Of course, condition is key. A record that is in near mint condition and plays without any background noise will be of far greater interest and value to the collector than a record scratched beyond recognition. Unfortunately, whilst the music of the 1960s, 70s and 80s may have been superb, the technology was not. Many a collector has pulled a record from a sleeve in fevered anticipation, only to find that the original owner's stylus had long ago rendered it utterly unplayable. But therein lies one of most exciting aspects of the hobby. Record collecting is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're going to get!

### Mark Wood

Mark is a record collector from the local area who buys and sells vinyl collections. If you're considering selling your record collection and would like a free expert consultation, you can contact Mark on 07966 556532

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## Remembrance Special

# Remembrance Day Ceremony



*Captain J Fitzpatrick RN delivers the exhortation, facing the flag bearers, with Major (Rtd) Stratta standing in front of the War Memorial and our VIP Wreath layers in the background*

### Holybourne's Act of Remembrance

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

It was a glorious sunny autumn morning, with barely a breath of wind and a low sunlight glistening off the bronzed leaves. At 10:45hrs the pipes and drums of the Rose and Thistle Band, in fully regalia, burst in to life to lead the Holybourne Parade from Andrews Endowed School to the War Memorial on London Road. Marching on parade were Veterans, the British Legion Standards, Alton Army and Air Cadets, the Scouting groups and both Eggars and Andrew Endowed schools, all being marshalled by Warrant Officer Tom Bagley RAF.

Directing the ceremony, Major (Retd) Adrian Stratta PARA welcomed the parade and villagers to their annual village ceremony for us to pay our respects to all those fallen in the service of their country, having given their tomorrow for our today. Following prayers from Revd David Chattell, Major Stratta introduced our speaker, none other than Captain Tim Chattell, the son of Revd David, who spoke about what he thinks of and those he remembers during this time. A heartfelt rendition of loss and personal sacrifice within today's Armed Forces – those committed to making this world better for all concerned. After Tim, Revd David Chattell led our prayers, Rob Law read the names of the WW1 Fallen from the village and Captain J Fitzpatrick RN delivered the Exhortation. With banners in the salute at 1100hrs, Tony Wilman played the Last Post as the banners dipped and Petty Officer (Retd) Phil Croucher RN lowered the Union flag; each recovering after the two minutes silence and Reveille.

Leading the wreath laying was Damian Hinds MP, followed by Mayor Annette Eyre and Councillors Andrew Joy

and Graham Hill. HVA Chair, Rob Law laid his wreath. Representing the Services, each laying their wreaths were Captain John Fitzpatrick RN, followed by Captain Tim Chattell and Wg Cdr Hannah McCall from RAF Odiham. Derek Maughan laid the British Legion wreath, Alton Town Cryer Dave Parsons represented the Veterans, the RAF Association wreath was laid by Maxine Dalton and the Police wreath by Paula Jackson. As always, it is wonderful to see so many of the younger generation on parade with the Scouts, Cadets and schools each laying their wreaths. On behalf of the Church, Alison Harris laid the wreath and Mr John Smith for the Masonic Lodge.

Col (Retd) Max Joy both explained and delivered the Kohima Epitaph, before Revd David Chattell led our prayers and blessing, allowing the parade to march-off to a wonderful reception at the White Hart. Mince pies and punch were served, courtesy of Thanasi, whilst the Pipes and Drums played outside. It was lovely to see the elderly residents of The Lawn waiting for the parade to pass and to speak to the dignitaries.

This is a village event and a big thank you to the many villagers who make this event happen. Phil Croucher is always a massive support, and thanks to Jerry Janes for providing us with his sounds system. Supporting with road closures, I am grateful to Richard Kelly and the wonderful couple Peter and Dors Packham, whom for years have silently and efficiently managed the road closures on Church Lane and London Road enabling us to parade. As ever, it is to honour those who are not able to speak for themselves, we collectively thank them for their Service

#We Will Remember Them.

**Maj (Retd) AM Stratta PARA**

## Remembrance Special

# Wartime Memories of Norman Rundell



In May, we were looking at VE80 and on the 7<sup>th</sup> of May 2025 we went to interview Norman Rundell, a Holybourne villager who will reach the exceptional age of 103 in December this year. Norman moved to the village with his daughter, Val nearly 3 years ago. His granddaughter and husband also live in the village with their son (Norman's great grandson). We have always called him Papa but on arriving for the interview he asked us (tongue in cheek) to call him Sir, which we duly did!

### Have you always lived around here?

Not at all. I was born in Cornwall then moved to London at 16 to work as an accountant in the Air Ministry (RAF). When war began, we were evacuated to Gloucestershire and then I joined the RAF. I wasn't allowed to fly because I wore glasses, so I worked on radar.

### What did you do to serve in World War II?

I joined the RAF when I was 18 and served to the age of 23 - five years to the day. I worked as a radar mechanic, making sure all the radar equipment was working, detecting enemy aircraft approaching. I had to sign the official secrets act which meant I couldn't talk about my work to anyone.

Norman humbly says his job wasn't that important - but we point out that without it, we may have been telling a very different story. Norman met his wife-to-be, Anne, who was a radar operator - they used to go off to the village together to collect the milk. It used to take a while....

### Where were you when the D-DAY announcement was made?

I was at Upper Heyford Airfield, near Oxford. We looked it up on a map - it is now disused.

### How did it make you feel?

It didn't come as a surprise because by then we knew we were winning. It was a relief that life could get back to normal. I could go home now. I was just a civilian in uniform, and I just wanted to put it behind me. The years were wasted, but I don't regret it. After VE Day, I was moved to Ashburton, Devon and was kitted out in a whole new set of clothes in order to go to the Far East. However, the next day we were told to hand all those clothes back as we were staying. I didn't get demobilised until 1946, and when I did, it was from Lord's Cricket Ground. We were all given a shirt, a suit, a trilby hat, six weeks pay - and we got to keep our groundsheet and great coat. We earned 1 shilling 6 pence a day to begin with (milk was about 3p a pint!). I went back to my old job at the same pay grade - maybe without the war my pay would have gone up?

Anne re-mustered and became a Drill Corporal. She was 4ft10" but her daughter and granddaughter remember the 'Drill Corporal' in her!

### What do you remember about rationing?

I didn't really have to worry about it because I was in lodgings, or I had meals provided by the cook house. I remember when I was in Clee Hill there was an 80-year-old chef who got extra lamb chops from the farmer next door! Rationing was still in place when Norman married Anne in 1948, they had to call in favours for food (they had ham) and Anne's dress.

### Were there any positives?

No, not really. We made strong friendships, comradeships, we liked being back with the air force family, we played bridge a lot. I still enjoy playing bridge now.

### What is one lesson that you learnt and want to tell others about?

Be prepared to do your duty. Sometimes you have to say enough is enough and fight against evil and there was no



## Remembrance Special

# Behind the Poppy



doubt that Naziism was evil. So many people died in the concentration camps just because they were different or believed certain things. Who knows what might have happened if people hadn't stood up and said enough is enough. Most wars are not justifiable because problems can be sorted in a better way. WWII was different, we needed to fight an evil that needed stopping. We had to stand up and be counted.

I have watched "Darkest Hour" several times – Lord Halifax wanted to make peace, but Churchill went against the grain and said no. Churchill was the right person at the right time.

I visited my old school and there were 49 names on the war memorial there, people I went to school with.

### What is the funniest thing that happened?

I was working in Worcestershire at RAF Defford and a Lancaster Bomber landed. I chatted to the crew and found out they were going to Woodbridge (near Ipswich) which was where my sweetheart, Anne, was working as a WAAF. I asked if I could hitch a lift - it was an uncomfortable ride and the brakes didn't work properly. As we landed, I could hear the pilot praying the Lord's Prayer over the radio headset. The pilot knew the wing flaps didn't work properly! We landed safely and I hitch hiked to RAF Bawdsey Manor only to find Anne had gone home on leave to Essex! So I hitch hiked to Essex and managed to get there in time to spend the rest of the weekend with her.

I knew of someone who used to cycle from Tetbury, Gloucestershire, to London to see his girlfriend – 90 miles each way.

Another time at Hopton, Norfolk, they put the aerial up high so that it could detect low flying aircraft. It needed work on it, the aerial was 200ft tall but I suffered from vertigo. The Officer in charge asked whether I had a certificate to say I suffered from vertigo, which of course I hadn't, so I was told "on your bike lad". The mast was swaying from the wind off the sea, it was blowing the ladder away from the mast. There was a safety belt but you couldn't use it because there were hoops to get through. There was a safety rail too but as it was only 18" high it wasn't much help! My turn came every third day.

What a privilege to get this first-hand account from Norman – thank you, Sir!

### Interview and article by Jonah and Jemima Main. Facilitated and edited by Sarah Main.

*Top left: Norman proudly displaying his medals, which are the World War II British Defence Medal (left) and War Medal 1939-1945 (right). These medals were awarded to military and civilian subjects of the British Commonwealth for service during the Second World War.*

*Left: RAF Upper Heyford today. Although no longer an operational airfield, the site is in use for commercial purposes and a museum; photo courtesy of Upper Heyford Heritage.*

Few institutions occupy as central a place in British public life as the Royal British Legion. Known to most through the annual Poppy Appeal and the solemnity of Remembrance ceremonies, the Legion represents something far deeper than a charitable organisation. It is a bridge between past and present, binding generations through the shared memory of service, sacrifice, and community. Its origins lie in the turmoil of the early twentieth century, yet its legacy continues to shape British society a century later.

### Born from the Aftermath of War

The Royal British Legion emerged in 1921, at a moment when Britain was still grappling with the profound human cost of the First World War. The Great War had left nearly every community affected. Returning servicemen faced daunting realities: unemployment, disability, widowhood, and social dislocation. Support systems were scattered, inconsistent, or entirely absent.

Before 1921, the needs of veterans were addressed by several separate organisations, including the Comrades of the Great War, the National Federation of Discharged and Demobilised Sailors and Soldiers, and the Officers' Association. Each sought to support ex-service personnel, but their efforts were fragmented and sometimes competitively aligned with political factions.

Field Marshal Earl Haig and Tom Lister, a prominent veterans' advocate, recognised the need for unity. Their vision was clear: create a single organisation that could speak with one voice, offer comprehensive welfare support, and serve as a lasting guardian of remembrance. The union of those disparate groups on 15 May 1921 formed the British Legion—granted the "Royal" prefix a decade later.

### Welfare at the Heart of Its Mission

From the beginning, the Legion's purpose extended beyond symbolic remembrance. It was designed as a lifeline for those who had served. Early campaigns focused on securing better pensions, ensuring fair treatment for disabled veterans, and providing practical help such as employment assistance, housing, and community support.

Over the decades, the scope of its welfare work expanded in tandem with Britain's military engagements—from the Second World War to modern operations in the Balkans, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Today, the Legion offers financial aid, recovery programmes, mental-health support, family assistance, and support for serving personnel as well as veterans. Its holistic approach reflects an understanding that the effects of service extend far beyond the battlefield.

### The Poppy: A Symbol Rooted in Memory

It is impossible to discuss the Royal British Legion without reference to the red poppy. Inspired by the flowers that grew on the battlefields of Flanders and immortalised in John McCrae's poem *In Flanders Fields*, the poppy became the emblem of remembrance and hope. **continued...**

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# Remembrance Special Behind the Poppy, continued

The Legion's first Poppy Appeal was held in November 1921. Handmade poppies were sold to raise funds for veterans' welfare, and the response was overwhelming: millions of poppies sold out almost instantly. The annual Poppy Appeal has since become one of Britain's most recognisable charitable campaigns. Beyond fundraising, it reinforces the cultural ritual of reflection on war, sacrifice, and peace.

### A Role Embedded in National Life

The Royal British Legion has become an institution woven into the fabric of British civic identity. It plays a central role in national acts of remembrance, including the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall and the Cenotaph service on Remembrance Sunday. Legion branches—numbering thousands across the UK and abroad—act as community hubs where veterans, families, and citizens gather.

The Legion's influence also extends into policy advocacy. It has successfully campaigned for improved compensation

schemes, better mental-health services for veterans, and the Armed Forces Covenant, which enshrines the principle that those who serve should face "no disadvantage" in civilian life.

### A Legacy That Endures

The enduring legacy of the Royal British Legion lies in its adaptability. While rooted in the memory of the First World War, it continues to meet the evolving needs of new generations of service personnel. Its mission—supporting the Armed Forces community and preserving remembrance—remains as relevant today as it was at its founding.

In an age of rapid change, the Legion's steady presence offers reassurance that the sacrifices of the past will not be forgotten and that those who serve today will not face hardship alone. It stands not only as a guardian of memory, but as a living commitment to care, unity, and national gratitude.

Col (Rtd) Max Joy OBE

## The Charities Supporting our Armed Forces Personnel

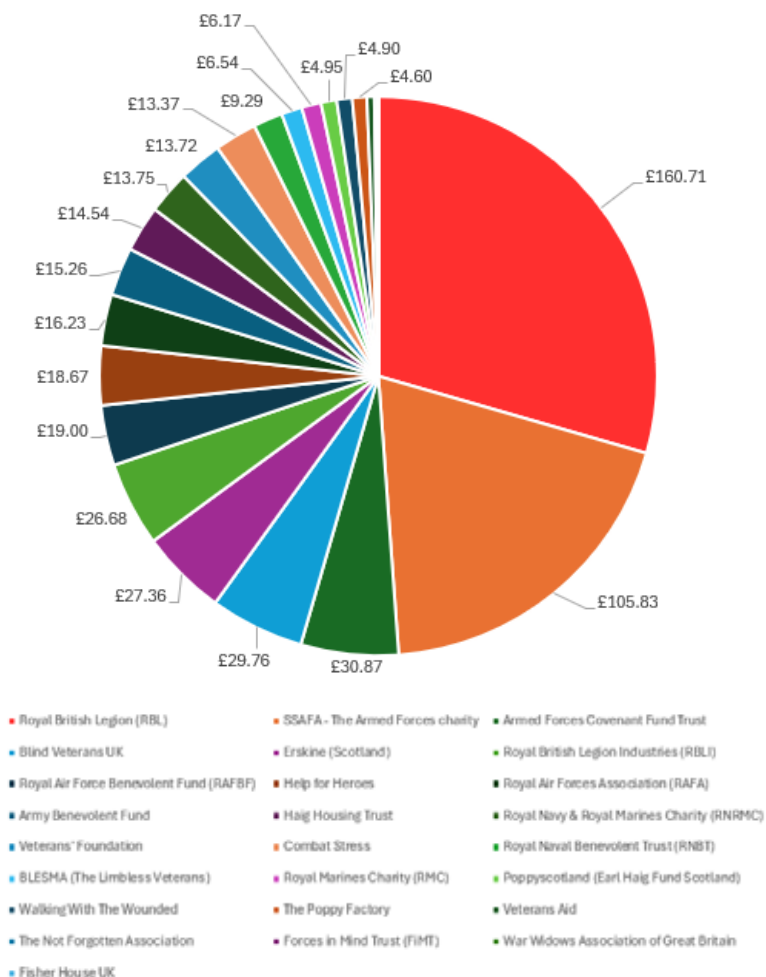
The 2024 Poppy Appeal raised just under £44 million from public donations and the sale of wreaths in the weeks leading up to Remembrance Sunday. But that is only part of the story as the British Legion total income in that year was £160.7 million, the majority from other donations and legacies. Smaller fundraising events and sales of merchandise also top up the sums raised. With over 110,000 volunteers and just 1,500 full-time staff, it is a significant provider of support to ex-servicemen and women.

But of course, the British Legion is not the only organisation supporting our ex-servicemen and women. A large number of military-service charities raise significant sums and offer similar support and the top three are the British Legion, SSAFA (Soldiers', Sailors', and Airmen's Families Association) and Help For Heroes

Many have been established as long, if not longer than the British Legion (SSAFA was set up in 1895) and the top 25 by income are shown in the chart, with many other smaller specialist organisations also operating but at a lower scale. The number and type of supporting charities reflect the very different needs of our ex-Armed Forces personnel and their families.

It is worth noting that the Government not only directly supports ex-Armed Forces personnel who may need help with the standard disability payments and other mainstream welfare payments but often provides funds for the military charities via direct grants.

Armed Forces Charities Income (£m) 2024





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# Surviving My First Year in Holybourne

## A Family Decision

In the middle of 2023, we approached my son Chris and his family with an idea. At 77, my wife Lyn and I were aware that we might one day need extra support, and living together as an extended family seemed a sensible and positive step. We had also just become grandparents, and the thought of seeing our granddaughter Isla grow up close by was a huge attraction.

Chris put his house on the market, and it quickly went under offer. Encouraged, we searched widely across the Southeast — Liss, Ropley, Horsham, Camberley, Guildford, Emsworth, Hayling Island, Waterlooville and more — but nothing quite felt right. In the end, with no suitable property found, Chris had to withdraw from the sale, and we decided to stay in Send, Woking, until something truly special came along.

## Finding Holybourne

In early 2024 we started again, and this time fortune favoured us. Chris's house went under offer once more, and soon afterwards we discovered our new home in Holybourne. From the very first visit, we were impressed by the location. We had some experience of Alton but knew nothing about Holybourne.

It is rare to find somewhere that combines such charm and community spirit with easy access to shops and restaurants nearby in Alton — a small town that offers everything you need without overwhelming the area. After years of congestion and noise around Woking and the M25, life here feels like another world. It is perhaps best it remains a hidden gem.

## A New Project Begins

The house had “good bones” but needed a complete renovation, inside and out, to meet our needs and put our stamp on it. The garden had become a jungle dominated by ivy, which was a sad sight for Lyn, an enthusiastic gardener, compared to her old garden. Fortunately, she is also experienced in property renovation, and the work began almost immediately.

Chris, his wife Natasha, and their children Samir and Isla (then about one and a half years old) moved in at the end of June 2024. Within a week, they flew to America to introduce Isla to much of Natasha's family, in Florida and New York, leaving us to press on with the renovation. By the time they returned, their bedrooms and a bathroom were finished.

We sold our old house soon after and moved in that September. Because we already owned the house in Holybourne, it was the easiest move we have ever made. From the outset, everything seemed to fall into place, and we quickly grew to love Holybourne.

## Challenges and Milestones

There were a few challenges. Samir was studying at Godalming College, and Chris was making long daily round

trips that sometimes stretched to three and a half hours with two trips a day. The Farnham bottleneck is a problem. Determined to end the ordeal, he pushed hard for Samir to pass his driving test — which he did, first time and with zero faults, in October 2024. Sam also passed his A-Levels and is now at Birmingham University.

## An Unexpected Turn

Then, in April 2025, everything changed. During a work call, I began speaking incoherently. Lyn overheard and quickly called Chris. Fearing I had suffered a stroke, they called an ambulance. An MRI scan revealed a large meningioma — a tumour leaning on my brain.

At nearly 79, it was a frightening diagnosis, but I was extremely fortunate to come under the care of Mr Emad Shenouda, Consultant Neurosurgeon at Southampton University General Hospital. He decided to operate, when others might not have done so at my age, and in July 2025 the tumour was removed successfully. Recovery has been far better than anyone expected.

## A Place for Healing

Holybourne has been an unexpected ally in that recovery. Its calm beauty, friendly faces, and gentle pace have all played their part. Each walk, each chat, and each view across the fields has helped me heal, both physically and mentally. I also have to say a massive thank you to those in our wonderful Church and community who prayed for me and wished me well.

It is important that Holybourne remains the way it is and is not swamped by development. We had first-hand experience in Send, Surrey, of seeing a quiet village that was overdeveloped and overly congested in our over forty years there.

So yes — “surviving” my first year in Holybourne has meant rather more than I imagined. At my age I expected health challenges eventually, but not so soon. But I am very grateful for all the family I have, and the wonderful national health services we all have.

## Terry Toms



*Terry Toms is the Chairman and founder of RandDTax, a national R&D tax consultancy established in 2012 (see advert opposite).*

*The high point in the history of RandDTax was winning the Innovation Award at the respected National SME Awards in December 2017.*

*Before founding the business, Terry enjoyed a long career in banking, computing, and professional software, including senior roles with British Olivetti and several international firms. Originally from Scotland, Terry and his wife Lyn moved to Holybourne in 2024.*

# Noah Wolfe – Racing Ahead



Noah Wolfe, a 16-year-old from Holybourne, has recently won a significant motorsport trophy in FIA World karting and in the same year has set a record as the youngest person to win the KZ2 Motorsport UK Open Championship, the latest achievement in a long line of success over the course of his burgeoning career (see panel).

To an outsider, Motorsport has a bewildering array of categories and classes, enabling drivers and teams to race many different vehicle types (Cars, Karts and Motorcycles), at different levels of skill, performance and cost. For cars, the most well-known category (or 'Formula') is F1, which represents the peak in terms of speed, engineering and cost.

In contrast, Karting is an ideal entry point for young drivers, with a number of different classes that enable young drivers to enjoy motorsport at a reasonable cost. It is also the gateway to the global spectacle that is Formula 1. Many of the world's most famous F1 drivers began their motor racing careers in karting: Micheal Schumacher, Max Verstappen, Nico Rosberg and, of course, Lewis Hamilton.

The karts driven by Noah are serious machines requiring a high degree of athletic fitness and mental concentration, with track speeds in excess of 85 mph. The karts themselves

leave little room for comfort, with the driver sitting just an inch or so above the track.

Noah has been involved in karting from a very young age (5 years-old), ever since his father Roger brought him to a local kart track, where he developed a natural talent for the sport. Actively supported by his parents, he has dedicated nearly all his spare time to karting, starting from club level and working his way up to European competitions.

I was fortunate enough to interview Noah the day before he was travelling to Las Vegas for a major karting championship.

He has a quiet, modest confidence and a maturity way beyond his years. For someone so young, he is very self-assured and focussed on competing at the highest level, but with no hint of arrogance, just calm self-control.

So how does an ordinary teenager become not so ordinary?

Noah has the blessing of his school, Eggars, who recognise his talent and have devised a weekly programme whereby he completes all his schoolwork in just three days with the support of a home tutor and then spends the rest of the week training and preparing for racing at the weekend.

I ask him what sort of training and preparation is required to successfully complete: "So a normal, typical day...I would go to school, I would come home, work with my (school)

tutor for an hour and a half. Then I would be training with my fitness coach, and then I'd be on the sim (Simulator) with my sim coach"

Clearly this requires a high degree of commitment and self-discipline – how does he do it? Noah credits his parents Roger and Charlotte, for this: "I think how my Dad has raised me, that's been the best, the best coaching...My mum says, Never give up. Never give up. And as long as you're giving it your best, that's all you can do"

I mention the critical importance of the right support, the right motivation and the right coaching, with the right people. Noah responds "Yeah, that was another big thing for my Dad. He wanted to always make sure that the right people are around me... always worked to get the best people around me from such a young age. Now it's in my DNA, working with the best and ... not learning bad habits" What's Next

We turn to discuss the future. Noah tells me that karting is an excellent training ground for all motorsport: "It's not just about the driving... it's where you learn the key areas ... like the balance of the car. If you know how to set a Kart up really well, then you'll know how to set up car really well..."

you learn if it's under steering, over steering, what's happening with the rear. If you learn that at such a young age, then the more information, especially in F1. the more information you can give to your engineer, the quicker you're going to go"

I ask him about fear – is he fearless?" I don't really feel the fear in the speed. Fear is in the competition and how tight it is, but fear and speed, not really"

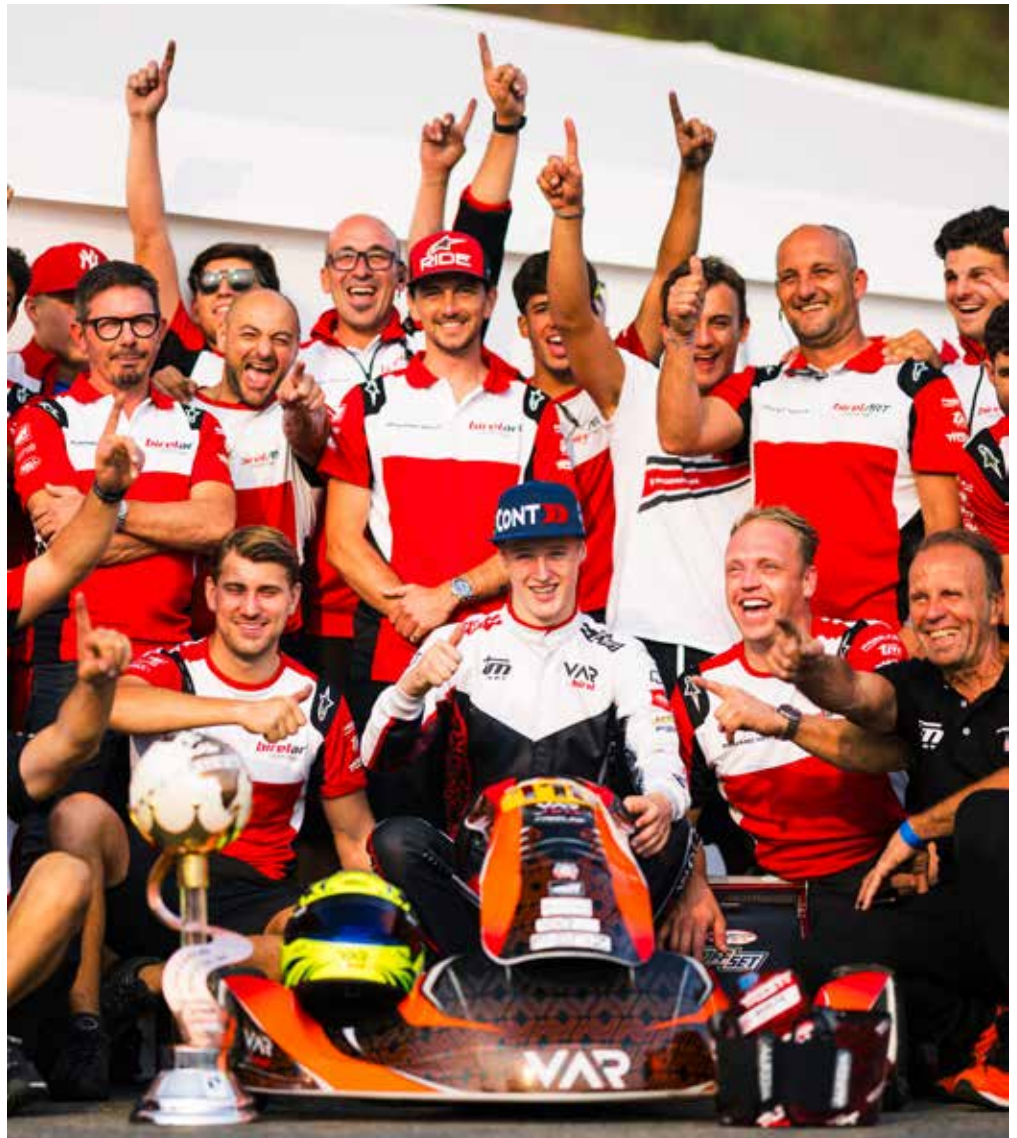
However, he recognises that racing in cars, with more weight and higher speeds (up to 150mph), is going to be a step up and something that he has to get used to: "The fundamental skills that you have around racing, checking the line, understanding the underlying competitive drive, they can be relatively easily transferred. But there's understanding the car and the weight and the brakes, the weight of the car is a huge thing".

As such a focussed individual, I ask him if he has a master plan: "Plan A, raise the money ... and have a look at F4 and then go all the way through to F1, that's obviously Plan A. But there's a lot more to racing than just Formula One, which most people aren't really aware of"

However, in the near term, the plan for next season is not confirmed as there are a number of opportunities under consideration and they will use the winter to explore them: "I've got so many plans and so many areas in motorsport in which I can work"

As Noah, Roger and the rest of the team are leaving to take part in a major karting tournament in Las Vegas (the Superkarts Supernationals 28) the next day, we conclude the interview. I am struck by what a well-rounded person Noah already is: highly talented, focussed and motivated, yet calm and modest. It's clear that whatever direction his motorsport career takes, he's likely to be very successful and we wish our local hero well.

**John Bound**



Noah is one of the UK's top young racing drivers, he has competed across Europe in the OK-FIA, KZ2-FIA, Champions of the Future, and WSK Super Master Series.

A record-breaking KartMasters double winner and British Minimax Champion, Noah has over 30 career wins and podiums, 5 British Titles including top 10 finishes at two World Finals.





He is the youngest ever KZ2 British Open Champion after a record breaking win.

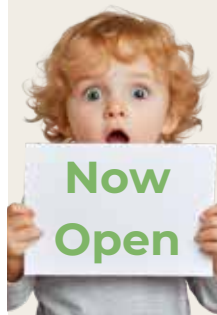
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# Holybourne Gardening Club



## The first year!

Time flies when you are enjoying yourself and the members of Holybourne Gardening Club have certainly enjoyed their first year. The inaugural meeting took place in the church in October last year with a good attendance and a chatty time planning how the club would run and what people would like to take place at each meeting. The range of expertise within the group makes for great discussions and usually someone has the answer to the question or problem. We are a very friendly and upbeat group and conversation can occasionally go off topic, but our main focus is all things gardening.

We have a dedicated group who take on the main roles. Our chair is Tracy Wicking, Secretary, Laura Ballantyne and Treasurer, Anne Burrige. Subscriptions are £24.00 a year with visitors welcome for £3.00 a session.

The year's sessions have covered: Wreath making - thank you to Sam Barrow from Binsted; 'No Dig' gardening - thank you Ruth Chatel with video input; Bee keeping - thank you Lucinda Yelland; Seed swap, plant exchange, sharing each other's gardens with visits to three of them, thank you Judy



Janes for the pretty iris display, Andy and Julia Muir for the amazing development of such a beautiful garden, and Ruth Chatel for the explosion of Dahlias. There were also visits to Otium vineyard, thanks to Stuart Hunt for organising this and a local garden, The Manor House, Upton Grey, a Gertrude Jekyll restored Hampshire garden. Finally, we reviewed the year and planned the sessions for 25/26.

The meetings have taken place on a Thursday evening at 6.30pm in various locations, some at the church, some at the pub and some in members' gardens. From November 25th the meetings will move to the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday in the month at 7.00pm to accommodate more members. It would be good to see more of the 50 or so members of the WhatsApp group at our meetings and we hope the change of day and time will help with this. New members are welcome at any time during the year.

## Programme for 2025/2026

4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7.00pm

### 2025

- 11<sup>th</sup> December: 6.30pm Christmas Dinner - The White Hart Prior booking please. Secret Santa will be a home-grown plant.

### 2026

- 27<sup>th</sup> January: Shrubs, the backbone of your garden - Holybourne Village Hall. Speaker, Geoff Hawkins
- February: Saturday Vineyard visit, pruning the vines - date to be announced.
- 24<sup>th</sup> March: Subject to be announced. Holybourne Village Hall. Speaker Penney Hames
- 28<sup>th</sup> April: Garden visit, Judith Stephens, Binsted.
- 26<sup>th</sup> May: Seedling swap. The White Hart.
- May Weekend visit to West Green Garden - date to be announced.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> June: Visit to The Lawn garden, Tony Nelson.
- 28<sup>th</sup> July: Stuart and Wendy's garden Cranford Drive.
- 25<sup>th</sup> August: Tracy's garden.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> September: Review of our gardens year and planning for 26/27. The White Hart.
- 27<sup>th</sup> October: AGM - Holybourne Village Hall.

### Extra plans and visits

We hope to visit some local gardens from the 'Yellow' book National Garden Scheme if we can find places and times to suit.

The club has committed to growing plants for Andrews' Endowed School summer fair.

There will also be a Sunflower Trail through the village for youngsters and young at heart to enjoy during the summer.

Come and join our growing community!

**Judith Janes**





# Holybourne Honeys WI



## Recent Activities

On 20<sup>th</sup> September 2025, we welcomed mixed-media artist Jacky Purtil, who introduced us to the creative world of pastels.

Some members questioned whether they possessed any artistic talent — but were they right to doubt themselves? After Jacky's brief demonstration, everyone eagerly set to work, aiming to produce their own pastel masterpiece.

We followed her guidance, applying colour and blending it carefully — and soon discovered how satisfying it is to smudge pastels with a finger rather than a brush. It brought back childhood memories of making mud pies!

There was plenty of quiet concentration and by the end of the session, many splendid creations had emerged.

Of course, no WI meeting would be complete without tea and cake — and we were treated to some truly excellent bakes by Judith and Mary.

*Photo shows Jacky Purtil guiding the creative energy of the Holybourne Honeys*

## 2026 Programme (So Far!)

Planning for our 2026 programme is already well underway, and we're preparing for a very special year — it will be 90 years since the Holybourne WI first began. A wonderful milestone and an excellent reason to celebrate!

Here's a taste of what's coming up:

- 15<sup>th</sup> January: We'll welcome local author Louise Morrish, writer of Operation Moonlight.
- Also in January: We'll be trying our hand at bell ringing in Holybourne Church.
- 19<sup>th</sup> February: A practical and potentially life-saving session — "Bystanders Can Be Lifesavers" with St John Ambulance, including hands-on CPR training.
- Later in the year: We'll be joined by some talented young musicians for a lively evening of guitar music (apologies in advance to any nearby neighbours for the noise!).

Please see our page in the clubs & societies section of the Holybourne Village Website [www.holybourne.com](http://www.holybourne.com) for full programme details, dates, and times.

**Wendy Hunt**

Holybourne Theatre presents...

# BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Written by Susan Mosley

**3 PM** Jan 24, 25, 31  
Feb 1, 7

**7 PM** Jan 24  
Feb 7



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## Young Adventurers Wanted!

Fancy sailing a large yacht with a team of other young people? Looking to have the experience of a lifetime, then we could be the organisation for you!

The Rona Sailing Project (RSP) is a sail training charity based in the Hamble, close to Southampton, and it has the aim of the Project is to provide sail training for young people aged between 15-25 years old, school and youth groups and people of all ages with a variety of special needs. That sounds quite simplistic in its aim but the marvellous reality of what the project achieves is to take a disparate group of young people, some with a little sailing experience but most with absolutely none, and over a period of seven days create self-confidence, leadership, team participation and team building - all whilst developing sailing skills and having great fun navigating some of the most famous sailing waters in the world. This year, we took nearly 700 people sailing!

### Origins

The Project has its roots in London over 60 years ago, in 1960. This was not that many years after the end of WW II, so there were still high levels of social deprivation. The concept emanated from a wealthy individual with a greatly under-used yacht, thinking it could be a excellent idea to take some disadvantaged London youngsters and see if their prospects for life could be improved. So, the Project London Sailing Project was born and has flourished ever since. To ease logistics by getting closer to the excellent sailing grounds on the South Coast, the 'project' moved first to Gosport and then to the Hamble River, where it is currently based and now known as the Rona Sailing Project.

### Volunteer Crews

The Project has a tiny staff - only 5 full time employees. But delivery of the on-the-water sailing and running of the boats (more about them below) is done by a huge team of volunteers (known as the Afterguard and numbering more than 260) who freely give their time and skills for the benefit of our trainees. Each trip normally has a Skipper, Mate, two Watch Officers and two Watch Leaders. Skippers and Mates must be certified with an RYA Yachtmaster qualification and additionally must be commercially endorsed by the MCA (Maritime and Coastguard Agency). Watch Officers must hold a RYA Day Skipper qualification and Watch Leaders will be working towards that level. Naturally, all volunteer staff are also DBS certified.

### The Yachts

We have four boats in total; three are large twin masted boats ranging from 19m (62 feet) to 23m (75 feet) and accommodating from 15 to 23 crew on board including the Afterguard, with a 'small' 38-footer Afterguard training yacht. The trainees do all the hard work: manually hoisting sails (and changing or reefing them when the wind gets up), launching the dinghies and hauling the sheets (ropes attached to the sails). The trainees, under supervision, are also responsible for putting food on the table every day for everyone on board. It is one of life's mysteries how excellent hot food is produced for around 20 people three times each day in a galley which can be bouncing around or heeling over. To do that on a Calor Gas stove with just four burners and a small oven (smaller than any domestic oven in Holybourne I would guess) is little short of a minor miracle. Hard but very rewarding work!

**continued...**

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## Young Adventurers Wanted!, continued

### Cruising Grounds

From our base on the Hamble River, Southampton, we cover the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth, Poole, Weymouth and Dartmouth – sometimes even as far west as the Scilly Isles. After a few years of adjustment following Brexit and then Covid, our boats are again sailing across the English Channel to northern France and the Channel Islands.

We also usually take part in some of the local races: the famous Round the Island Race (Isle of Wight) and Small Ships Race are popular. Additionally, each year our flagship - Rona II - takes part in an international event known as the Tall Ships Race. This is a multi-week event including sail training yachts and tall ships from numerous countries, including some awesome square-riggers sailed by Cadets from several different navies. Locations have included Norway, Denmark, The Netherlands, France and Ireland. A lucky few of our best trainees receive an invitation to represent the Project in this prestigious event.

### Developing Young People

So how am I associated with this fabulous organisation? The background is that shortly after arriving in Holybourne over 30 years ago, I became aware of the Holybourne Offshore Sailing Club (more on that in the next issue of the magazine) where, thanks to having a Project Skipper living in the village, I found myself paying a modest amount to go sailing on Rona II for a weekend. I did this several times and then when I retired, I thought it would be a great idea to join the Project to firstly get a chance to sail locally but also have an opportunity to try to help develop younger people to gain some level of sailing skills. I joined in 2019 and although 2020 was wiped out with Covid, I have now probably done around 20 trips in the role of Watch Officer. It is such a rewarding experience. I see people come on board, clearly nervous but, by the end of the week, they stride off, heads held high, their confidence boosted but most of all having had a great time. A good number come back, some don't because it is a sport which is not for everyone. But I can say unequivocally that I have never had anyone say they did not enjoy themselves. And that I regard as one of my, and the Project's, great achievements.

### Help a Young Person Join the Adventure

So, if you know of a young person between 15 and 25 who you think would benefit from a sailing experience that builds their emotional confidence or feeds their adventurous side, have a look on the Rona Sailing Project's website [www.ronasailingproject.org.uk](http://www.ronasailingproject.org.uk) and then contact them directly on 01489 885098

### Richard Kelly

Watch this short video to get inspired; scan the QR Code now:



## Christmas Services at Holybourne Church



Day	Date	Time	Event
Sunday	7 <sup>th</sup>	6pm	Carol Service
Monday	22 <sup>nd</sup>	7pm	Carol Singing around the Village Christmas Tree (@ The White Hart)
Christmas Eve	24 <sup>th</sup>	3pm	Crib Service – with Donkeys
		10pm	Christmas Communion
Christmas Day	25 <sup>th</sup> Dec	9.30am	Christmas Communion

## Building Faith

**Let's Build God's Stories** (LEGO®) is the title of a family service that meets at Holy Rood Church, Holybourne every month. All are welcome on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 4pm.

We have a song, some prayers, and watch an animated Lego bible story. Then we build scenes from the story with Lego®, often very creatively, to help us re-enact it.

After building, we share a delicious buffet tea together.



This month, we have built the Christmas Story ready for the Animated Lego® Christmas Trail - do pop in and see our creations and revisit the story in a brick-tastic way.

Next month, on January 25<sup>th</sup> 2026, LeGo church will celebrate its 1<sup>st</sup> birthday! Come and enjoy Lego cake with us!

**Ruth Chattell  
& Helen Walters**

*As you can see, the Revd David is a keen participant...*



# Holybourne Cricket Club

## Another successful season for the Colts

We're delighted that our young players go from strength to strength – and this summer we saw 55 children play across four teams, covering 39 matches.

Within those matches, our players achieved 177 wickets and 2,597 runs!

We rightly celebrated them all at our awards ceremony in September – before a well-earned rest until Christmas.

Huge thanks to all our players, coaches, parents and supporters – and of course to our faithful sponsors Stubby's, who provided our shirts and ongoing generosity.

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

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

We are therefore returning to Eggar's School on a Monday night from 12<sup>th</sup> January for our winter training evenings – an hour of nets and skills training from 6pm for u9s, 7pm for u11s and 8pm for u13s and u15s.

Contact: colts@hollybournecc.com

Signup: [www.holybournecc.com/payments](http://www.holybournecc.com/payments)

## Always looking for new adult players too

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

## Looking ahead to summer

A date for your diaries – The club will reopen for the 2026 Season (weather permitting!) on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2026. Keep an eye on our social channels for updates and changes.

@hollybournecc

@hollybourne\_cricket\_club

HolybourneCC.com





## WINTER CRICKET TRAINING

**U9 SESSION (18:00 - 19:00)**  
SCHOOL YEARS - Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4

**U11 SESSION (19:00 - 20:00)**  
SCHOOL YEARS - Y5 & Y6

**U13 & U15 SESSION (20:00 - 21:00)**  
SCHOOL YEARS - Y7, Y8, Y9, Y10

**STARTS: MONDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2026**

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**SIGNUP: HOLYBOURNECC.COM/PAYMENTS**

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