Editorial
What an amazing Spring we are having, such an abundance of flowers and blossom. Midge Wise, on a short walk in Alfoxton on the 20th of April, saw violets, bluebells, wood anemones, celandine, primroses, wild garlic and wood sorrel.

The Community Opening Day of the refurbished Holford and District Village Hall is now on Saturday 8th June

How News and Views began
David and I first came to Holford in 1999, he arriving in September, me following on at Christmas having completed my notice at the school where I was teaching. We both remember so well the immediate friendliness of the people in the village and soon were joining in everything we could, making wonderful new friends and enjoying the exceptional location of our new home. My first big memory was seeing in the new Millennium at the Village Hall.

Having secured a new teaching post in Minehead, our new life began but was sadly brought to a standstill when I became ill and was diagnosed with Systemic Sclerosis a few months later. Within a short space of time I found myself disabled with the disease and pretty much confined to the house as I could no longer drive and soon was wheelchair dependent. Again, the good folk of Holford showed their great kindness and many would drop in to say hello whilst David was at work. We both began to go to the Parish Council Meetings, interested in what was happening and the decisions which were being made on behalf of the Holford population. This was when the first glimmers of the idea of a village newsletter began. It seemed to us that Holford people, even though they might not want or be able to attend meetings, should know what was going on.

I approached the Parish Council suggesting the idea, it wasn't wholly well received, but I decided that it was something that I could contribute from my home and called upon friends in the village for help and support. Soon people came forward. Our friends Marlin and Margaret Upson, who had supported the idea from the onset, took on the rather thankless task of organising, printing and distribution. Christina (a well-remembered Holford character) was a keen contributor, especially wanting the young people of the village to have a voice. Soon word got round, the Holford News and Views was born. Although my initial ideas had come from wanting a report on Parish Council business, it soon became clear that Holford was such a wonderful thriving community with so much taking place that the newsletter soon advertised up-and coming events and reported on all that was going on. All I had to do was collect, edit and write the odd piece. It really helped me in my new found situation, to have purpose and to belong.

Sadly, Copse Cottage, a house we loved, proved too difficult to live in. We knew we had to move to a more suitable home. We stayed in Holford 5 years. Despite my illness, it was the most happy of times, surrounded by an incredible community of caring folk who always made David and I feel that Holford was our home. Now, following two moves, David and I are settled in Corsham. our daughter and her family and my Mum are here too. We really enjoy being here together, but David and I will always look back at our short time in the village with the fondest of memories and perhaps the thought of what might have been? Jane Inight

This edition of Holford News and Views has been kindly sponsored by Holford Gardeners’ Group

A full colour version is available on the Holford Village website

wwwHolfordVillage.com – Thank you to David Talling
Notices

Holford Church News
Thank you to everyone who has been attending the coffee mornings in the church - it seems to have been a very successful venture and lots of people have supported it. The proceeds have been divided between the Hall and Church. A huge thanks to Marilyn and Mark who have also agreed to host a cream tea afternoon in their garden in July - date to be agreed - watch out for posters!

We are becoming desperately short of helpers to clean the church. If you feel you could give us a session at any time please call Sheila Bateman 741365 or me 741215. Also anyone, maybe gentlemen, who feel they could help sweep the path or keep the wall trimmed we would be very appreciative. The trouble is we are all getting older and although the body is willing the flesh is getting weaker!

Once the hall is functional again we will have various events beginning with a Jumble Sale. The Harvest supper will be on 28th September and we may do a non-lent lunch sometime as we were unable to have it at the appropriate time! We also hope to have a jolly fund raiser nearer Christmas. Oh yes - we're full of ideas!!

Sue

Computer Club restarts in Holford Village Hall
- Monday 10th June.
- Usual time 10.00 - 12.00.
- Apple iPad users - Main Hall
  - First hour will be an open class discussion and problem solving (inexperienced users will 'buddy up' with experienced users)
  - Second hour more specialist - look at new apps etc - plus Pages, Word, XL etc
- Android / Microsoft - this will probably be a separate session in the new Fairfield Meeting Room with Peter G (if available) - agenda to suit your needs

Usual extortionate fee of £3 to include tea, coffee and biscuits. All proceeds to Hall funds.

Alan Falkingham

Congratulations
Cris and Josh Taylor joined others to walk 75 miles along the Cornish Coastal Path, from St. Mawes to Plymouth, to raise much needed funds for “Mental Health UK”. So far the group have raised £12,600.

Nether Stowey Library has been saved by a team of trained volunteers. Opening hours Mon, Wed, Fri 10am-5pm and Sat 10am -12noon.

FAMILIES WANTED TO ADOPT SAPLINGS
Kilve and Holford Parish Councils recently planted some saplings among the mature Scots Pines at the War Memorial. Many of these trees are getting a bit elderly and it was suggested that planting babies would be a good idea. It would be good for children to watch their babies grow. All that is needed is the occasional visit and a few words of encouragement. Mo Young 741249
**Recycling in Holford**

Seeing the current environmental news, I have decided to take action in various ways including helping to collect some waste products which would otherwise go into landfill. Terracycle offer a recycling service for products such as crisp packets, biscuit wrappers, etc, and then reward your charity of choice. I would eventually like this to be a very local charity like the village hall, but we would need time to set this up. Meanwhile, I am offering to be a drop off point and then to take everything to our closest collection point, which is the Conquest Equestrian Centre, who then sort everything out and collect the rewards. See poster below of what they collect. I have more details of each subgroup.

“**Conquest Centre**” is a leading Somerset charity dedicated to providing a range of equine activities for adults and children with a wide range of abilities. We are open 6 days a week following academic term times, offering coaching for disabled and able-bodied clients. All our activities are delivered by qualified instructors with specialist expertise in working with people with disabilities, behavioural difficulties and emotional problems, and are supported by a team of specially trained volunteers”

I have also set up a Facebook group called Group Action to Save the Planet, with a subgroup for the Quantocks, in which I promote various ways to become more environmentally friendly and local information/events.

Locals can pop them in a separate bag (no need to segregate) and drop it off to me when they can.

Emily Heckscher
Copse Cottage
T: 741694
Reports
In March Andy Rock from Herby4 came along to tell members about how the business developed using local produce. Initially Andy and wife, Rachel, grew common herbs such as mint and basil but soon realized that there was a better market for growing more unusual varieties like Mexican tarragon or Vietnamese coriander. These herbs were sold at foodie markets and by mail order with unusual ones very popular if they were mentioned in a TV cookery show.

Andy went on to build his own pasteurizer so they could produce apple juice, using apples from various local orchards. Herby4 now sells a variety of juices, such as Chaider based on an American version of Chai spices and apple juice. Never one to stand still Andy is now making Tofu using the smaller redundant apple press.

The speaker for April’s talk suddenly found herself double booked! Fortunately Julie Henderson very quickly stepped into the breach, making sense of Botanical Latin. There can be many common or local names for plants, which can be confusing. When many new plant species were being identified worldwide, Carl Linnaeus created the two-part Latin naming system in 1753. The system has a unique name, with the first being for the genus (group) e.g. Clematis, and the second being for the species name e.g. Montana. Julie made what could have been a very dry and complicated subject entertaining.

As you will see from the adverts for coming events the Group will be back home in Holford & District Village Hall, thanks to Kilve Village Hall for our temporary home. So the Flower Show will be back on Saturday, 3rd August – please have a good look at the enclosed schedule and see what you could enter, otherwise just pop along in the afternoon. Cream teas will be available at Glen Close.
The Holford Community Tree

This artwork celebrates the opening of Holford & District’s revamp and extended village hall in June 2019. It is composed of hand prints from 39 Holford residents, their ages ranging from 1 to 94 years.

The Court Family

Created by local artist Helen Falconar from an idea by Mo Young, it reflects Holford’s community spirit and offers a warm welcome to the hall.

The colours are inspired by the stunning variety in our lovely Quantocks landscape – bracken, gorse, heather, distant hills, and the many shades of woodland foliage.

A Tweet from the Hall!

.............and they all lived happily after!

Thank you to the Philps family in Cernbrook for drawing our attention to the plight of the sparrows nesting in the hall eaves when building started last year.

Michelle Milner donated nesting boxes which the Philps renovated into desirable residences. Luke and company installed them and the sparrows are at home already. A team effort!
Parish Council May 2019  Chairman’s Annual Report

Previous reports are available on the Parish Council website

An eventful year with many changes in the make up of the Parish Council. The council is delighted to welcome 5 new councillors elected for the next four years. Training for the new councillors will take place shortly. Our thanks to the outgoing councillors.

From April 1st there has been a merger of two local councils now known as Somerset West and Taunton Council. It is hoped this will bring about savings but it inevitably means some job losses. There is now only one councillor (Chris Morgan) not two for our district. Liz Peeks has resigned her post as Planning Officer which is a great loss. The new planning department will not be sending paper copies of applications in future, all correspondence will be digital.

Work is nearing completion on the renovation of the Village Hall assisted by the £10,000 loan arranged by the Parish Council to facilitate the release of funds from Viridor.

Some notable planning applications were received. Two in particular caused major concerns within the Parish and in May an extraordinary meeting was called to discuss the Silk Mills planning proposal during which members of the Parish voiced their views. This application is ongoing. A planning application at Strawberry Fields also raised many objections and this application was refused. There is a planning appeal in place for the site adjacent to the Plough which was refused earlier in the year.

The council has approved the renewal of the contract to the Parish Groundsman. Repairs have been undertaken to the Dog Pound this year but there are still ongoing needs to be addressed this year. The council is investigating sources of grants. New sapling trees have been planted amongst the declining Monument Trees with funding shared between Kilve and Holford PCs.

Requests had been made to West Somerset Council for new road signage but due to financial constraints WSC will not consider any new signage unless there are reports of traffic accidents associated with the current situation. Requests to the Fairfield Estate for repairs to potholes around the Car Park have been refused as it is not the policy of the estate to fund any repairs on land with discretionary public access due to the large area this covers. It has been noted that members of the public can now directly report potholes and issues with Rights of Way via a link on the Parish Council website.

Public Pathways Consultation
The Council submitted a report to Jake Taylor regarding the continuing maintenance and clearing of designated footpaths within the Parish in consultation with Sue Edwards.

Councillors Young and Cavendish attended the Quantock Landscape Partnership Workshop. The Partnership has received a very large grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund in order to plan for the future of the Quantock Hills over the next few years. Concerns have been raised about the promotion of night-time cycling events on the hills and at least one ‘Rave’ has occurred. There are worries that wildlife and the environment may be badly damaged by these activities.

There have been significant changes to policing procedure in 2018/19. Details are available on the Parish Council website.

The Parish Council has continued to attend EDF meetings regarding progress of work at Hinkley Point C. The minutes of these meetings are available on the EDF website. There has been no representation on the Quantock Hills Advisory Committee due to the resignation of Councillor Grandfield and a new representative will be put forward now that elections have taken place.

The defibrillator at the Plough has been installed and updated during the year.

Emma Cavendish
Annual Parish Meeting and Parish Council Meeting 13 May 2019
www.holford-pc.gov.uk

At the start of the Annual Parish Meeting the Chairman welcomed five new Parish Councillors and reminded us that from 1st April we have a new District Council, Somerset West and Taunton (SW&T). Our representative on this Council is Chris Morgan,

The Chairman presented a report on the activities of the Parish Council over the previous 12 months and plans for the future.

Alan Falkingham, Chairman of the Village Hall, reported on progress of the renovation work which is slightly behind schedule but the day of the official Opening is Thursday 6 June. The overflow car park will be opened as soon as possible, an air source heat pump is installed, the hall will be officially ‘dementia friendly’ and the new meeting room is called “The Fairfield Room”. More details may be found on: holfordvillagehall.org.

At the start of the Parish Council meeting Emma Cavendish was re-elected Chairman, and David Talling as Vice Chairman of the newly elected Parish Council. Councillors were allocated areas of responsibilities for the coming year.

The most important planning application pending at present is that for the Silk Mills site and the Council are still awaiting more information from the applicant.

Becky Brown, the Localities Engagement Lead on SW&T, gave a short talk about her responsibilities which are to develop strong healthy communities and collaborative networks, promote social inclusion and generally help in the transition from the old West Somerset Council to the new Council.

The Chairman said she would look into the problems of the potholes at the entrance of the Bowling Green car park as Fairfield Estate have said that they will not do any repair work. It is possible Friends of Quantock may provide funds for renovation work on the Dog Pound.

Hugh Davies reported that SCC have agreed to support Young Carers financially and in 2020 there will be a new firm in charge of waste collection. There will be three weekly collection of wheelie bins in future but the weekly recycling collections will include more materials not recycled at present.

It is hoped to install a recycling bin in the village hall car park. Until then the owners of Copse Cottage are willing to be a recycling point – see the village website (holfordvillage.com) for details.

Chris Morgan said that the new Somerset West and Taunton Council met for the first time last week and committees are being formed.

The Parish Council will organise a village ‘walkabout’ to identify any problems which need to be dealt with and bags of salt are to be stored in the village hall car park in due course.

The National Trust will be approached in about a year’s time with regard to work on the dewpond on Woodlands Hill.

Holford Parish Councillors are:
Emma Cavendish (Chair) 741 435
Stephen Campbell 741 329
Mike Coplestone 07711 985320
Angela Drummond 741 648
Erl Plomgren 741 152
David Talling 741 116
Mo Young 741 249

Clerk: Hema Stanley 07818 015956
Parish Council Website: www.holford-pc.gov.uk
Email for Chairman: chairman@holford-pc.gov.uk
Email for Councillors: councillors@holford-pc.gov.uk
Email for Clerk: clerk@holford-pc.gov.uk

Somerset West and Taunton Councillor
Chris Morgan

Somerset County Council Councillor
Hugh Davies

This report was submitted by a member of Parish who attended the meeting. Official minutes are available on the Parish Council website (link above)

Retirement presentation

Councillors Salvidge and Ayre were presented with a small gift in recognition of their combined service to the Parish Council of over 50 years!
CONUNDRUM

What's On? – Dates for your Diary

Events in Holford and District Village Hall
Unless otherwise stated
Bookings : Emily Hecksher T : 741694 or on line at www.HolfordVillageHall.org

There were 4 happy ‘spotters’ this time who managed to find the ‘whatever it is’, possibly a drain surround, which is in the churchyard by the wall next to the stables. They were Rob Culligan, Brian Gay, and Mike & Jean Pearce, independently of course, lots of rivalry there. This edition’s pic’ is quite small but should be easy to find as you meander around the village having a natter to all and sundry. If you spot it give me a call on 741130 for a mention in the next edition.

Mike Richardson

Oil delivery
Time to stock up again?

For those wishing to make use of the community oil delivery scheme—orders will need to be placed by Monday: for deliveries in the following weeks usually Wednesday

Please put these dates on your calendar

June 24th, July 29th and Sept 2nd

Contact:
David Young on 741249
davidyoung1934@talktalk.net

What’s On? – Dates for your Diary

Events in The Plough will be advertised around the village

June 2019

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sat  8th</td>
<td>Holford and District Village Hall Community Opening Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 10th</td>
<td>Computer Club restarts</td>
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<td>Sun 16th</td>
<td>Happy Feet Garden Trip leaves</td>
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<td>Tues 18th</td>
<td>Gardeners Group ‘Italian Gardens &amp; Villas of Lazio’ 7.30pm</td>
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<td>Thur 20th</td>
<td>Happy Feet Garden Trip returns</td>
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July 2019

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<tr>
<td>Sat 6th</td>
<td>Coffee Morning 10.00 – 12.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 8th</td>
<td>Parish Council Meeting 7.00pm Note: new start time</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 13th</td>
<td>Nether Stowey School Summer Fair</td>
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<td>Tues 18th</td>
<td>Gardeners’ Group Members’ Garden Meeting 6.30pm</td>
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August 2019

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 3rd</td>
<td>HolfORD FLOWER SHOW</td>
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Weekly regulars

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<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Tai Chi Kilve Village Hall 11.00 – 12.00</td>
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<td>Short Mat Bowls – Kilve Village Hall 7.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Karate - Please check for location 6.30 pm (1hr)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Art Group 10.00 – 1 pm</td>
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<td>Craft Group 1.00 – 4 pm</td>
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Note: Kilve Film Night has been suspended until the Autumn.

Recycling collections every Friday
Collections a day later after Bank Holidays

Refuse collections: June 7th and 21st July 5th and 19th,
August 2nd, 16th and 30th
Collections a day later after Bank Holidays

Quantock Hills

WE’RE LOOKING FOR COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT VOLUNTEER
to assist with various public events and Somerset’s Nature and Wellbeing Project

Interested in volunteering? Then contact our Volunteer Coordinator

Sammy Fraser: SFraser@somerset.gov.uk 07977 402399

We hope you have enjoyed this edition

If anyone has any articles, ideas, news, snippets etc please do let us have them before the deadline Sat July 13th 2019
Please send them to Wendy Grandfield, The White Cottage (741233 or wendy@grandfield.eu)