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Spring 2026



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From the Editor

Holybourne's conservation area was created in 1977, so although it is tempting to see it as one unchanging entity, it has developed over centuries. The individual buildings capture the great social changes in our country: the decline of the feudal system, the changing role of agriculture as a result of the industrial revolution, and the relatively recent emergence of a post industrial knowledge economy.

It worth remembering that many of the things we consider to be "heritage" today, were once considered new and disruptive. Hopefully you'll enjoy these historical features, in part based on the information contained in the Holybourne Archive. This exceptional resource has been created, compiled and organised by a number of villagers over the last ten years. We'll be creating a feature about the Archive in a future edition, highlighting the many people involved in its creation, but special thanks should go to Linda Habberfield, Jennie Pearson and Chris Everett.

It's also important to remember that Holybourne is not a museum, it is a living, vibrant and modern community, and we'd like to see that reflected in the content of this magazine. So, any contributions, written or photographic, are most welcome. Enjoy the Spring!

John Bound, editor@holybourne.com

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Copy Date for next issue

Friday 3rd July 2026

Cover

Tudor Cottage,108 London Road, Holybourne (Ref. 14 on the map on pages 1819); photo by Jerry Janes

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Pond Page



A Pond Farewell

It with sadness that we have to report the demise of a well-known Holybourne resident: Dora, the village goose.

In recent months, she was having great difficulty moving about having lived to the grand old age of 40! Typically, domestic white geese, such as the White Chinese or Embden breeds, commonly live between 10 to 25 years with proper care, and can sometimes live up to 30 years, Dora's longevity is exceptional and extremely rare for a white goose in England (or anywhere), bordering on the maximum recorded lifespan for the species. The oldest goose on record was a bird named George, who lived to nearly 50 years old. The key to such a lifespan is a balanced diet of grasses, aquatic plants, and protein-rich foods. Dora was regularly fed by Jan Haben (along with the other wildfowl on the pond), as the pond itself does not provide sufficient natural food for their numbers.

The recent drought also trapped Dora on the island as she could not get through the ooze to eat fresh greenery on the pond's banks. A contributing factor to her demise may also have been the spring arrival of a nesting pair of Canada geese, as they kept chasing her off the island.

Jan has been dedicated to looking after the wildlife on our village pond for many decades and saw Dora in distress on 11th February, so took her to Cedar Vets. Unfortunately, there was nothing they could do, so they had to humanely put her to sleep. For many years Dora had a companion goose – Lizzie – who was 27 when she died in August 2024. The village pond and Church remain a very important focal point in Holybourne and both Dora and Lizzie added character and charm to it – they will be missed.

Horatio the Holybourne Fish

It's always a good day when I see Horatio – or that's the name given to the big white fish in the village pond. The fish was noticed over a year ago and astounded many of us by surviving the first winter, then came the dry summer and the worry was that it could be plucked out of the pond (being highly visible by a heron). As it turned out the biggest threat to him (or her of course) was from the young lads who fancied a bit of fishing in the pond last summer!

So where did the fish come from and what type is it? My two theories are that it may have needed a home (perhaps outgrowing a small pond?) so was 'added' to the pond, or could it be that it was dropped by a heron as it passed over the pond because it spotted something tastier.

It seems most likely that this fish is a Ghost Koi Carp and after a bit of research I discovered they are a variation of common Carp that came about due to selective breeding over hundreds of years. Apparently, these types of fish will live between 9 and 45 years (plus) and get quite large - so it is hoped Horatio will continue to thrive as he is quite the celebrity, often discussed at the Village Association meetings. It has been observed by our experts on 'The Springs Project' (who monitor the condition of the pond and the springs that flow into it) that he spends a lot of time under the bushes next to the church gate, hence he sometimes seems to disappear (ghost!) as there is a runoff pipe in that area that may bring food into the pond.





Above: Dora the Goose guarding her Island

Right: Horatio the pond monster!

In late summer when the pond levels were so low, concerned members of the HVA's "Friends of the Pond" group tried to catch Horatio and take him to a safer place, they found that he weighed far more than anticipated and put up a much more vigorous fight than expected, so that idea was abandoned! Now that the water levels are back to normal, Horatio is doing well, feeding off freshwater shrimp that live around the springs entering the pond.

Other fish have been spotted in the Holybourne pond – small freshwater types that you can see in shoals near pipes that flow into the pond – later in spring. Those are probably the attraction for the kingfisher seen on occasions.

As well as fish there are mallard ducks and moorhen, plus other visiting dignitaries such as the mandarin duck and Egyptian geese. It is sad that we no longer have our beautiful Dora, the white goose. She will be sorely missed.

The pond is an integral part of our village and much appreciated by residents and visitors from Alton and beyond. However, the Holybourne pond needs essential maintenance, including dredging the silt that has built up. This was done over thirty years ago at a cost of several thousand pounds. This needs to be redone to prevent silting up and the "Friends of the Pond" are working on a costed solution at the moment. At some point later this year contributions or ideas for fundraising would be most appreciated.

If you want to get involved with the pond maintenance and also some of the other water management initiatives around Holybourne please get in touch with the Holybourne Village Association. Thanks go to the Springs Project team (Andy Hankin and Bob Page) for their information on the pond and for the underwater photo of our fascinating, happy and healthy pond resident.

Celia Wood, Holybourne Village Association

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

Pre-School News: The Big Move

At Holybourne Village Pre School, every summer term is a time of excitement and gentle preparation. Watching our children get ready for primary school is one of the real joys of our year. It's a big step, but with support from pre-school staff together with parents, grandparents and carers, it becomes a positive and confidence building experience.

How We Support the Children

We focus on helping our children feel ready in ways that are natural, playful, and reassuring. We spend time:

- Encouraging independence with coats, bags, water bottles and simple routines
- Supporting friendships and turn taking
- Introducing early learning through fun, hands on activities such as practising changing for PE and looking at school uniform
- Talking about what "big school" might be like in a calm, positive way and reading stories together.
- Working with parents, grandparents and carers to encourage small self-help skills, visiting the school where possible, sharing their own school memories and keeping routines steady so that children feel secure as they prepare for change.

Over the years we have fostered strong partnerships with all the local primary schools including Andrews' Endowed, Alton Infants, Wooteys, Butts, Chawton and Selborne Primary Schools. During the summer term we host staff from primary schools who like to visit us and meet their future pupils in a familiar setting. We also pay a special visit to Andrews' Endowed Primary School for an afternoon Teddy Bears' Picnic which includes a visit to the Acorns' classroom where we spend time meeting the reception year staff.

We believe that starting primary school should feel like the beginning of a wonderful adventure. With families and staff working together, our children step forward with confidence, curiosity, and a smile.

Calling all Former Holybourne Village Pre-school staff, pupils, parents and carers



We are compiling an Album of Memories of Holybourne Village Pre-school, since it's earliest days as Holybourne Playgroup at the start of the 1980s.

If you have photos, anecdotes or stories to add to the album, we would love to hear from you!

Email holybournevillagepreschool@yahoo.co.uk

Village Hall News

- As a registered charity, Holybourne Village Hall operates as a non-profit organisation - every penny goes straight back into supporting our much-loved community facility. Whilst the trustees have a legal responsibility to balance the books, we see this as an opportunity to be creative and resourceful.
- Recently, there has been a surprising rise in the use of paper hand towels - puzzling even our regular hirers! In the spirit of finding smart solutions, we're trialling a cost-effective alternative: catering "blue roll." A roll is now available in the kitchen for spills and cleanups, and if this works well, it could help significantly reduce costs while still meeting everyone's needs.
- Sometimes, Holybourne Village Hall can be likened to a duck on a pond – floating along placidly on the surface, but with frantic activity unseen beneath!
- We're delighted to share that we have welcomed a couple of new recruits to our trustees committee. Jill Sykes joined us in November last year, and Angela Moulton joined us in January. We're excited to welcome both long-term Holybourne residents to the team. Unfortunately, Vickie Kemp is having to take at least a temporary step back due to ill health, so is reluctantly relinquishing both her roles. With a background as a PA, Jill is taking over the role of Booking Secretary, and as a former Chartered Accountant, Angie will be taking on the Treasurer's role. Both Jill and Angie bring unique experiences and perspectives to the trustees' committee. We're also pleased to say that Vickie has agreed to stay on as a trustee and is working closely with both Jill and Angie in the transition period. Massive thanks to Vickie for her dedication over the years as Booking Secretary from 2009, and Treasurer from 2013. The trustees look forward to working closely with Jill and Angie as we continue to strive for excellence.
- In late autumn, a smaller than usual working party gathered at the Hall - but what a fantastic difference they made! Huge thanks to everyone who came along, and a special mention to Dave Brown, our lone non-trustee volunteer, who left the gutters in the best condition they've been in since installation. Other jobs ticked off included weeding, CCTV testing, drain inspections, RCD circuit testing, preparing the grit bin for winter, checking the oven and cooker hood filters, and making sure all toilet cubicle locks are in good working order. These small tasks make a significant difference to the smooth operation of our Hall and enhance the experience for everyone who hires it. With coffee to help keep spirits high, most jobs were completed in under two hours - a brilliant investment of time and effort. It's a great way to get involved and help care for something we all cherish.
- We held a very well-received Quiz Night on Saturday, 14th March. Lots of positive feedback, and very well done to The Chalk Streamers, who pipped Pic'n'Mix to first place by a mere half-point. Hot on their heels was Insert Brain Here, and the other four teams were only separated

continued...

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Peter Whitmarsh

A stout defender of Holybourne, with a playful legacy

I first got to know Peter Whitmarsh when I was elected with him to represent Holybourne on Alton Town Council. A resident in Cranford Drive, he looked a fiery sort and my goodness, so he was when anything involving Holybourne was discussed. Woe betide anyone who talked about "Alton" when the issue also involved Holybourne. They were swiftly interrupted and "encouraged" by Peter to refer also to the village that he represented. People tended to remember this advice.

As a councillor but also as a parent, he was centrally involved in the creation in the village of the Playground and helped design and oversee the construction of the original facilities. He was adamant it must at least match what Alton had and our debt to him as a village lies in the fact that the site now enjoys a protected status of a designate green space that has given joy to generations of parents and children over the last 30 years.

Very much a family man Peter was devastated when his youngest son David was diagnosed with Leukaemia but though tears were shed in private, he proved to be a tower of strength, love and support as David grew up. It was a measure of the man that when he lost David in his early twenties, he did not implode but strode on, recognising that though he had lost a dearly loved son, his other children had lost a brother and his support and love for them was demonstrated by the successful careers each has enjoyed.

His career as an acoustic engineer was a mix of practical solutions and scientific thought and his professionalism made him a popular with clients. I can remember accompanying him on a job to fit sound deadening wall coverings in a GP surgery waiting room. No longer did consultations have to conducted at a whisper….His easy manner and ready humour made him a joy to be with and sharing a room with him as we watched international rugby matches was a delight as this mighty man, all five feet and a little bit of him, left the England team in no doubt as to what he expected of them.



There was in Peter however, a real contrast between the fire of his passion and the empathy he always felt for those less fortunate than himself. He was a superb champion of the underprivileged, the poorly housed and the downtrodden. He fought on the Council for issues he believed in and opposed with a wonderful fury those he felt would disadvantage his constituents. Peter was one of the founder members of twinning Alton with Montecchio Maggiore in Italy 20 years ago. He was a councillor from 1991 to 2003 and Mayor in 1994/95.

Perhaps though his greatest joy was found late in life when he took to sailing. He found a thrill and serenity in skippering his own yacht and endeared himself to a new community where politics, acoustic engineering and rugby were displaced by wind, sail and the sea with all their own challenges. Married three times he remained on good terms with all of his wives and his determination not to accept the medics' initial prognosis that his cancer would see him off in two years, he doubled this, never letting his illness stop him from doing what he wanted to do.

Peter was a lovely man. Thoughtful, generous, conscientious and a good friend. He had impact wherever he went and he leaves behind a silence and an emptiness. His family will miss him; he was adored by his offspring and his grandchildren. A giant of a man at five foot and a little bit.

Jerry Janes

Village Hall News, continued

by ten points! Many thanks to Triple FFF Brewery for the donation of the real ale, The White Hart for the £50 voucher, Alton Camera Club for the loan of the projector and to Tim Newman for the table quizzes. We believe we've raised around £800 (more on this shortly), so many thanks for your support – the Hall's only income comes from hires, fundraising, and the occasional grant — so every ticket sold, and every beverage bought makes a real difference!

- With the change of trustees mentioned earlier, it seemed prudent to make appropriate changes to the bank account signatories to reflect the revised responsibilities. We have learned a valuable lesson for the future, though, as the bank happily removed everyone instantly, then informed us it would take some weeks to add the new signatories. Thus, we are currently unable to issue cheques or make payments, hence the uncertainty regarding the quiz proceeds – we hope to be able to update everyone soon!
- The trustees are also investigating interior decorating options, as well as fireproof blackout curtains, as our drive continues to improve the Hall and its facilities.
- This year's Annual General Meeting is planned for July 28th at 19:00 at the Hall. It would be great to see many of you there, so we know that we have your support and interest. The AGM usually only takes around 30 minutes, and who knows? You might be inspired to join us!
- Holybourne Village Hall thrives thanks to the dedication of trustees, volunteers, and the wider community. Every small improvement helps us protect and enhance this wonderful facility for generations to come. Thank you for being part of the journey!

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Running with Purpose

Gemma's London Marathon Journey

On a cold February evening in Holybourne, Gemma Froud speaks with quiet determination about the challenge ahead of her. In just a few weeks' time, she will take on the London Marathon—her first attempt at the iconic 26.2-mile race. But for Gemma, this is far more than a personal milestone. It is a journey rooted in experience, compassion, and a deep connection to the cause she is supporting.



Gemma has lived in Holybourne for several years with her husband Paul and their two children, having previously lived in Alton. Like many in the village, her life is full - balancing family, a full-time job, and a project management apprenticeship. Yet somehow, she has found the time and energy to train for one of the most demanding endurance events in the world.

"I've always wanted to run the London Marathon," she explains. "I entered the ballot 11 times and never got in." This year, however, an opportunity arose through her workplace's connection with the Enham Trust (see over), a charity supporting people with disabilities. It felt, she says, like everything aligned at the right moment. Her connection to the cause is deeply personal. Earlier in her career, she worked as a carer for young people with disabilities - an experience she describes with warmth and pride. "It just felt like the perfect opportunity to do something for a charity that means an awful lot to me," she says.

The Enham Trust, based not far from Holybourne, provides supported living, employment opportunities, and community initiatives for people with a wide range of disabilities, including those that are less visible. Gemma speaks passionately about their work, particularly their STRIVE programme, which supports individuals - including herself - with neurodiversity and other challenges in the workplace. "If people want to work, they should be given the opportunity to", she says simply.

Taking on a marathon is no small feat, as Gemma points out, "I've never run more than a half marathon before." While she was an enthusiastic runner in her younger years, this represents a significant step up. Training in her 40s, she admits, brings its own challenges, particularly with previous injuries to manage. Her biggest concerns are not the distance itself but staying healthy enough to reach the starting line. "My biggest fear is injury or illness before the race," she says. "I'd be gutted if I couldn't run." Despite this, her mindset is resolute. "If I sign up for something, I do it," she says with a smile.

A key part of her journey has been the support of her running partner and coach, Kevin, who she met by chance on a night out. What began as a casual conversation quickly turned into a structured training partnership. Now, he plans her runs, advises on pacing and nutrition, and quite literally turns up at her door to guide her through each session.

"I step out the door and just get told what to do," she laughs. "It's actually really nice.". Kevin has now become a close friend as well as an essential part of her marathon preparation. Training itself has been the toughest part. Fitting in runs around work, family life, and studies often means heading out in the dark or braving winter weather. Weekly routines include shorter runs during the week and longer sessions at weekends, gradually building endurance.

"It's not the marathon day I'm worried about," she says. "It's the training - finding the time and getting out there." Her approach to the race is measured and thoughtful. Rather than chasing a specific time, her goal is simply to run the entire distance. Starting slowly, she plans to build into a steady pace and, if all goes well, finish strong. "I just want to run it, not walk it," she says. "If I can get to 20 miles feeling good, then I'll be happy."

There is, however, a competitive edge that hasn't entirely faded. "If I can pick it up at the end and pass a few people, I will," she admits. Beyond the physical challenge, Gemma is also working to raise funds for the Enham Trust, with a target of £1,800. Having run the race, she has exceeded this target, raising £3,847 at the time of printing. Her Instagram account documents everything from early training runs to race preparation, offering a candid insight into the journey.

She hopes that local awareness will help boost donations, but she is keen to approach fundraising in a genuine way. "I don't want to nag people," she says. "I want to do it for the right reasons." Support from her family and community has been vital. Her husband will be there on race day, and her coach will be tracking her progress remotely, ready to offer guidance if needed. Even her dogs play a role in training - accompanying her on runs around the village.

Looking ahead, Gemma initially saw the marathon as a one-off challenge. But with her coach already suggesting new goals - and her own growing enjoyment of running - she admits that might not be the case. Coastal runs and new events are already being discussed. For now, though, the focus is firmly on London. "It's a massive challenge," she says. "But I'm really looking forward to it." And whether she crosses the finish line at a steady pace or, as she jokes, crawling over it, one thing is certain: Gemma will get there - with determination, resilience, and a purpose that goes far beyond the race itself.

Even though the race is over, you can still support Gemma's fundraising for the Enham Trust; scan the QR code above to go to the official London Marathon fund-raising webpage (2026tcslondonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/gemma-froud)

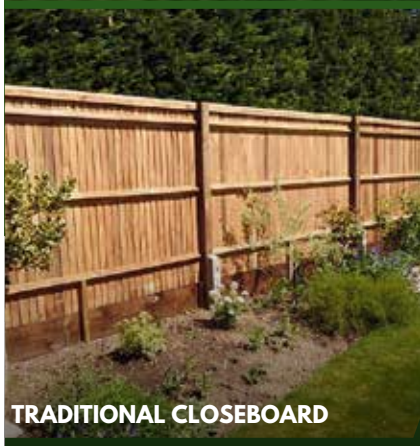
[Gemma finished in 5hrs 5min 40sec - well done!]

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Enham Trust

A Century of Care, Community and Change

Enham Trust is a disability charity based just outside Andover, with a history spanning more than a century, dedicated to enabling disabled people to live independently, access meaningful work, and enjoy fulfilling lives. Its story is inseparable from that of the village of Enham Alamein itself, shaped by war, philanthropy and evolving social need.

The origins of the Trust lie in the aftermath of the First World War, when Britain faced the urgent challenge of supporting thousands of injured servicemen. In 1919, Enham Place, a large private estate, was selected as the site of one of the country's first "Village Centres" for rehabilitation. Here, men suffering from amputations, shell shock and other war-related conditions were given not only medical care but also the opportunity to rebuild their lives through training in trades such as basketry, woodworking and gardening. From the outset, this created a unique relationship between the charity and the village, with Enham evolving into a purpose-built community where housing, employment and daily life were all centred around supporting disabled residents. That connection remains today, with the Trust continuing to play a central role in village life.

Over the decades, Enham Trust has been sustained by a changing network of benefactors that reflects wider shifts in society. In its early years, support came from royal and state figures, most notably King George V, whose donation helped establish the village, alongside significant contributions from organisations such as the Red Cross. During the 1920s and 30s, aristocratic patrons, senior military figures and wealthy private donors played a prominent role, funding buildings and ensuring the charity's survival during financially uncertain times. The period following the Second World War marked a turning point, as benefaction took on an international dimension through substantial public donations from Egypt. In more recent decades, this model has evolved further, with the Trust now supported by a mix of charitable foundations, community fundraising, partnerships and service-based income, reflecting a modern, diversified approach to sustainability.

The Second World War, and in particular the Battle of El Alamein, had a profound and lasting impact on both the Trust and the village. Injured servicemen from the North African campaign were treated at Enham, strengthening its role as a centre for recovery and rehabilitation. In 1945, a remarkable act of international gratitude followed, when public subscriptions in Egypt raised more than £200,000 to thank Britain for its role in defeating Axis forces. The majority of this funding was given to Enham, transforming its facilities and securing its future. In recognition of this extraordinary gift, the village was renamed Enham Alamein, creating a permanent link between the community and one of the most significant battles of the war. Physical reminders of this connection remain, including ceremonial gates gifted by the Egyptian government.



The association with El Alamein was further strengthened by the involvement of Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery, the British commander in the campaign. When he visited Enham Alamein in 1948, he met former soldiers who had served under him and expressed deep admiration for what had been achieved. He observed that the men were engaged in meaningful work suited to their abilities and appeared content and purposeful, reinforcing the village's reputation as a model of rehabilitation and community-based care.

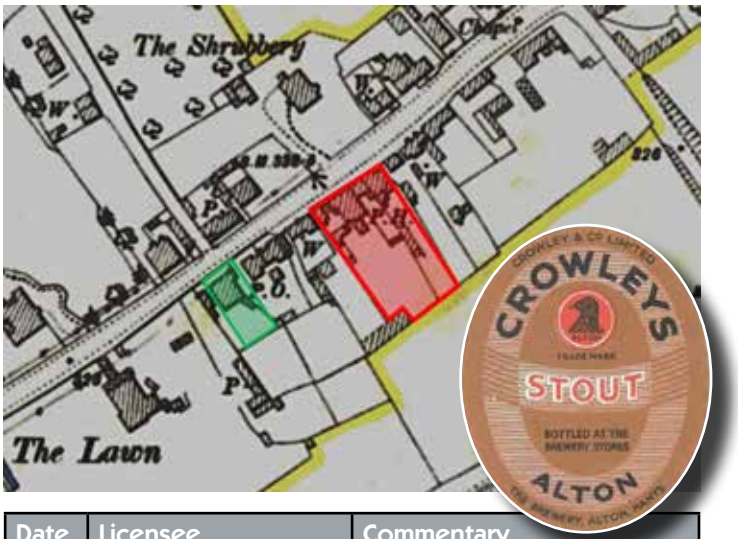
As society changed, so too did the role of Enham Trust. Its development can be understood in three broad phases. The first phase, in the years following the First World War, focused exclusively on the care and rehabilitation of disabled ex-servicemen, helping them regain independence and re-enter the workforce. The second phase, emerging in the 1930s and 1940s, expanded this mission to include those suffering from tuberculosis, reflecting the major public health challenges of the time and extending support beyond the military. By the 1950s, the Trust had entered its third phase, opening its services to people with a much wider range of physical disabilities. This marked a decisive shift from a war-focused organisation to a broader civilian charity.

In the decades that followed, the Trust continued to adapt to the changing needs of society. Its focus widened further to include people with learning disabilities and those requiring supported living, while new programmes were introduced to promote employment, skills development and independence. By the late 20th and early 21st centuries, Enham had developed a comprehensive model of care that combined housing, training and community integration. The organisation formally became Enham Trust in 2013, reflecting its modern identity and expanded mission.

Today, Enham Trust stands as both a charity and a living community, rooted in its origins yet continually evolving. Its history reflects a century of change, from the rehabilitation of war veterans to the support of diverse disability groups, underpinned by shifting patterns of philanthropy and public support. At its heart remains the same founding principle: that disabled people should have the opportunity to live full, independent and meaningful lives.

For more information, go to www.enhamtrust.org.uk





Date	Licensee	Commentary
1841	Benjamin Burningham	Married Sarah
1851	Sarah Burningham	Transferred to Sarah on Benjamin's death in 1851. Sarah died in 1866 and both of them are buried in Holybourne churchyard
1861	John Burningham	Son of Benjamen and Sarah
1871	James Bowers	
1875	Ann Bowers	Transferred to her following husband's death
1878	Thomas Cobb	Widower of Ann Cobb (nee Bowers)

Top: White Hart in 1890
Centre: New Location in 1899 - Outlined in Red
Above: Selected Licensees (18thC)

The White Hart: 300 Years of Hospitality

The White Hart is a key part of Holybourne's village life: spanning three hundred years, three different locations, multiple owners and too many landlords and landladies to list. It's long history reflects the changing social and commercial contexts it has operated in. Much of this article is based on detailed research by Linda Habberfield, using historical images and maps from the Village Archive she helped create. Thanks are also due to Ben Kemp for his recollections, but I alone bear the responsibility for the very recent history, having witnessed most of it as customer of 30 years standing!

Buildings, Breweries and Bar staff

17th Century

There is mention of a "pub" situated opposite "the street leading to the Church" in a property conveyance dated 1665 from Thomas Froude to Stephen Ramsden. The building now in that position is 123 London Road which is understood to indeed be about 350 years old, although its Heritage England listing states that it is 18th Century. This maybe because it is built on a much older building. This original location is outlined in green on the 1899 map below.

19th Century

The Crowley family had brewed at Waddon, near Croydon, since 1600. A company, Crowley & Co Ltd, was founded by James Baverstock 1763. They acquired their Croydon brewery in 1808 and bought the Alton brewery in 1821,



starting an association with the White Hart that would last over 100 years. Although the Crowleys sold the business to the Burrell family 1877, they continued trading as Crowley & Co.

Date	Licensee
1900-11	John Wiltshire
1920	Norman Jones
1924	Cyril Halcomb
1931	Florence Wilson
1937	V Brown
1955	Mrs F Kirby

Selected Licensees (early 20thC)

20th Century

A 1898 postcard shows the old White Hart still fronting the road. In May 1899 Crowley's advertised in the Reading Mercury for tenders for "re-building the White Hart Inn, Holybourne". In 1900 Alton Rural District Council minutes for 24th August state "Resolved that a Water Certificate be granted to Messrs Crowley & Co in respect of a new house recently erected by them and known as "The White Hart" Holybourne. So between May 1899 and August 1900 the old White Hart was demolished and the present building erected on the same site

John Wiltshire held the tenancy from 6th September 1900 from Crowley & Co at a rent of £50 a year, the premises contained a private bar, club room, public bar, sitting room, hall, commercial room and seven bedrooms. The census of 1901 shows John aged 58 resident as innkeeper at the White Hart with his wife Alice and six children, and also in 1911 as hotelkeeper aged 68 with Alice and three children.

The next reference we have to a licensee is Norman Albert Jones in 1920 (Kelly's Directory). A newspaper cutting from 1924 names Cyril Halcomb Ward, an artist, whose wayward daughter Penelope also featured in the newspapers for driving a car aged only fifteen whilst dressed as a boy.

continued...





Top: *White Hart circa 1916 (note the horse trough)*

Centre: *New Location in 1900 – Outlined in Purple*

Above: *The White Hart – Probably in the 1930s/40s. A Morris Eight tourer & Sunbeam 25 Saloon (both from 1934).*

The White Hart: 300 Years of Hospitality, continued

20th Century:

Changing Ownership, Same Location



The White Hart today

From the 1950s to 2000, Britain's brewing industry consolidated dramatically as hundreds of regional breweries were absorbed into a few national groups. Commercially, mergers were driven by economies of scale, rising production costs, and the need to fund national distribution and advertising. The "Big Six" (Allied, Bass, Courage, Grand Metropolitan, Scottish & Newcastle, Whitbread) expanded through aggressive acquisitions, often tied to their dominance of tied pub estates, which guaranteed outlets for their beer.

Time Line

1821

Crowley & Co.

These ales had been sold at the White Hart probably since 1821

1947

Watney, Combe, Reid

In 1947 Crowley's and 248 licensed houses were bought by Watney's, who subsequently merged with Mann's to become Watney Mann in 1958

1972

Grand Metropolitan

In 1972 Watney Mann was purchased by one of the best known 'conglomerates' of the 1970s, these were businesses that ran multiple businesses in multiple markets

1991

Courage

Although Courage had owned the Alton Brewery and the brewery's 77 tied houses since February 1903, The White Hart was not among them. In March 1991, Courage acquired the Webster's Brewery, the Ruddles Brewery and Watney's Mortlake Stag Brewery from Grand Metropolitan in a deal that pooled 8,450 pubs into the jointly-owned Inntrepreneur Estates Company. However, because of the recent 1989 Beer Orders competition act, they had to quickly sell half of their pub estate.

1991

Moreland

Moreland was an old established brewer, originating in 1711 as maltsters and becoming brewers in 1861. Like many others in the industry, over its long life, it grew by acquisition. However, following the acquisition of Ruddles in 1997, the company faced financial problems and succumbed to a takeover bid by Greene King in 2000. At the time of acquisition, Moreland had over 500 pubs, the White Hart being one of them.

2000

Greene King

Since 2000, Greene King has been on a brewery, pub and restaurant acquisition spree. In 2015, Greene King had over 3,000 pubs & restaurants. In this dynamic world of international business, Greene King themselves were acquired by CK Assets, a Hong Kong-based property developer, for £2.7 billion in 2019. In March of this year (2026), Greene King announced plans to sell 150 pubs. It is not known if the White Hart is included.

Understanding Listed Buildings Protecting Holybourne's Historic Character



Whiten and Yeomans Cottages, London Road (31 on Map)

Holybourne is rightly proud of its historic character. From timber-framed cottages to the parish church, the village reflects centuries of architectural and social history. A key part of protecting this heritage lies in the concept of the "listed building"—a term often used, but not always fully understood. This article explains what listing means, how it came about, and what it means in practice for homeowners and the wider community.

Holybourne is exceptional in that the core of the village contains over thirty-five listed buildings of Grade II level, contained within a conservation area. There are a few other buildings outside the conservation area that are also listed, such as Andrew's Endowed School. See the detailed map over the page for the location of each listed building.

What is a listed building?

A listed building is a structure recognised by the government as having "special architectural or historic interest." Once listed, it is placed on the official register known as the National Heritage List for England, maintained by Historic England.

In simple terms, listing means that a building or structure is considered important enough to the nation's heritage that it must be protected by law. This protection applies not just to grand landmarks, but also to everyday historic buildings—cottages, farmhouses, terraces, and even boundary walls. England has one of the most extensive heritage protection systems in the world and listed buildings range from Castles and Cathedrals to cottages, barns, telephone boxes and even milestones (like the one opposite the village primary school – which is actually listed).

How did listing begin?

The idea of listing buildings dates back to the upheaval of World War II. During the war, widespread bombing caused significant damage to historic towns and cities. In response, the government began compiling lists of important buildings so they could be prioritised for protection and repair.

This effort led to the introduction of the Town and Country Planning Act 1947, which created the first legal framework for listing. In the decades that followed, as post-war redevelopment threatened older buildings, the system was expanded and strengthened.

Today, listing remains a central part of the UK's planning system, helping to ensure that historic places are not lost through neglect or insensitive change.

How many listed buildings are there in England?

There are roughly 380,000 listed buildings and structures in England, the overwhelming majority being Grade II, reflecting the importance of everyday historic buildings—not just grand landmarks. This is very a small proportion (1.3%) of the nearly 30 million buildings in the UK (most of which are domestic dwellings), yet these historic buildings strongly influence the perceived character and identity of our country.

Based on analysis of the Historic England database, the age profile of listed buildings looks like this:

There are very few exceptional buildings selected in the post-war era – one example being the new Coventry Cathedral which, alongside the ruins of its medieval predecessor, is listed at Grade I.

What are the different grades?

Not all listed buildings are considered equally significant. In England, there are three grades:

- Grade I – Buildings of exceptional interest These include major landmarks such as cathedrals and castles. There are over 9,000 of these (about 2.5% of listings).
- Grade II* – Particularly important buildings of more than special interest account for another 21,000 buildings and structures (around 5.5%).
- Grade II – Buildings of special interest (about 92%). This is by far the most common category and includes many of the historic homes and cottages found in villages like Holybourne. There are over 350,000 of these making up 92% of the listing.

Although Grade II is the lowest category, it still carries full legal protection. All of the buildings listed in Holybourne are Grade II listed, with the Church of the Holy Rood classified as Grade II*.

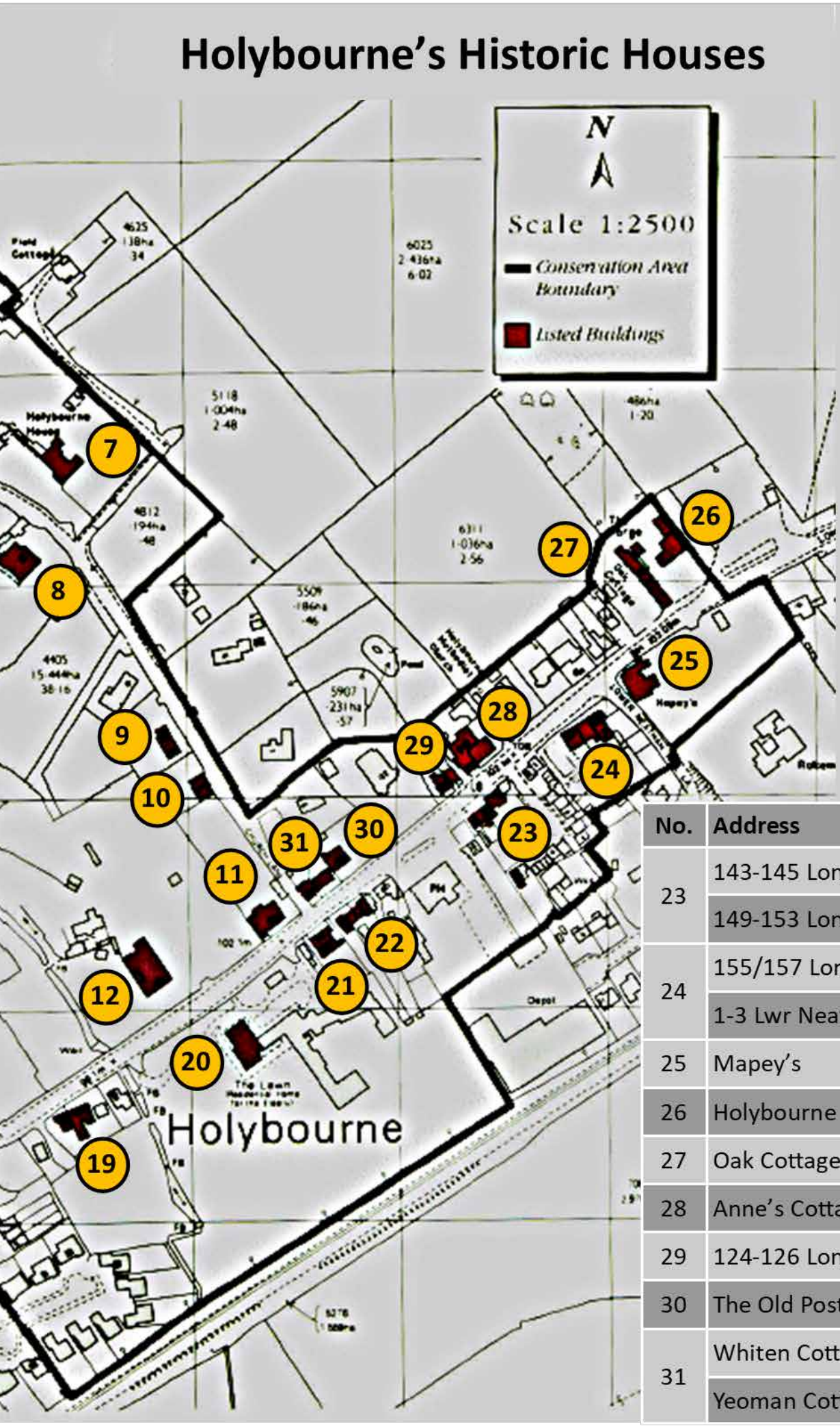
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No.	Address	Era
1	Church of the Holy Rood	C12th
2	Howard's Farm House	C17/18th
3	Manor Farm House	C17/18th
4	Church Cottage	C18th
5	Howard's Farm Barn	C17th

No.	Address	Era
6	The Bourne	C18th
7	Holybourne House	C17th
8	Manor House	C19th
9	8 Church Lane	C18th
10	2 & 4 Church Lane	C18th
11	The Beeches	C18/19th
12	Holybourne Lodge	C18th
13	The Priory	C16/17th
14	Tudor Cottage	C17th
15	Yew Tree Cottage	C18th
16	Andrews Endowed School	C18th
17	Milestone	C18th
18	Vineries Cottage	C18/19th
19	107, 109 & 111 London Rd	C18th
20	The Lawn (Gaskell House)	C19th
21	123-125 London Rd	C18th
22	127-133 London Rd	C19th



Holybourne's Historic Houses



No.	Address	Era
23	143-145 London Rd	C16 & C17th
	149-153 London Rd	
24	155/157 London Rd	C18th
	1-3 Lwr Neatham Ln	
25	Mapey's	C17th
26	Holybourne Forge	C18th
27	Oak Cottage	C18th
28	Anne's Cottage	C18th
29	124-126 London Rd	C16th
30	The Old Post Office	C18th
31	Whiten Cottage	C17 & C18th
	Yeoman Cottage	

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Understanding Listed Buildings: Protecting Holybourne's Historic Character

Continued from page 17

What does listing mean for homeowners?

Owning a listed building comes with responsibilities. The aim is not to prevent change altogether, but to ensure that any changes respect the building's historic character.

The most important requirement is Listed Building Consent (LBC). This must be obtained from the local planning authority before carrying out any works that might affect the building's character. This includes extensions or alterations, demolition (even partial), changes to windows, doors, or roofs. Listing also restricts any internal alterations, such as removing walls or fireplaces. In addition, normal "permitted development rights" do not apply. Works that might be allowed on a modern house without permission will usually require consent for a listed building.

Repairs and maintenance

Routine maintenance is expected, but it must be carried out using appropriate methods and materials. For example, traditional lime mortar should be used instead of modern cement, timber windows should be repaired rather than replaced with uPVC, and original period features should be retained wherever possible

The principle is always to preserve the building's historic fabric and appearance.

What happens if the rules are ignored?

Carrying out unauthorised work to a listed building is a serious matter. It is a criminal offence and can result in prosecution, unlimited fines and, in some cases, imprisonment. Any illegal changes will be required to be reversed at the owner's expense. Local authorities have enforcement powers and may require owners to restore buildings to their previous state.

Why are listed buildings protected?

The listing system exists to safeguard several types of heritage value:

- Architectural value – the design, materials, and craftsmanship of a building
- Historic value – its age and connection to past events or ways of life
- Group value – its contribution to a wider setting, such as a terrace or village street
- Archaeological interest – evidence of earlier construction or settlement

In villages like Holybourne, "group value" is especially important. A row of cottages or a cluster of farm buildings may be individually modest, but together they create a historic landscape that is greater than the sum of its parts.

Listed buildings and conservation areas

It is also important to understand the relationship between listed buildings and conservation areas. A listed building is individually protected by law, whereas a conservation area protects the overall character of a place. This means that even buildings that are not listed can still be subject to planning controls if they lie within a conservation area, as they contribute to the area's appearance and setting.

A shared responsibility

Ultimately, the listing system is about stewardship. These buildings have survived for generations and form a vital part of the identity of places like Holybourne. While the rules may sometimes seem restrictive, they are designed to ensure that changes are thoughtful, appropriate, and respectful of the past.

By understanding what listing means, residents can play an active role in preserving the Holybourne's unique character—ensuring that it continues to be valued not just today, but for many years to come.

Conservation Area Virtual Fly-Through

A unique virtual 'Fly-Through' created last summer by Paul Richardson. Paul also used his camera drone to take the influential aerial views of the proposed Redbrown site, enabling villagers to fully understand the large scope of the housing development. The fly-through is at the same height as an open top tour bus and privacy has been respected throughout. The video is 2min 36 sec long; scan the QR code or type in the web address below to get a view of the village as never seen before.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1E3njcuplZSPSrfLX9ZX-dFQCiPcgcgEX



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Local Government Restructure

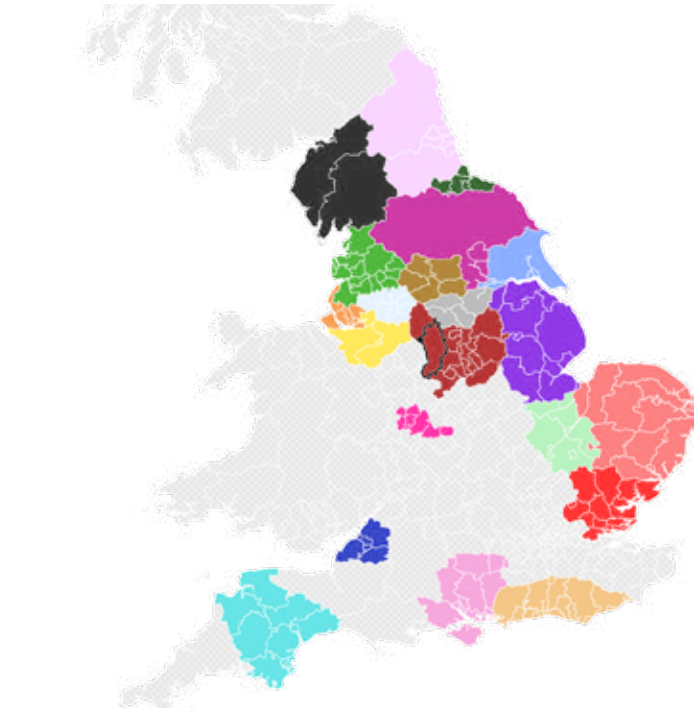
What it Means

Local government in Hampshire is about to undergo its most significant change since the Local Government Act of 1972, which created the current District Councils. As part of a national programme to simplify how councils operate, the current two-tier system—where responsibilities are split between county and district councils—is being replaced by a smaller number of single "unitary" authorities. For residents of Alton and Holybourne, this is more than administrative change; it will influence how decisions on housing, infrastructure and services are made for years to come.

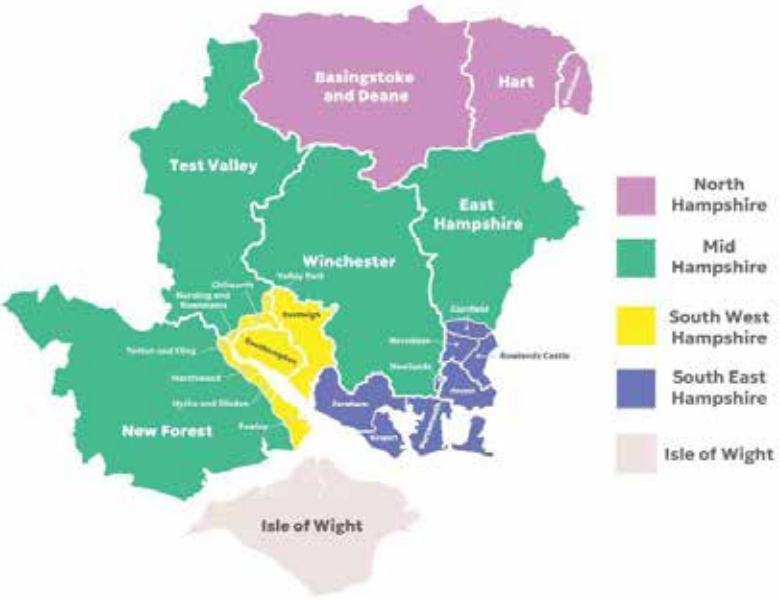
At present, services are divided between district and county level, often creating a disconnect: housing may be approved locally, while roads, school places and transport are managed elsewhere. The government argues that combining these functions into one authority will improve accountability, speed up decision-making and better align development with infrastructure.

Under the new arrangements, expected in 2028 following elections in 2027, Hampshire will be reorganised into five unitary councils. Crucially, East Hampshire will not remain intact. Instead, it will be divided, with Alton and nearby parishes joining a new Mid-Hampshire authority, while southern areas align elsewhere. Borden will also be within the new Mid-Hampshire authority.

For places like Holybourne, the changes bring both opportunity and uncertainty. A single authority responsible for planning, highways, education and developer contributions could better coordinate growth with infrastructure. Longstanding issues - such as housing being approved without sufficient road capacity or school places - may be easier to address, benefiting schools such as Andrews Endowed Primary and Eggars.



Map showing English local authorities that are changing



However, risks remain. Larger authorities mean larger wards and fewer councillors per head, potentially weakening the local voice. Decisions may be taken further from the community, shaped by wider regional priorities. Alton's strong transport links could also increase pressure for development.

Financially, the transition will be costly, involving restructuring and new systems. While long-term savings are expected, these may be modest and offset by ongoing pressures such as social care, meaning little immediate impact on council tax.

Parish and town councils will not be reorganised under Hampshire's unitary reforms, but their importance is likely to grow. As larger councils take on strategic roles, local bodies may increasingly manage community assets, represent residents, and influence planning locally—though key powers like housing, highways and education will remain with the new unitary authorities. Government and council proposals repeatedly emphasise that they wish to "empower communities", enabling residents to "shape local decisions".

In practice, once district councils disappear, there is a gap at the very local level and Parish and town councils are the only bodies left to fill it.

There are many details still to be worked through and a large degree of uncertainty for the individuals working within these organisations. This is likely to mean that some major strategic decisions may be delayed until the new organisations are up and running. To ensure consistency of service delivery, there is expected to be a 'shadow Government' period between the formation of the new local authorities in 2027 and the disappearance of the current District Councils in 2028, in order to provide continuity of services and strategies.

The final impact on Hampshire's citizens won't be known for some years, and at this stage is it is very difficult to predict the long-term impact on each individual community.

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Development Update

Thank you to everyone who responded to Redbrown's revised proposal for 156 houses on the fields north of Holybourne Playpark. The strength of local feeling made a real impact, particularly in two key areas:

1. Site Drainage Scheme

Redbrown has submitted multiple revisions of their drainage proposals, but their approach has been found to be inadequate. It fails to properly account for groundwater conditions on the site. Strong evidence from residents led the Flood Authority and EHDC to require further hydrological testing, now underway.

EHDC has also acknowledged the need for a 'Sequential Test', requiring Redbrown to demonstrate that no lower-risk sites are available across the wider East Hampshire area. This highlights the seriousness of flood risk concerns.

2. Proposed Traffic Scheme

The traffic plan would have introduced extensive double-yellow lines along London Road, removing vital parking and urbanising the village with intrusive signage and pinch points. This unacceptable proposal was met with strong and consistent opposition from residents and key community groups, including Andrews Endowed School, The White Hart, the Village Shop, Holybourne Theatre, and Holybourne Cricket Club, all highlighting safety risks and harm to village life.

What Happens Next?

The decision deadline has been extended to 1st June 2026. Redbrown must now respond on both drainage and traffic. We will review their proposals and advise you on next steps.

Your Voice Matters

Our previous response made a difference — but this is not over. If you oppose this disproportionate development and its impact on Holybourne, we must be ready to act again. Every objection strengthens our case. Please stay engaged and we will update you all as soon as we hear more.

Holybourne Village Association Development Group

19th April 2026

Regency Festival bigger than ever!

Alton's Jane Austen Regency Week began its life in 2006 under the auspices of the then Alton Chamber of Commerce, when decided it was time Alton started to punch its weight on the Jane Austen scene, after ignoring for nearly 200 years the fact that the world's most famous female novelist lived just down the road!

What began as a two-day weekend has gradually grown, a few days at a time, until it is now a 10-day Celebration.

This year, we are returning to Holybourne to host one of our events at the Holybourne Theatre. This is for two performances of Adrian Lukas's show "Being Mr Wickham" on Sunday 21st of June. This performance celebrates the 250th anniversary of Jane Austen's birth and Adrian Lukis, who starred in the renowned BBC TV adaptation of Pride and Prejudice, returns to the role of Mr Wickham.

Join Pride and Prejudice's most roguish gentleman, George Wickham, on the eve of his sixtieth birthday, to lift the sheets on what exactly what happened thirty years on from where we left him… And discover his own version of some very famous literary events.

What really happened with Darcy…?

What did he feel about Lizzie…?

What happened at Waterloo? Not to mention Byron…

The highlight of the week will be the Regency Parade in Alton High Street, where participants will be dressed in the fashions and finery of the 18th Century. This culminates in the social highlight of the year, the Mid-Summer Ball on Saturday 20th June



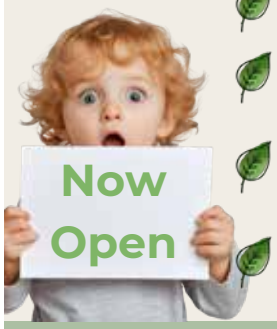
For more details of this multi-event celebration, go to the website www.janeaustenregencyweek.co.uk

Pat Lerew, Alton Jane Austen Group



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An Age-old Problem



Although we all know that we will all get old, as our younger selves, it is something of a concept. I think it's part of brain's way of helping us to cope with life by making our future seem almost unreal. You can exist quite a long time in this state, but one tends to find that life throws things at you that mean that one has to contemplate not only your own old age and declining health, but that of relatives and friends.

Most of us have to find ways to look after aging parents, but now that I am now full-time carer for both my parents, I have come to realise that it's not something we talk about. The post war society has led to significant changes that cause dilemmas for both those needing care and those overseeing it. It is clear to me that things need to change in the UK, so that when I reach the point of needing someone to look after me, there are more and better options available.

I have no experience of trying to look after remote parents, but this is clearly the more common situation people find themselves in. I have one client who lives in Surrey and his mother lives her own home in Brighton. Every so often he has to make the trek over there to see people from the council and care providers. He is normally quite a laid-back person, but he was almost shouting down the phone with fury as he described the problems he's had with organising care for his mother. In many cases, including his, there are siblings who could be helping, but who choose not to get involved. These situations cause stress, depression, mental problems, marriage breakups, and family schisms. And that's before we get to the problems the person needing care has to endure.

Once you're providing care for someone, you probably only have a basic knowledge of what you need to do, so there's a sharp learning curve as you get to grips with the challenges and opportunities. You find that there are a lot of organisations offering 'signposting', but after a while you realise that they are directing you to other organisations who in turn 'signpost' you elsewhere. Even where there is help, it is largely advice rather than actual help. If, like me, you are the carer, then you quickly realise that you're largely on your own. That isn't to say that there aren't people trying to help, but it's clear that there isn't enough money to provide the sort of support needed for volunteer carers, or to those trying to negotiate the minefield of commercial care provision. I think politicians are waking up to the scale of the problem, but the issues have been building up over a long period, so there is a lot to address.

If you're a volunteer carer, the only national charitable support and lobbying organisation is 'Carers UK'. They say that there are 5.7 million volunteer carers in the UK - that's roughly 7% of the population. We are an aging population, which is testament to the vision of establishing the NHS, not to mention the advancements in medicine. The problem is that once we reach an age where we need some kind of assistance, there has not been enough thought about how to provide that help.

Many people don't want to go into a residential care home, so they stay in their own home. For those responsible for providing care, be it a relative or social services, this presents all kinds of challenges. For the person themselves, it means that your entire life revolves around the comings and goings of carers each day. If there is someone willing and able to provide care as a volunteer, whilst preferable, it demands a lot of that person.

I think we need a third way of providing care and I have dubbed it a 'Virtual Care Home'. The NHS has pioneered Virtual Wards, providing on-demand help at home to people in the weeks after they've been discharged from hospital. My idea picks up that concept and applies it at a community level. I propose each area has an office staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, offering a centre for overseeing those requiring care, helping both the relatives and the patients. Part of it would be coordination, but also to keep track of those requiring care, providing advice and home visits. The commercial care providers would continue to provide their services, but the Virtual Care Home would be focussed upon identifying and providing services not offered elsewhere, and helping people to understand all the issues. The Citizens' Advice Bureau already does some of this, but the Virtual Care Home would involve social services, trained carers and other professionals to make sure that the best possible care is being provided for everyone they identify as requiring care in their area.

I don't have all the answers - I am the first one to say that an idea of this magnitude like this needs to be developed by a wide range of people so that it properly addresses the issues and has financial backing. I believe that if more and better ways can be found to help and support us as we age, this not only helps us to lead happier and healthier lives, it also helps those responsible for our care, and reduces the burden on the public purse. Old age is one of the biggest and unavoidable challenges most of us have to face in our lives and we need to be talking about it.

Stephen Lewis (also your magazine designer)

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Holybourne Hobbies

We are delighted to report that we raised £725 at our last Christmas Fayre held at the Holybourne Theatre in December! A wide range of superb crafts and cakes and a raffle from our own members and some invited stall holders made for a fun, festive afternoon out. The Holybourne Theatre was a great venue and their Santa's Grotto was a seasonal highlight.

We would like to thank our many generous supporters including The White Hart, Sid and the customer collection from the Village Shop, as well as the Holybourne Theatre.

We are pleased to report that we have donated £200 to the White Hart as our contribution to the village Christmas tree for 2026. A "stab pack" will also be purchased to go alongside the defibrillator outside the pub. This is a specialised first-aid bleed control kit designed to treat catastrophic bleeding from knife attacks, accidents, or other penetrating traumas before paramedics arrive. Although such a violent incident is highly unlikely in Holybourne, injuries from broken glass can also be treated, which is reassuring given all the young children who play in the family garden.









HVA presented with £200 (L-R) Jackie Gregory (HH), Rob Law (HVA Chairman) & Carmela Volpe-Walters (HH)

The group also presented £200 to the HVA, to support their work in representing the village at local government level and staging various village events (see photo).

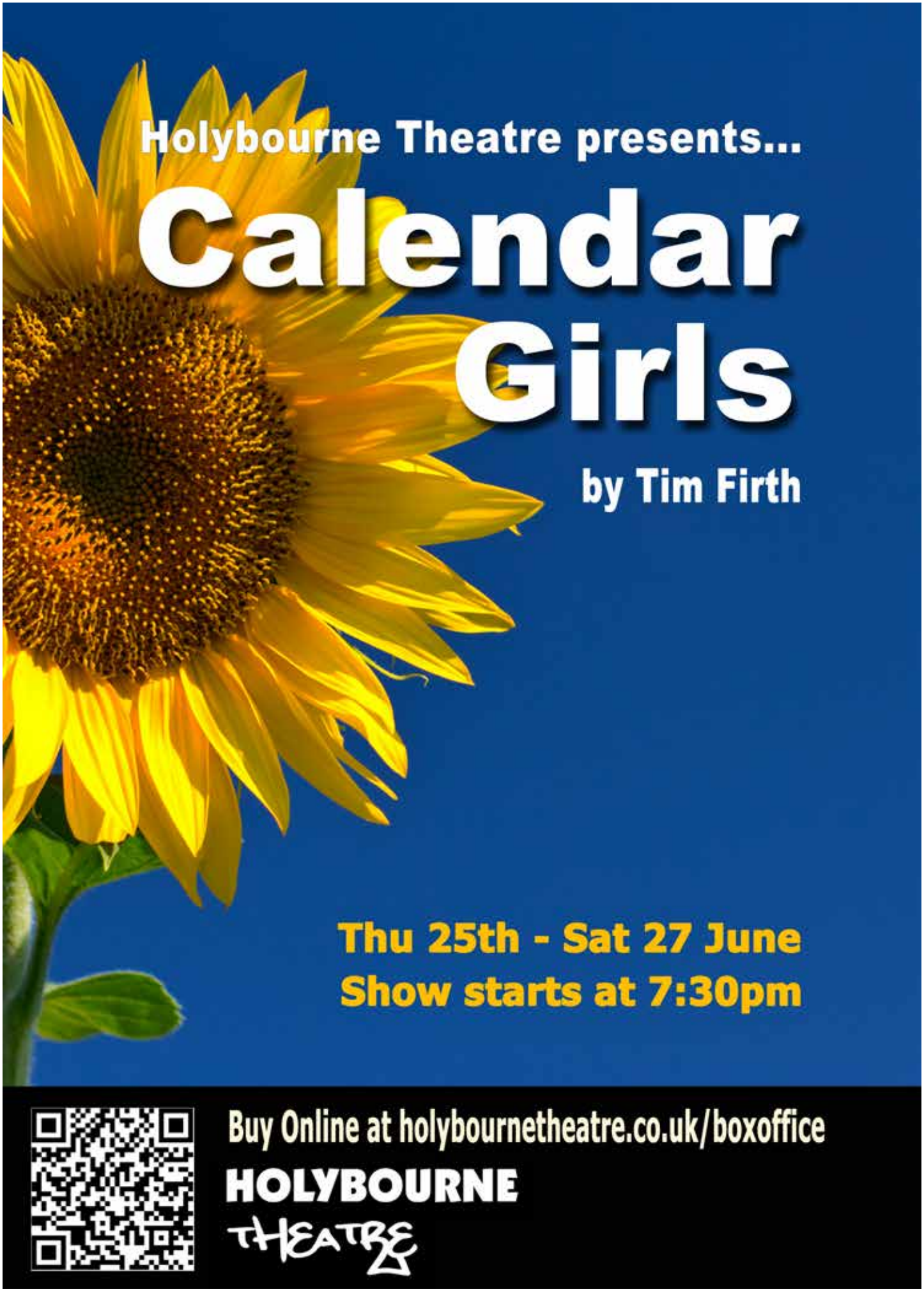
Our recent Easter Fayre, held at the White Hart last month was very successful. The weather held out for us and we raised just over £200 for various village groups. The Easter bonnet parade was popular with the little ones, and there were some excellent entries. We hope to make the Easter bonnet parade an annual event.

About Us

Carmela founded Holybourne Hobbies after moving to the village just over three years ago. The group has grown from four members initially to over twenty members in that time. Holybourne has a creative community within the village. The White Hart are our excellent hosts and we can be found there every Wednesday between 10am and 12:30pm, and we are open to new members. We found a home, new friends, laughter and support around our shared love of crafting. always knitting, crocheting and chatting animatedly with lots of laughter and silly behaviour as well as friendships, moral support and encouragement.

We will continue to craftily raise money for the village and hope to see you at our future events.




Holybourne Theatre presents...
Calendar Girls
by Tim Firth
Thu 25th - Sat 27 June
Show starts at 7:30pm
Buy Online at holybournetheatre.co.uk/boxoffice
HOLYBOURNE
THEATRE

God's Own Comedian!



I am well aware that what makes one person roll about with laughter is no guarantee that his or her neighbour will do the same. However, I hope that you will bear with me while I make the case for one of the best comedians of all time. I am writing of Dave Allen, long since gone to Heaven, though more probably Hell (and damnation?) A man with a razor sharp intelligence and wit who cut through the absurdities of life and religion.

But where do you start when talking about Dave Allen? Perhaps there's a steer in his advice for asking directions when travelling in Ireland?

"Excuse me, can you tell me how to get to Donegal?"

"Oh, Ah, Now, let me tink……urr …..Well, If I were you, I wouldn't start from here."

"Oh, Thank you, thank you very much!"

Perhaps we should start with his early schooling in a Northern Ireland Catholic School under the 'guidance' of Loreto Nuns (whom he dubbed 'the Gestapo in Drag') and the Little Sisters of Mercy (better described as 'the Sisters of Little Mercy' because of their frequent tortuous treatment twisting his ear or nose.) As well as these were the Carmelite priests ('God's Storm Troopers') who served to make adolescent David extremely cynical of their assertion that 'We know best'.

Dave Allen created innovative content, delivering his material with an irresistible presence, even though he was just simply sitting on a high arm-chaired stool, smoking a cigarette and sipping a glass of whisky. Immaculately dressed in a suave suit, he would occasionally sweep non-existent dust from his lapels with the back of his hand.

What cannot be portrayed in the written word was his timing. He was never afraid of silence. He was happy to pause in the middle of a story, take a long look at the audience and share an unspoken thought with them. Just with a knowing smile. However, we can share some of his better-known stories.

The Demon Drink. A man is on his way into a bar when a nun standing outside the bar suddenly speaks to him. "Your drinking is the easy road to evil and damnation. Drink will pollute your body and soul. Give up the foul spirits and live a better life!"

The man looks at her and asks, "How do you know drinking is bad for you?"

The nun looks puzzled and shrugs. He asks, "Have you ever even tried a drink?" The nun admits she hasn't, so he tells her, "Listen, I'll go into the bar and order myself a drink and I'll get one for you too. I'll bring it out here and you can taste it yourself and see that alcohol is nothing bad."

The nun reluctantly agrees, but says, "I don't want anybody out here getting the wrong idea about me, so would you mind bringing me the drink in a cup?" The man agrees to this and goes inside. At the bar, he tells the bartender "Give me a double shot of whiskey, and a second shot in an ordinary cup."

The bartender groans and says: "Is that bloody nun out there again?"

At the end of the evening, this same man is tottering home with a bottle of his favourite tipple in his back pocket when he slips over, falling heavily. Struggling to his feet, he feels something wet trickling down his leg. "Please Lord" he implores "let it be blood!"

The Irish accent

A man is applying for a job on a building site. The Irish foreman with a strong Irish accent says "Well, we'll have to ask you to do an intelligence test. Is tat OK with you?"

"So, what's the difference between a girder and a joist?"

"Ah now that's simple" says the man "Goethe wrote Faust and Joyce wrote 'Ulysses'"

On "skin"

Skin is actually quite an interesting subject. Do you know that we all shed skin? Did you know that? Did you know that each and every man, woman and child sheds skin. Over an hour each and every one of us sheds something

continued...

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God's Own Comedian!, continued

like 10,000-minute scales of skin. Over a three day period, we shed one total layer of skin.

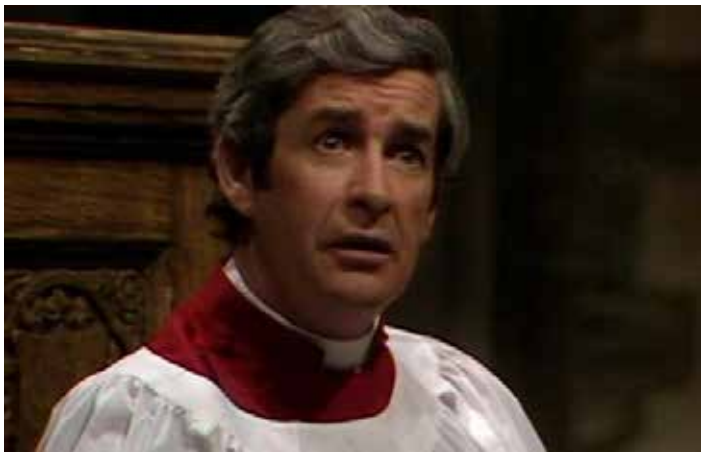
Did you know that 90% of the dust in the world is made up of dead human skin?

You think you're dusting your house? You're not, you're just moving your grandmother around.

The Catholic Clergy

Two preachers in Ireland, Joseph and Patrick, always rode their bikes together to their separate churches on Sunday mornings.

One Sunday, Patrick didn't show up and Joseph found him walking to his church. So he asked him, "Patrick, where's your bike?" He replied, "I think someone in my congregation stole my bike."



Joseph came up with an idea:

"When you're preaching your sermon today, preach the Ten Commandments, that way whoever stole your bike will feel guilty when you get to the one about 'Thou Shalt Not Steal' and then he'll return your bike."

The next Sunday both preachers were riding their bikes again.

"Well, did you do as I suggested and preach the Ten Commandments?"

"Yeah, and when I got to the one about 'Thou Shalt Not Commit Adultery,' I remembered where I left my bike..."

The Toast at a wake "Here's to your Health"

In Ireland when somebody dies, we lay them out and watch them for a couple of days. It's called a wake. And it's great. It's a party, a send-off. The fella is laid out on the table and there is drinking and dancing and all the food you can eat All of your friends come from all over the place and they all stand around the wake table with a glass in their hands looking at you and they say, "Here's to your health."!

The terrible thing about dying in Ireland is you miss your own wake. It's the best day of your life. You've paid for everything but you can't join in.

The Final Curtain

Dave's own wake was in 2005 when he died unexpectedly. God's own comedian, gone! For a particular generation, the most beloved of comedians. He didn't even have time to wish us well with his famous phrase: "Thank you, goodnight, and may your God go with you"!



Holybourne Cricket Club

Almost time for Summer – come and help us prepare

We've been delighted by large numbers of our youth players turning out every Monday night for winter training at Eggar's School this winter and want to say a big thank you to all the coaches, parents and supporters who enable this to happen. It really helps improve our summer game.

With that in mind, it is time to prepare the ground and clubhouse for our Summer Season – all hands on deck to make this easier! If you live nearby and are happy to put in an hour or two over a weekend clearing the grounds, please drop us a line on secretary@holybournecc.com

Sunset drinks on a Friday – become a social member

Did you know we have the bar with the best view in Hampshire right here in our village? For only £12 a year, you can become a social member of Holybourne Cricket Club – giving you discounted drinks and access to our bar and BBQ on a Friday night during the Summer Season. One adult is automatically given social membership when you sign up a child to join a cricket team.

It is a beautiful spot, and we are a very friendly club – come and join and enjoy watching cricket whilst you relax after a busy week. Follow our social media channels for updates on special events – including Pizza Night with thanks to our generous sponsors Stubby's.

Social Membership is available on our website or from the bar itself – **open from 6pm on Fridays from the end of April.**

Holybourne u15s looking for more players

Do you have a child in Year 9 or 10 who would love to join a cricket team? They don't need to have played much before (we have excellent coaches) but show an interest in the sport and are keen to play whilst having fun. We've got lots of players in our younger teams but could do with a few more to boost the u15s.

If you do, please get in touch with our Youth Manager, Tom Ellis, colts@holybournecc.com



Always looking for new adult players too

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

Alec Hudson holybournecc@holybournecc.com

@holybournecc

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