Editorial
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from everyone at News and Views.
I would like to remind everyone that the editor of the next edition of News and Views will be Christine Mew, e-mail address – c.mews@outlook.com. I would like to thank all the contributors, sponsors and well wishers for their help and co-operation during my time as editor. I wish Chris well as the next editor, I am sure she will bring a fresh view to the newsletter and I will give her my support as long as she needs it. Thank you to Bryan Warren for his time as treasurer and to Mike Pearce for taking on that role.

Diane Gunner
It is extremely sad in this last edition of News And Views under my editorship that I have to report the sad and untimely death of Diane Gunner following a tragic accident. In addition to her family many villagers and friends attended her funeral and £652 was raised for the local Air Ambulance Service, with grateful thanks from husband Steve.

Lottery
More people are needed to join our Village Lottery. The cost is £10 a year which is collected in January. One prize of £20 pounds and two of £10 are paid out each month and the rest of the money raised goes to the Village Hall. Elaine Tavner 741129.

Holford Art and Craft Group Christmas Fair
Following a very successful Fair in Kilve last year the Holford Art and Craft Group are delighted to be holding the next one in the refurbished Holford Village Hall. The Fair will be held on the evening of November 29th at 6-8pm and Saturday the 30th from 10-4pm. Please come along to look and buy, everyone welcome, refreshments will be provided.

Bridgwater Choral Society Concert
The concert is being held in St. Mary’s Church Bridgwater on Saturday 30th November at 7.30pm. It includes music from Vivaldi, Haydn, Mozart and Boyle. For more details consult the Society's website.

Christmas Post
Well the evenings are starting to draw in and yes Christmas is just around the corner. So yet again we will be running the Christmas card delivery service. The box will go into Holford Church on Sunday 8th December and be removed on 16th December. There will also be a box at Lady Charles House between the same dates. The deliveries will take place around the village over the following few days. There is no charge for this service and all donated monies go to the Air Ambulance. Please can you make sure that the full name and address is on the cards as last year, for the first time, two cards could not be delivered. Liz Guttridge

This edition of Holford News and Views has been kindly sponsored by Holford and District Village Hall Committee
A full colour version is available on the Holford Village website www.HolfordVillage.com – Thank you to David Talling
Holford History Society
Stewart Tavner, Chairman.

Report:
On Wednesday the 30th October the HHS held an extraordinary meeting in the village hall, followed by the usual monthly talk. The first meeting was to enable the chairman, Stewart Tavner, to announce the resignation at Christmas of four of the committee members, including himself. He thanked the committee for all their hard work and then asked for volunteers to take over the running of the group. If none are forthcoming the society will be disbanded in January.

The monthly talk was given by Brian Wright. It concerned Andrew Crosse of Fyne Court and his scientific experiments at Broomfield on the Quantocks, in the first half of the 19th Century. It was totally fascinating as Crosse was one of the leading amateur investigators into the wonders of electricity. Contrary to popular belief Crosse probably did not inspire the story of Frankenstein but, if you attended the talk, you would see how the misunderstanding arose. Brian has done a lot of work at Fyne Court and it seems regrettable that despite his and others’ good efforts the memorial to Andrew Crosse in Broomfield Church has so far not been restored.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday the 27th of November when we will listen to a talk on the History of Herbal Medicine.

The Xmas meal will be in the Plough on the 10th December. Please book your places by the 15th November. Mo Young will be sending out emails and Menus!

Holford Church
As usual, we will be very busy over the Christmas period. On Saturday 21st December we will have carol singing in the church at 4.30 pm. As you know, this is a very informal affair and is in no way a church service - everyone is invited to exercise their lungs and sing traditional Christmas carols! The church will be decorated and candles lit and as usual, there will be refreshments at half time. So please come, bring your friends and enter into the spirit of the season. In addition to our usual collection plate for the Children’s Hospice we hope to send food to the local food bank. It has been requested that we do not send Christmas items (they will have plenty of those) but basic foodstuffs will be much appreciated. We will leave a box out in the church for you to leave your donation(s) and they will be delivered to Watchet on Monday 23rd December.

On 24th December at 3.00 pm there will be a crib service - you are all invited to celebrate the story of Christmas in a fun and thoughtful way. Children and dogs most welcome! For those who prefer a traditional service, there will be Holy Communion on Christmas Day at 9.30 am. May we wish all of you a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Sue

Thank you
They say you can’t get enough publicity and of course advertising obviously is the best policy to get any business and events off the ground to a ‘hopefully’ successful result, so I’d like to thank the HN & V’s team for all the articles they have printed in supporting ventures that have been organised by different groups in our village and in the locality. Our little play reading group has attracted more readers this autumn and ‘Happy Feet Garden Tours’ for our trip to South Wales and Herefordshire next year has almost sold out. So thank you Wendy, Emma and team for all your hard - and importantly - voluntary work.

Good luck to Chris (Mew) who is taking over from Wendy after Christmas. Mo (Plomgren)
Reports
In September Greg Morter gave a fascinating talk entitled *From Seed to Fork – How plants evolved and How humans adapted them*, which really got members thinking. He started by sticking a tape measure across the hall to illustrate the age of the earth, being 4.5 billion years represented by the 4.5 metres.

Life in the oceans probably started 3.5 billion years ago but it took over 450 million years ago for primitive plants to emerge on land, which is just the last 10% of earth’s history...or 45 cm on the tape. The first plants were stoneworts, followed by mosses and liverworts. It was another 50 million years before the first tiny vascular plants appeared with 100 ft tall horsetail and club moss 'trees' about 370 million years ago. Then 130 million years ago (13 cm on the tape) the first flowering plants came along, which provide all our vegetables today. Plants have co-evolved with animals and insects adapting to avoid being eaten or get help to distribute seed. Humans started to cultivate plants just 11,000 years ago (1.1 mm on the tape).

As hunter gatherers 250 different wild foods were eaten, but agriculture was geared to staple foods such as rice and wheat. As there was a relatively tiny range of other vegetables in the diet and humans had to work harder to grow food they became shorter and less healthy.

John Addison, a past lecturer at Cannington College came along in October to give a very lively talk about creating all kinds of water gardens as any form of water feature brings wildlife into gardens. He gave some very useful pointers about creating a good pond – flexible liners are best; should be at least 2½” deep with fairly steep sides; provide shelves for planting and some kind of ramp so wildlife has access in and out. Ponds can be created from large containers and John has made one from a galvanized cattle drinking trough, planting a low hedge around it to provide shade as it is above ground. John went through the wide range of plants to choose from, picking the right plant suitable for depth of water and size of the pond. He recommended planting in baskets using low nutrient compost and buy from reputable suppliers, with a final warning not to dispose of excess plants in the countryside so as not to introduce an invasive species but to compost them.

**The best time to plant a tree is twenty years ago. The second best time is now.**

“Tigers” film
The showing of the ‘Tigers’ film eventually got underway on the 6th November after some technical difficulties!

The film is a dramatization of the true story of Syed Amir Rafa a former Nestlé formula milk salesman in Pakistan who takes on the baby food industry when he discovers that babies are dying as a result of his work pressuring (and bribing) doctors to promote the formula feeding of babies. Pakistan has the highest infant mortality rate in South East Asia. This is mainly attributed to diarrheal diseases due to bottle feeding infants. In a country where the poor have little or no access to clean water, feeds are not only made up with dirty water but also diluted to save money. The promotion of breastfeeding is therefore even more vital in poverty stricken countries.

The film was well received and gave us all much food for thought, prompting the question of whether we should boycott companies who produce and sell products unethically. The film also highlights the power of multinational corporations and made us think about how we personally would have reacted in similar circumstances as Ayan (the character representing Syed).

Thank you to those who attended and for your generous donations. We were able to pay for the hall hire and raised £72 for Baby Milk Action (an organization which is part of a global network to stop misleading marketing by the Baby Feeding industry).

Ali and John Carter.

*There’s very little point in looking back. You’re not heading in that direction*
HOLFORD GARDENERS GROUP

Christmas Social Evening

Tuesday, December 17th 7.30pm

Christmas Social Evening

Tuesday, January 21st 7.30pm

‘Back from the Brink’
Simon Blackley

All welcome
Members £1, non-members £3.50

(01278 741173)

Handmade Craft, Art & upcycled Vintage Christmas Fair...

Holford Village Hall (A39)

If you love local handmade gorgeous items and appreciate unique artistic creations, then our Handmade Fair is just for you! Wonderful unique gifts, vintage treasures & local creative Art....

FREE Entry ......
......FREE PARKING
All welcome

.....we will be serving delicious cakes, Tea & Coffee......

Christmas Coffee Morning

for
St Mary’s Church Stringston.
A special Christmas Coffee Morning at the Castle of Comfort Hotel by kind invitation of the Venner family.
Wednesday 4th December 10am to 12 noon.

£2.00 entry to include unlimited coffee and mince pies plus a variety of stalls selling homemade cakes, preserves and inexpensive Christmas Gifts.

Macmillan Christmas Concert
The West Somerset Brass Band
Crowcombe Village Hall
Sunday December 1st at 2.15pm.
During the interval there will be a Craft Fair.

Tickets cost £6.50 to include tea and cakes, from Elaine Tavner 741129.
NEWS FROM YOUR VILLAGE HALL

WILDLIFE PLANTING
The view out towards the Bristol Channel and Wales is among the great gains of the Hall refurbishment. The newly planted hedge is growing well with the area between that and the green of the new winter crops being taken over by a variety of plants, grasses and cereal including barley. As these decay there will be seeds for various birds to feed on through the winter, especially the myriad of House Sparrows present all the year round. Some occupied the nest boxes on the end of the Hall during the summer and may take shelter there during any extreme cold weather which may be coming our way. Small White and Red Admiral butterflies, Green Shield Bugs, Dark Bush crickets and various spiders were among creatures present before hibernation. Andrew Mew

LIBRARY
The Green Reading Room will be open from 1.15 until 2.15 every Wednesday from 20th November until 18th December for anyone to drop in to choose a book, magazine or DVD and have a cuppa and cake.

TAKE ART
The audience of 90 loved Mountain Music.

“a brilliant concept so expertly and beautifully performed”
“Mountain Music couldn’t have been more wonderful. The talent of all the performers was outstanding”
“it was so funny and moving”
“A special evening”.

Future Take Art diary dates:
Paprika 30th January.
Pip Upton’s Will Shakespeare 22nd February

QUIZ
A big thank you to those who supported our Quiz night. We all had a good time. The change to the typical format of quiz questions was well received. The competition was tough and the ‘Pussy Cats’ were deserving winners of the Karen Keane Cup. We will see them on the stage next year. The evening raised £120 for the village hall. Alina McKinley

EXERCISE!
We have two great exercise classes in the hall now:
APS with Sian, Mondays 6.30 – 7.30 Aerobics, Pilates and Stretch
Music and Movement with Michelle Wednesdays 2.30 – 3.30. Gentle movement to music with strengthening and stretch. Both classes are great fun.

Laughing can be good exercise too!
ipad ART
The participants thoroughly enjoyed this day and were all surprised at the quality of the art they were able to produce using an ipad. Alison Jacobs is an excellent tutor. Hopefully she will return next year to do another session.

BURNS SUPPER.
Saturday, 25th January. Four courses with a nip for the toast. Entertainment, Music and Scottish Country Dancing. BYOB. Tickets £25

Please check Holfordvillagehall.org for more information on all events

Lemon Gingerbread

The following recipe I thought would be in keeping with the festive season, a slant on the usual gingerbread! From Mo (Plomgren) with thanks to Emma Cavendish.

You will need a 2lb loaf tin, greased, base and ends lined with a single strip of non stick parchment.
Preheat the oven to 160°C Fan before you start

Ingredients :
75g soft butter
3 tbs golden syrup
75g caster sugar
175g self raising flour
1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
2 generous tsp ground ginger
1 generous tsp mixed spice
1 egg
50g chopped stem ginger (2 or three pieces from a jar in syrup)*
1 tbs lemon juice
120ml milk

Method
Put the butter, syrup and sugar into a pan and melt gently over a low heat.
Sieve the flour, bicarb and spices into a mixing bowl and stir in the chopped ginger.
Add the warmed melted mixture and beat well. Scrape down the sides of the bowl with a spatula to ensure that everything gets well mixed. Beat the egg lightly, add the lemon juice to it and beat into the mixture in the bowl. Again, scrape down the sides to incorporate. Warm the milk to lukewarm, 20 seconds in the microwave is an easy way. Stir thoroughly into the mixture.

Pour the mixture into the loaf tin and give a quick stir around to make sure the ginger is spread evenly through the mix. Cook for about 45 minutes. Check with a thin skewer after 40 minutes – the cake is cooked when the skewer comes out clean. Cool in the tin for 10 minutes then loosen around the edges with a thin bladed knife and lift out with the paper, on to a rack to cool.

* The syrup is great at the bottom of a steamed ginger sponge pudding!
Parish Council meeting – November 11th 2019
Chairman’s Report and plans going forward
Since the previous meeting repair work has been undertaken at the Dog Pound including the repainting of the Brereton Shield. The registration of the legal title to the Dog Pound has been sent to the Land Registry. Thanks are due to Councillor Copleston for his excellent detective work in tracking down the information needed for the registration to take place.

At a meeting of the Watchet, Williton and Quantock Vale Area Panel, Somerset West and Taunton council introduced the new Principal Planning Specialist – Rebecca Miller. There appears to be progress in the organisation of the new joint council however all councils are now in purdah until after the election and the next meeting has been moved to January for this reason.

Nether Stowey has produced a comprehensive document of more than 50 pages ‘The Neighbourhood Plan’ which is available online. Some of these plans may affect Holford and District residents. Since the publication planning permission has been given for 109 houses on the Cricketer Farm site so inevitably there will be updates in time. The provision of extra school places in the future will be an issue and there is a plan to provide a crossing from the village across to the Church.

Councillor Copleston attended the JAC meeting and presented a report (see official minutes). It was agreed at the previous meeting to set up a committee to look into the issue of traffic speed within the village and on the A39. Councillor Young reported on progress. The issue of signage for roads within the village continues to be unresolved. SWT will not move, replace or install any new signage unless they receive a safety request from Highways. Councillor Copleston suggested that the PC looks into getting village roads designated as ‘Quiet Lanes’. This was agreed by the councillors.

Councillor Talling has been investigating the legal position regarding maintenance of the Play Area at Portway. An informal meeting was held November 20th with Falcon Housing to discuss a way forward. Representatives from Falcon Housing and a member of SWT planning were present. It was agreed that the hard court would be opened up again as there were no safety issues. Falcon Housing will propose a way forward for the derelict playground to be improved. There have been no more suggestions from local people regarding the provision of the playground to date.

A site visit to Alfoxton Park regarding the issue of deterioration of a listed building has been made by the Heritage at Risk specialist. Repair work is currently being carried out.

An amended planning application has been received for Strawberry Fields, Holford. Interested local people may wish to attend the forthcoming meeting on December 2nd.

Sadly the planting of new saplings at the memorial has been unsuccessful. The NT would only allow planting within the existing tree area and there was too much competition for light and water to sustain the new plants. The council agreed to attempt a second planting but with older, more robust specimens and better tree guards.

There have been reports of anti-social behaviour by the Hunt. This has been reported to the police after an incident. Councillor Copleston is the councillor tasked with liaisoning with the Hunt. Hopefully there will some action by the Police to curtail inappropriate behaviour by some.

Holford Parish Councillors are:
Emma Cavendish (Chair) 741 435
Stephen Campbell 741 329
Mike Copleston 07711 985320

Clerk : Hema Stanley 07818 015956
Angela Drummond 741 648
Erl Plomgren 741 152
David Talling 741 116
Mo Young 741 249

Feel free to contact any of the councillors if you have issues to raise.
The full detailed and official Parish Council meeting minutes are available on the website. www.holford-pc.gov.uk If you do not have access to the internet you can request a paper copy from the clerk or any councillor.
CONUNDRUM

As I write this it’s absolutely pouring down so you may not be wandering around the village at present! Hopefully by the time you read this those lovely frosty days will be with us and you can get some exercise and try to find this picture. Last edition’s pic was a side view of the Crucifixion to the left of the church entrance and well done to Mike Pearce for spotting it. 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 week, usually on Wednesday  

Please put these dates on your calendar
Mondays : 2nd, 16th and 30th Dec, 20th Jan and 10th Feb  

Contact :  
David Young on 741249  
davidyoung1934@talktalk.net

Lottery Winners October

1st  Kate Hammond  
Runners up  
Pauline Tilsley,  
Peter and Carole Waters

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

Events in The Plough Inn will be advertised around the village

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christmas Brass Band Concert and Craft Fair</td>
<td>Sun 1st Dec</td>
<td>2.15pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coffee Morning</td>
<td>Sat 7th</td>
<td>10.00 - noon</td>
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<td>History Society Members Christmas Dinner</td>
<td>Tue 10th</td>
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<td>General Election Day</td>
<td>Thu 12th</td>
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<tr>
<td>HGG Christmas Social Evening</td>
<td>Tue 17th</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
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<td>Carol's in Holford Church</td>
<td>Sat 21st</td>
<td>4.30pm</td>
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<td>The Crib Service Holford Church</td>
<td>Tue 24th</td>
<td>3.00pm</td>
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<td>Holy Communion Holford Church</td>
<td>Wed 25th</td>
<td>9.30am</td>
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<td>Parish Council meeting</td>
<td>Mon 13th</td>
<td>7.00pm</td>
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<td>Holford Gardens Group ‘Back from the Brink’</td>
<td>Tue 21st</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
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<td>Burns Night Supper</td>
<td>Sat 25th</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Take Art ‘Paprika’</td>
<td>Thu 30th</td>
<td>7.00pm</td>
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Weekly regulars

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<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Computer Club</td>
<td>10.00 – 12.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short Mat Bowls – Kilve Village Hall</td>
<td>7.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aerobics, Pilates and Stretch</td>
<td>6.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karate – (ex 3rd Tues in month)</td>
<td>6.30 pm (1hr)</td>
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<td>Music and Movement</td>
<td>2.30pm</td>
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<td>Coffee and Play</td>
<td>9.30 – 11.30</td>
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<td>Table Tennis</td>
<td>7.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Art Group</td>
<td>10.00 – 1 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Craft Group</td>
<td>1.00 – 4pm</td>
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Recycling collections every Friday  
Collections a day later after Bank Holidays  
Refuse collections : Dec 6th and 20th, Jan 4th, 17th and 31st,  
February 14th and 28th.  
Collections a day later after Bank Holidays

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 Mon 13th January  
Please send items for the next issue to  
Christine Mew, Ramblers  
T: 741437 c.mews@outlook.com  
Please don’t send pdf files – they are designed so that they CAN’T be edited. In future these files will be returned to sender!