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All views expressed in this magazine are those of the named author, who may be contacted via the editor.

Editorial

As I sit here drafting this editorial, in the week after the Spring Equinox, the 'returning' Sun is shining through the window, and I am filled with hope for the coming year. Shall we see the first green shoots of economic recovery in the year ahead or is it to be a fallow year and one merely to be weathered and written off?

More likely the latter.

I've just spent a fruitless hour up in the attic hunting high and low for my old John Bull printing set from my childhood days, and I haven't given up yet. The intention is to do a bit of Quantitative Easing (as recommended by Mervyn King for the Bank of England) and print off a few thousand bank notes to compensate, at least in part, for the huge losses in savings and pension pots suffered over the last six months. Not that I am an expert in the world of high finance – until recently I thought that hedge funds were something used to pay some guys for keeping the garden tidy.

In business it has been a diabolical year and most companies are going backwards in terms of turnover. All, that is, except for food and fuel businesses. Thus we have Tesco, Iceland and Aldi all looking to set up in Alton in the near future. Tesco looking at a site at this end of Mill Lane; Aldi looking at a site in Lower Turk Street and Iceland in the premises vacated by "dear old Woolies".

We also hear that one company wants to open a petrol station, a hotel and, unbelievably, a Retirement Home on the Holybourne 'corner' of the A31 roundabout. The big question then will be – can the Old Folks afford to fill up the Rover and go somewhere, or do they just sit and watch the world and his wife fill up and charge off into the sunset?

Clearly, there are lots of changes pending. Some in the near future, some in the years ahead. Thus we have details of the Strategic Plan for this part of Hampshire detailed in this magazine. However, since that article was produced, the South Downs National Park decision has been announced, with Petersfield and Liss included. This will mean that these towns may not be able to take their 'fair share' of development, and, in all likelihood, Alton will have to take between 500 and 600 more dwellings than originally forecast.

Barrie Lawrence

Copy deadline for Summer Edition
25 July 2009

Front cover photo of one day old lamb by Sarah Main



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Holybourne Village Association

Much has happened since the last publication of the village magazine. Your committee have been actively involved in setting up the new Street-Watch scheme. Chief Inspector Philip Kedge addressed the January meeting outlining the opportunities Street – Watch offered Holybourne. There was immediate recognition of the benefits this scheme could offer us and the committee were unanimous in agreeing to promote the idea.

The village pond has had its winter maintenance programme carried out by a few very caring and at times very cold members. Thanks to them.

We are all aware of the current turbulence in the economy which has had its effects on the number of planning applications made in this area. However, you may be aware that there are plans afoot for a new petrol station on the A31 close to the Alton / Treloars roundabout. There are also plans ahead for a new Tesco store, possibly in Mill Lane. Through the monthly on-line minutes we will keep you informed on these matters.

Alton Town Partnership in conjunction with SHIFT have outlined the EHDC planning strategy to the year 2020 and the effects it may have on Alton but, more particularly,

Holybourne. This is definitely an item we will keep a very close eye on.

The committee have welcomed our new EHDC Councillor Mrs G. Watts to meetings in recent months. We hope to gain from her (EHDC) knowledge along with Councillor J.Janes.

Preparations are in hand for the village picnic 21st June 09. The members involved in the early stage arrangements already have very sore knees praying for better weather this year.

You may have noticed the deteriorating road surfacing in the village. Representation has been made to the Highways Engineer for repairs to be carried out. We will have to wait and see if they listen to our complaints. Repairs are also required to the grass verges along London Road.

Please don't forget that the committee are there for you, if you have any subjects you would like the HVA to address, please let us know. Any member will forward your comments for the next months agenda, better still come along yourself, we would love to see you.

David Godfrey, Secretary

Holybourne Village Association & Holybourne Cricket Club

invite you to

Village Picnic & Fun Day

Sunday 21st June 2009

**From 12 noon till late
At Holybourne Sports Field**



Church of The Holy Rood



As well as all the changes in our neighbourhood, here in the village a more imminent change involves the bells of the Church of the Holy Rood. The three ancient bells that create the chimes of the clock and are used to call people to services, are going to reach greater heights, literally.

All three were turned and re-hung in 1951. The treble is mediaeval – 15th. century – and was cast at the Woking Foundry. It is inscribed ‘Ave Maria’. The second was cast by Richard Eldridge in 1600 and is inscribed ‘Our hope is in the name of the Lord’, whereas the tenor was cast in 1728 by Richard Phelps of Whitechapel and is inscribed ‘Francis Denyer John Grover Churchwardens R Phelps fecit 1729.’

In the very near future, this trio will be taken down and hung further up in the spire of the Church, and thereafter will be used only for the chiming clock. This will be done in order to make room for a new set of eight bells which, after a new bell frame has been installed, will be hung below their elderly counterparts.

If all goes to plan the work will be completed before the next edition of this magazine, and this being so, it is hoped that the summer edition will carry pictures of the various stages of this intriguing process.

This is a good moment to reflect proudly on the history of our beautiful Church standing at the source of the Holy Bourne stream at the head of Church Lane.

There are still traces of springs rising beneath the altar and at the west end of the nave. This fact, as well as its position near the old road, later known as the Pilgrim’s Way, and its dedication to the Holy Rood, suggests that its origin as a site for Christian

worship may go back to the 7th. century. It may have been a stage on the pilgrim route as the stream was reputed to have healing properties for those with eye troubles.

The building of the present Church began soon after the Norman Conquest. The lower stages of the tower and its west window are Norman. The Norman capitals were incorporated in the later building as were the Saxon dog-toothed mouldings on the south wall of the nave.

In the 13th. century a chancel was added with a lancet window, now broken into by the squint. The east window and the one next to it on the south were probably 14th. century, and about the same time a ‘mass clock’ was carved on a buttress of the south wall.

The height of the Church was increased in the 15th. century and a narrow lean-to aisle was built on the north side, with a pier arcade incorporating the Norman capital. The squint, or hagioscope, was probably made at this time.

The first modern additions and some restoration work date from 1879. The present north aisle replaced the old lean-to aisle and the roof timbers were relieved of their task of holding up the roof, although they still remain.

Probably about this time, the spire was given a low four-sided spire. The shingled spire was added in 1902 – square at the base and octagonal from the first stage – a fine piece of work, made in the yard of J H and E Dyer in Alton. It was reshingled in 1969/70, and the aluminium nails replaced with copper ones in 1999.

People have been worshipping here for over a thousand years, and now in the 21st. century it is exciting to be around to experience the addition of a peal of eight bells which will be bringing a wonderful new dimension to the Church of the Holy Rood, Holybourne.

Take Shelter!

Village watchers may have noticed that two rustic bus shelters serving the village have recently been given a new lease of life.

Situated either side of the A31 at Lower Neatham, local contractor DC Andrews has substantially rebuilt the structures on behalf of Alton Town Council, who took on responsibility for these last Spring, along with another four glass and metal shelters - two further along the dual-carriageway at Cuckoos Corner and another two in Chawton Park Road.

The Town Council rescue came after Town Councillors were fed up with an ongoing argument between district and county councils who were threatening to remove them as neither council wanted responsibility. During the debacle, the structures all deteriorated and many bus users were complaining about their condition, which were offering little protection from the cold, wind, and rain.

The wholesale refurbishment of all the structures transferred to the Town Council was funded by Developers’ Contributions designated for improvements to sustainable transport and released by EHDC.

Three more privately-funded shelters have been gifted to the Town Council in recent weeks, bringing all 18 bus shelters around the town under the Council’s wing, except the one at the railway station.

Deputy Town Clerk Greg Burt said that it was nice to use a local contractor for the task, adding “Dave Andrews told me that when they first took the shelters away prior to the rebuild, several people challenged him about whether they were going to go back up; it’s good to know that they are used and valued by local people!”

Do You Use Your Local Library ?

700 a people a day in Alton do !

Alton Library has now been open for 4½ years in its new building.



Membership is free and there is also free public access to the internet through nineteen computers, with a printer and scanner. Library staff run internet taster sessions or short courses if you do not use a computer and want to learn.

There is Baby Rhyme Time at 10.30am on the first and third Fridays of each month for babies and toddlers and Storytime every Tuesday morning starting at 10.15am for pre-school children.

Children's activities are also run in the school holidays and Alton enthusiastically takes part in the national summer reading scheme where, last year, over 600 children read and reported on 6 books each to gain their medal.

This year we have run a monthly programme of talks in the evening. This has included "Herbaceous Borders", "Jane Austen's Chawton", "A Taste of Venice" and an evening with author Jack Sheffield.

Books are loaned for 4 weeks and for a small fee, 60p, so are music cds and spoken word books. You can rent dvds for a week for between £1 and £3.50 .

You can borrow and return from any Hampshire Library using your one borrower card and can search the Hampshire Library Catalogue online to see what books we have and where they are, to renew the books that you have on loan and to request books that you are looking for.

If we do not have what you want we can borrow from the stock of other libraries in Hampshire or in England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland for you, that costs £1.50 !

The Library displays work by local craftsmen. At present we have the work of local jewellers and a wood-turner on show and for sale. A small shop sells toys, gifts and collectables and you can buy hot and cold drinks. All the profits from sales go into purchases to benefit our library.

We can help you improve you gardening, cooking or photography, start your family history research or plan your holiday. You can read your way through the Richard and Judy recommendations, check out the classics or browse the thrillers, romances, sci fi, crime, adventures and much much more.

This is your **FREE** Library in Vicarage Hill, Alton.

Come and see for yourself.



STREET WATCH

Holybourne



Introducing the scheme to the HVA, Chief Inspector Philip Kedge had said that Street Watch would have the benefits of improving community cohesion and the feeling of safety, as well as reducing anti-social behaviour. Importantly, it should include engaging with young people and try to involve them in its aspirations. The HVA committee were enthusiastic to participate.

However, Chief Inspector Hedge said that we would need at least 8 to 10 volunteers to make the scheme work.

The HVA called a meeting of villagers to launch the scheme on January 26 in the Village Hall, and the committee was delighted when over 50 people attended. Even more encouraging, over 40 people put their names forward to take part in this, ensuring a very large participation by the village.

The first patrol took place on Wednesday 4th March. Two teams, Lynette and George Rees and John Tomlinson with David Godfrey, donned their glow coats and 'armed' themselves with mobile phones, notebooks, pens and a torch, and set out to show the residents that we really do care about our village and its community spirit. Villagers they met were greeted with a friendly smile and were responsive and appreciative. All returned in one piece!

After the feedback meetings with Inspector Kedge, we shall need to select a villager to act as Coordinator and chair of further meetings.

Darling! I thought we'd agreed that during the credit crunch you were going to tighten your Gucci belt!

EHDC Core Strategy 2006-2026

It would be difficult to imagine a less enticing title for an article than this. However, the EHDC Core Strategy will affect us all, so it is worth understanding a little of what it is about and what we can/will do about it.

Essentially the Core Strategy along with the Local Development Framework defines the EHDC plan for the area over the coming years, and is required by central government. The government has also dictated what housing development is required by area for future needs, and has said that East Hants share is 4000 houses. The core strategy will respond to this by saying where the development will take place.

Of course, nothing is ever that simple. 4000 houses are required between 2006 and 2026 and some of these are already in the existing plan – Chandos Lodge and the Meadow View developments for example. The questions for Alton are: How many houses will EHDC require to be built in Alton, and where should they be put?

In principle East Hants have three options:

1. Focus the new development on the larger towns (i.e. Petersfield and Alton)
2. Focus as 1 but put some development in other places (e.g. Liphook, Liss, Four Marks)
3. Spread the development through the whole EHDC area

These options are further complicated by the fact that a decision on the South Downs National Park is outstanding, which, if it went ahead, would reduce the ability of Petersfield to take development.

Some 700 new dwellings have been approved in Alton since 2006 – so depending of which option above is chosen the additional requirement is between zero and 2300, which is not very helpful. As part of the Shift work we have been working with the Alton Town Partnership Environment Group

to ensure that there is a full public consultation on the issues involved. We determined that the most likely outcome was that Alton would have to accommodate around 950 additional dwelling by 2026, and this would take the population to a bit over 21000.

950 dwellings sounds a lot but over the remaining 17 years of the plan it is just over 50 houses a year and a number of these will be met by infill. However, there will be a need for new large developments, and it is vital that we all have a say in where these should be. As part of this process ATP ran a public consultation morning on February 28th; 400 people attended and nearly 170 questionnaires have been returned and are currently being analysed.

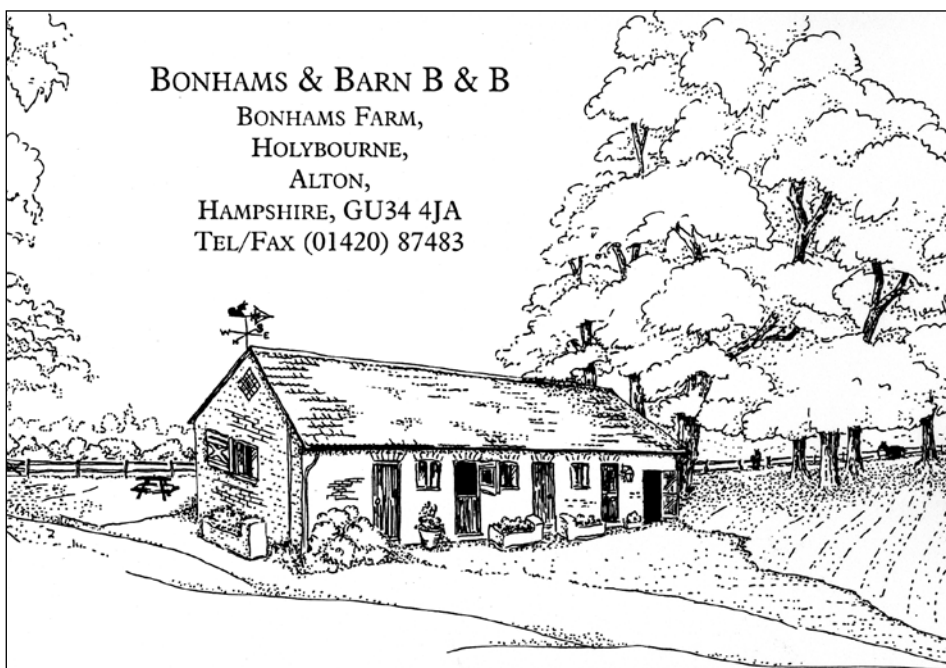
The questionnaires asked which development option (1,2,3 above) was preferred, where the development should be, and what major concerns people had.

In order to help the discussion ATP provided a map of Alton showing the areas which met the approved Design Guidelines for Alton. This was the only criterion used for the map. It did not imply that any request for development had been submitted, or indeed that development in these locations would be realistic, it was a starter for discussion. Two of the areas marked (along the Wey towards Neatham and north of Howards Farm) directly affect Holybourne.

The output of the meeting will be communicated to EHDC and put on the ATP website.

It is very early days yet; EHDC does not have to submit its plan until October next year. There will be strong emphasis in the ATP letter on the need for EHDC to properly involve and consult residents in the development of the Strategy. As EHDC thinking develops we will make sure that the views of the Holybourne are properly and enthusiastically represented to influence the plan.

Nick Cane shift@holybourne.co



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COMMENTS!

**What gets you annoyed or pleased in the village?
What theme would you like in future issues?
What do you want to see in the next issue?
What interests you?**

Any comments then email;

Comments@holybourne.com

In The Bleak Midwinter (Or Perhaps Not)

According to the Met Office, it was the coldest start to December for some time. Well, be that as it may, but on Tuesday 16th December it didn't deter almost eighty of Holybourne's finest hardy souls – men, women and children - from lending vocal support to the 2008 Annual Holybourne Christmas Carol singing, held as usual around the village Christmas Tree in the car park at the front of the White Hart, on a surprisingly mild winter's evening.

By popular consensus, the event was moved from a Monday night (as it had been held for some years previously) to a Tuesday night to avoid other commitments, but the start time of 7.00pm was preserved to ensure children would not be kept up too late.

Expertly compèred by Nick Cane, people of our village turned out to swell the chorus of voices singing carols such as "The Holly and The Ivy", "In The Bleak Midwinter", and "Good King Wenceslas" – complete with the gentlemen taking the part of Wenceslas and ladies and children performing the page's lines, "Away In A Manger", "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks", and many other favourites. Well done to Elaine Watson for bravely volunteering to sing a solo verse of "Once in Royal David's City" (she claimed that she'd never done it before, but she was a bit good!) Lyric sheets were provided for those (i.e. most) of us uncertain of the words...

After singing the more modern but no less traditional "Twelve Days of Christmas" and "Jingle Bells", copious

volumes of mulled wine and cheese straws were served in The White Hart, courtesy of David and Melanie, drawing the event to a close.

Huge thanks are due to Vickie Kemp for organising and co-ordinating the evening's entertainment, MC Nick Cane for compèring it, Sarah Main and her excellent and talented orchestra (surely only a matter of time before their appearance at a Royal Command Performance), to John Honnor and Phil Croucher for erecting and decorating the Christmas Tree, and to all the students at Andrew's Endowed School for their efforts in the present wrapping competition. Holybourne would be a poorer place if not for people like these and their tireless efforts to stage and contribute to events for all.

I'm looking forward to next year's event already, when hopefully some more of our 1500 plus residents might turn out and take part in a village event. It is actually a surprisingly enjoyable and social way to spend a Tuesday winter's evening as the festive season looms large.

Finally, but perhaps most importantly of all, many thanks to those of you who did actually come and sing along on that fairly mild evening. It is you, the participants, who make organising events such as this worth it. Is Holybourne just a place where there's a structure built of bricks and mortar that you call home, or is it a community to which you belong and contribute an active part? Only you can decide.

Ben Kemp

If you go down to the woods field today...

You may be in for a surprise. Anyone who has not been down to the Sports Field over the winter will not have seen the changes which are being made to the pavilion.

The Holybourne Sports Field Trust and Holybourne Cricket Club have been working closely together to expand and improve the size of the pavilion and make general improvements to the facilities. As this article is being written, work is proceeding at a rapid pace to erect the new structure of the pavilion extension. Prior to that, considerable ground work was done to lay the foundations for the extension incorporating the necessary plumbing and waste pipework.

As the building takes shape, it will also acquire new double glazed windows and door, new insulation throughout, external access to the changing rooms to protect the new interior, internal toilets and improved provision for disabled access. The kitchen area will be re-furbished and made bigger as will the bar. So, whilst to some it will remain a 'wooden hut in a field', there will be significant improvements which we really hope make it a more welcoming environment for all members and guests.

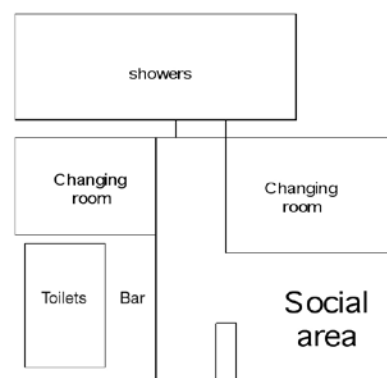
The building will be able to accommodate many more people leading to better social events for the Club and an

improved facility for the Sports Field Trust to rent. The Cricket Club is already planning an extended range of social events to take advantage of the new facilities and we hope to see many of you down there.

Watch the Village Notice Board and other sources for updated information and details of special events.

Here is an approximate comparison of the changes:

Richard Kelly



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The Village Notice Board

**Situated outside Holybourne Village Shop,
the notice board is the least high tech
form of communication we have in the
Village. Nevertheless, it can be used quite
effectively to advertise your events.**

**To place your poster
on the notice board
please contact:-**

**Lynn Kelly, 17 Rakemakers,
Holybourne. Tel: 542331**

OR

**Jill Sykes, 141 London Road,
Holybourne. Tel: 85576**

CPRE Hampshire



Campaign to Protect
Rural England
HAMPSHIRE

Stop the Drop

CPRE's national campaign to reduce litter and fly tipping continues to receive high coverage in the national press. It has hit a chord, with action by schools and local groups across the country - in Holybourne there are those who quietly pick up litter that others have dropped. If only less was dropped in the first place - especially tissues. Gates have been erected on some of our country lanes to stop fly tipping - should you see anyone fly tipping, do take the registration number and report them to the police.

Proposed South Downs National Park (SDNP)

Volunteers from CPRE Hampshire are still devoting a great deal of time and energy fighting for the originally proposed SDNP, which includes the Western Weald. In 1999 the Government announced plans for two National Parks - the South Downs and the New Forest. The New Forest was confirmed in 2005, whilst, after 10 years, there is still no decision on the South Downs.

Clearing the Clutter

Four years on from our survey about countryside roads, the A32, Meon Valley Road, project continues. Hampshire County Council is working to improve the safety, tranquillity and usability of the A32 road between West Meon and Wickham using, within budgetary constraints, the 'Shared Space' concept. The aim is to increase safety for all road users whilst keeping, and enhancing, the distinctive character of the Hampshire countryside.

'Shared Space' is a term used to describe an emerging approach to urban design, traffic engineering and road safety in Europe and, increasingly, in North America. At the heart of the concept is integration, rather than segregation, between different functions and different users of the road space. This is something we could consider in Holybourne to slow traffic down - increasing a driver's awareness of others by changing the nature of the road rather than imposing statutory restrictions.

The A32 project, which has been severely delayed, includes:

- removing a great number of unnecessary signs
- making the remaining signs more effective by re-siting or redesigning them
- changing the colour of the road surface
- removal of portions of white lining on the road
- introducing features, such as benches, seats and trees, for instance
- creating a very obvious village 'gateway' that might include speed signs with the village name.

So far the signs have been removed or updated and the road surface colour of the A32, as it passes through West Meon, has been changed by using a specially selected green aggregate. The road, adjacent to junctions within the village (nodal points), has been resurfaced in preparation for a new surface treatment that will give a buff colour.

The clear differentiation between the green surface and the buff is designed to add to the driver's awareness of travelling through a village where the unexpected might occur. This will be followed by other measures later. The changes to date are fairly subtle, but they are changes in the right direction and they will allow the Meon Valley road and the Hampshire countryside to be seen, with increased safety, at its best.



Today -no white line, chevron, bus or 'give way' signs

When completed the black surface will be buff.

When the colour differentiation on the surface of the road within West Meon is completed, the impact on safety will be assessed. Full Shared Space recommendations have not been applied as that would have made the project far too expensive to roll out across the county. CPRE supports this compromise as we look forward to this measure to improve safety and protect the special characteristics, sense of place, of the Hampshire countryside becoming part of Hampshire's standard road improvement process.

CPRE Hampshire has also produced a document, after discussion with the County Council and parish councils, "Principles of Road Signage in Rural Areas", which is available to anyone in Holybourne who would like a copy - preferably by email.

Contact: 01962 843655.,
Email: info@cprehampshire.org.uk
Web: www.cprehampshire.org.uk

I remember...

Waking up to the snow on one Monday last February brought back school day memories. Most winters then had snow but on no occasion did the schools, firstly Andrews Endowed and then Alton County Secondary Modern (now Amery Hill) fully close. Living at the Alton end of Holybourne, we would walk to the village school on the road. There was no firm pavement, only a grass verge with a big ditch either side (pre by-pass) which ran from the Grange to the girl guide hut, in the corner of 90, London Road, then past Mr Goodchilds house on the left and opposite the theatre on the right it diverted into a culvert and ran down under the railway line. This side there were big telegraph poles with umpteen wires on them which would sing in the wind. Sometimes when they were covered in ice the copper wires would snap and fall to the ground.

At the village school, the two classrooms, one for the "littluns" and one for the "big uns", were heated by a Tortoise stove in the front of each classroom. These were stoked up throughout the day by the "big boys". If it was very cold, we were allowed to keep our coats on!

When we arrived on cold mornings, the bottles in the crates, holding one third of a pint of milk, would have frozen and the cream on the top would have lifted up the silver tops. These had to be drunk at morning playtime, so we would stand the frozen bottles around the stove to defrost! I can still taste the warm milk now. Sometimes, Miss Piggott and Mrs Christie would make soup for us and serve it in big white crock beakers.

There was no mains water in the school and the pump was outside the back wall of the school house kitchen door. This would sometimes freeze and another job for the "big boys" was to light a small fire, using straw, around the base of the pump to thaw it and free up the handle.

We were allowed to take our sledges and after school we would go up Brockham hill and sledge down Pump Meadow. We used to go up to Neatham Manor but were stopped doing this as the hill ran down to the river. You were supposed to roll off at the last minute, but one boy didn't and nearly lost his eye on the barbed wire.

In those days Pump Meadow was farmed by Mr Percy Butler from Froyle and at the bottom of the hill was a well with a pump (the pipe is still visible). There was a collection of sheds and a caravan which Tommy Kempster lived in. He had a garden, chicken and two dogs which continually barked when we were sledging.

It was great going down but a long slope to climb back up. We would listen out for the Church clock – wind allowing – or stay until we got hungry or cold – very often children had no long trousers.

I remember coming down there with my Grandad on a bent piece of tin! I have carried on doing this, firstly with my own children and now my grandchildren and it has brought back some happy childhood memories, seeing everyone on the hill enjoying the snow some 60 years on!

David Andrews

WANTED!

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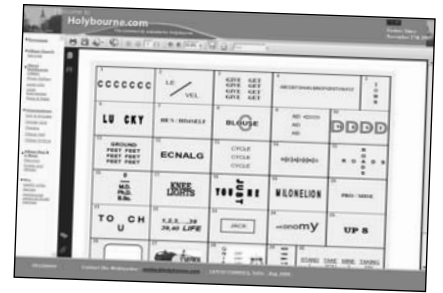
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The Village Website

From the latest website statistics, www.holybourne.com is now averaging 850 unique visitors per month (up from 480 just a year ago) and 747 unique visitors in October 2008 (see December issue of this magazine). From the last 100 entries of keyword search information in the stats, the 'Games' page appears to be popular – a page that I haven't checked for some time. Have you tried any of the games such as Dingbats? I'm now averaging about 0.3 seconds on the reflex tester – is that good?



The village monthly e-news continues to be very popular in attracting event information and news items and is distributed to just over 90 subscribers in the village. If you want to know what is happening in and around the village over the relevant two or three months ahead, then you can either subscribe through the website, send me an email, or view the news from the front page of the website or the 'Village Mag & e-News' archive. By the time you read this article, the December issue of the village magazine will be available for viewing on the archive, making six years of village magazines in the archive, all cross-referenced.

MAGAZINE HELP STILL WANTED PROOFREADERS & ASSISTANTS / CHASERS

We now have an organised and documented online process, a team of contributors, and a small team of people to manage the articles and proofreading; we could always do with more people who can type up and edit documents in MS Word.

If you have broadband and MS Word then please lend a hand. The work is not onerous, just a few calls to chase contributors and a little typing here and there.

We have a regular band of contributors, so the chasers just have to make a few reminder calls and obtain the articles.

**To volunteer please contact
Barrie Lawrence**

Email: editor@holybourne.com

Tel: 89535



Now, a request for some help – it is time that new blood was injected into the site, not only to provide backup in case I am not available, but also some fresh ideas. The work is unpaid, not onerous and you would be 'doing your bit for the village'. I can give the volunteer a number of pages of the site to be responsible for, or, for example, the site needs moving from the 'Frames' construction to a more standard type so that we can take more advantage of search engines and stats of visitors.

The challenge is likely to suit someone wanting to work on website construction and marketing, or a person teaching business studies, marketing, IT, etc., who may want to learn about the techie side of websites. You can spend as much or as little time on it as you wish, just send me an email or give me a call for more information.

Dave Budd, 01420-85626, webby@holybourne.com

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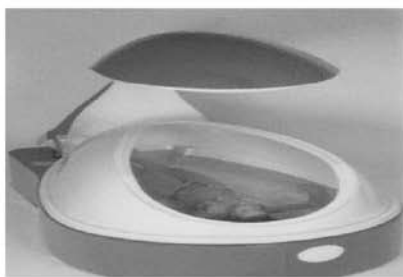
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Mill Cottage Farm Experience

I am writing this on St Patrick's Day, having just got back from taking our three boar pigs (June litter) on their 'One Way Journey' – I hope I never become hardened to thinking about where my food comes from! Abattoirs are not often frequented by females and certainly not by those who bring their named animals. I do take comfort, though, when I am allowed to lead the animals in, without any manhandling, and I am aware they are 'next in the queue', so there is not much waiting around for them.

There are many people we have met who would rather not think about the above section of a farm animal's life. That's fine if you're a vegetarian, but otherwise, get real!

It was with some amusement that, as I drove back, I passed a couple of Edgeborough School minibuses. I can hardly believe it is nearly a year to the day since I swapped the classroom for the field! 363 days ago it could have been me driving those buses – and now I was driving in the opposite direction with my empty trailer attached! There is no comparison....!

Earlier in the year we watched with interest "Jamie Saves Our Bacon", and have put together our response on our website. Whatever else the programme did, as long as it got people thinking before buying, then it served its purpose.

This article is being written just as our busy season starts – the ewes must have read the magazine deadlines and two of them gave birth just in time to be included - Heather, produced two ram lambs, Nelson and Noah, both are healthy lambs, but she has already rejected Noah, so we are having to bottle feed it.

Amanda produced one ram lamb, Captain Cook and two ewe lambs, named by a young local girl who happened to be passing at the time....Ruby & Diamond. We are still awaiting a few more!

We had ten piglets arrive earlier in the year, from Faith and Charity, two of our sows, but I think we are waiting in vain for Hope to give birth. Most of the piglets have already been sold as pets.

Regarding MCFE visits, we have been invited (with the animals) to our second wedding and are now fully booked three months in advance, which is incredible! Will it become a full time job for us both? Watch this space. Our courses, whilst not 'standing room only', were successful and certainly worth running. We have been pleased to send a few more people up the "Good Life" road.

We are very much looking forward to our Annual Open Day on Easter Monday, 13th April. It is being held again from 10:30am-4pm at the Holybourne Theatre. There are a variety of activities, crafts, stalls and fun – we look forward to seeing you there. We will also be running a few fundraising activities for Breakthrough Breast Cancer. More information can be found on <http://www.mcfе.org.uk>

Tom and Sarah Main



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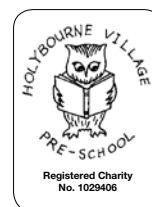


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For all enquiries and to arrange a visit contact Sue on 01420 590556 (Term Time 9-12am)



HOLYBOURNE VILLAGE HALL

Holybourne Village Hall has recently been fully renovated (2007) and provides capacity for up to 60 people, has a fully fitted kitchen and toilet facilities and is available for hire. The Hall is situated in the centre of the village just a few yards up Church Lane from London Road.

Hourly Hire Rates with effect from 1ST APRIL 2008

HOURLY RATES

WEEKDAYS

Bookings from Holybourne Residents	£6.70
Non-Holybourne Residents	£8.25

WEEKENDS BEFORE 18:00HRS

Bookings from Holybourne Residents	£8.25
Non-Holybourne Residents	£11.30

WEEKENDS AFTER 18:00HRS

Bookings from Holybourne Residents	£9.30
Non-Holybourne Residents	£15.50



The china, glass and cutlery in the kitchen cupboards are available for use at no extra cost. Hirers must ensure that the duration of their booking is sufficient for any necessary preparation/setting-up in advance and for clearing up afterwards. **FREE ACCESS TO THE HALL CANNOT BE GIVEN FOR THESE PURPOSES.**

FOR ENQUIRIES ABOUT AVAILABILITY TELEPHONE BETTY GODDARD ON 01420 86842

Pietersen, Strauss, Ponting, Katicich Or Penn, Martin, Taylor, Rosati

No, Holybourne C.C. are not taking on the might of England or Australia – well not on the field at any rate. But no doubt there will be competition this summer for the attention of cricket lovers from Holybourne.

So, exactly why should you come and watch your local team instead of marvelling at the superstars in the forthcoming Ashes series? Well, let me give you a few reasons to whet your appetite.

Availability of matches. Do you realise that there will be over 50 games played on the Village Sports Field this summer (weather permitting of course)? Add to that something like 15 Friday night practice sessions when you can start your weekend with a relaxing drink, good company, perhaps a snack and watching some of Holybourne's (or Hampshire or England?) future stars in practice.

Cost. In recognition of the credit crunch, HCC will be allowing free spectator admission to all home games and practice sessions this year. Try getting into Lords, the Oval, Edgbaston or the Rose Bowl for that price!! Of course, your travel costs to get there will be a fraction of getting to the England venues. And even better, you can wobble your way home in relative safety.

Refreshments. We supply excellent refreshments – alcoholic and non-alcoholic – at bargain prices. Unlike test venues, you will not be paying £5 or £6 for a beer. Indeed, prices are so good you will be the toast of your friends when you treat them to their Friday evening drink.

Atmosphere. You will be surrounded by one of the friendliest crowds in the world. Especially on a Friday evening when the ladies gather around a selected Chardonnay or Sauvignon Blanc and put the world to rights. Come and contribute to the discussion – if you can't make head nor tail of it then just enjoy the view. Which is a great segue into

Location. Often described as the 'Best and biggest pub garden in the South of England' – probably by someone who has never been further north than the M4 – that description probably undervalues the Sports Field location and outlook. Undoubtedly better than any county ground I can think of – including the Rose Bowl – it also tends to improve with the quantity of alcohol imbibed.....

Your health. In fairness, I can understand the attractions of spending all afternoon in front of the TV watching a great match unfold. But your doctor will tell you that taking a walk down to the Sports Field is much better for you. He/she may not be quite so sanguine if you say you may have a few drinks down there but, hey, you can't win them all. You could even combine them – afternoon in front of the TV and the evening at the Sports Field.

So, how whetted is your appetite for entertainment, succour, gossip and cost containment? About the time this article drops on your doorstep, you will also be receiving the Cricket Club Fixture card giving you all the details of matches. Some may be cancelled because of weather and some of the Colts matches are subject to short notice amendment but that will certainly give you a good idea of when things happen. Friday night training (for Colts) or socialising (for adults) will begin in early May and go through to late summer.

Come along and join us. You don't have to be a member but if you like us enough to join you will find membership prices are very reasonable and there is a range of benefits. You will find some contact details for our membership team elsewhere in the magazine.

Enjoy your summer – wherever that may be and whatever you may be doing,

Richard Kelly

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For further information please contact:

Lynn Kelly on 542331 • lynn.kelly25@btinternet.com

What's going on at Mint Condition



Hopefully, a few of you have heard of Mint Condition. We are a family business run by Ginny and Nick Upshall (Holybourne) and have been established since 1992. We are situated just 1 mile from Holybourne on the road to Binsted in a beautiful converted barn. We offer a range of services from personal fitness

training, gym, exercise classes, Pilates, dance classes and children's parties in our quiet and friendly location.

Red Nose Day 2009

We frequently raise money for charitable causes and just last week we had all of our members involved in doing 'something funny for money' for RED NOSE DAY 2009. Throughout the week we raised an amazing £750 for the cause! We had many different fun ways for our customers to get involved, from "Wear Red" (see pic), 'fines' for unhealthy snacks and someone even paid £50 to drink a pint whilst working out! However, our main event was our 'Binsted to Paris' challenge, where, using only gym equipment we would travel the 550km to Paris in a week! Many of our customers got involved and helped run, walk, bike, row, step and cross-train all the way to France. We

made it by Friday with a last minute flurry of activity by our team of fitness trainers! Later on Red Nose Day we also had a 'Dance-athon', again our customers and friends danced the night away to Salsa, Disco, Line-dancing, Jive and Rock'n'Roll in aid of this very worthy cause. A fun and inspiring time was had by all, leaving everyone hungry for the next Mint Condition Challenge!



Mint Condition 'Sky Rockets' Cheerleading Team

Look out for our amazing Cheer Team in 2009. This great girls team aged between 6 and 11 have been training all winter, here at Mint Condition, with cheer 'Captain' Ginny. We are booked to perform at the Alton Show and the Binsted Fete in July, and the team are so excited! If you are interested in joining the group we have a few spaces available.

We would like to invite anyone in the village to visit Mint Condition and find out what's happening on your doorstep. Call 01420 590590 or visit our website at www.mintcondition.net and/or follow our Twitter ([mintnews](https://twitter.com/mintnews)) if you are tweeting!

What's on at Mint Condition...

Personal Fitness Training

Personal Training is what Mint Condition is about. In fact, that is how we started. One-to-one with every client returning great results for those hard to reach goals. A personal trainer is invaluable if you are serious about reaching a health or fitness goal in a safe and effective manner.

Find out more about at www.mintcondition.net



Children's Classes



Mint Condition offer a range of **classes and activities for Children**. From Ballet -tots, Junior Dance and Cheerleading through to fresh and funky street for the teenagers we have it all!

We also offer a range of innovative **children's parties**. Whatever age your child we have a party suitable for you. Check out our website at www.mintcondition.net

Adult Classes

We offer a range of **Pilates, Dance and Fitness classes** for adults. From high energy Box-fit and Circuit-training through to Salsa and Pilates. We run both daytime and evening classes suitable for all abilities and age groups.

Check out our website at www.mintcondition.net for the latest timetable and details.



Call 01420 590590, visit www.mintcondition.net
or email ginny@mintcondition.net

The Barn, Steyne Farm, Binsted, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 4NU



Here's Holybourne!

**PART
FOUR**



Holybourne – A Little Nirvana?

Unlike the letter in previous issues of 'Here's Holybourne', mine is based on leaving Holybourne – well, somebody has to do it!

It was just over twenty four years ago that myself, my wife Jan, kids - Chris (never forgotten!) and Michelle, discovered Holybourne. We were looking for a house in the Basingstoke area and, at the time, a house in Cranford Drive, Holybourne (where?) was last on our estate agent's list – one look at the house and a drive around the village, and we fell in love with the house and Holybourne, finally moving in a few months later.

It was the best decision we had ever made. The kids went through Andrew's, Eggars and Alton College; all these schools in just one place! Jan worked as manager's secretary at Natwest in the High Street, and I commuted to various places for IBM. (yes another IBM'er!). Holybourne – what a great place to live, and what fun we had with friends we met over many years, until Jan was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1999.

It is a time like that when you need friends and support, and we couldn't have lived in a better place. We certainly had enormous support from close friends, villagers, James, our vicar, and people all too numerous to name; and of course a fantastic service from Chawton Park surgery under Dr Terry Cubitt, as well as the excellent community

nurses – where would we have experienced care like we had here in Holybourne?

To cut a long story short, my wonderful lady died in November 2006, with a full church and standing room only to say farewell. Again, local support from the village and close friends helped me through those early days of recovery and, eventually, I thought I had better get off my butt and get my life going – maybe even downsize and move away; silly me, not as easy as I thought, and I did look!

Where could I find an active local and welcoming community where people actually still pass the time of day, a local church, village shop, pub, cricket when I get time to watch, somewhere for the grandchildren to play, and a very short walk to be right out in the peaceful countryside? Yet, I still want a supermarket, shops, sports facilities, surgery and services close by, as well as rail services, major road routes and being within a reasonable commute to London.

I am sure there are areas that can satisfy some of these attributes, but there will be none that can replace the great memories that this village has for me. Eventually, though, I'm sure I will up sticks and follow life's path, but, in the meantime, and until I need to put the house on the market, I think we should keep this little Nirvana as our local secret!

Dave Budd

This is my Holybourne

PART
FOUR



When we were asked to write for this section of the magazine we did wonder whether we had written all we could in our regular Mill Cottage pieces.... but, this is a slightly different aspect of our lives.

Sarah first remembers coming to Holybourne when the road layout was slightly different (can't quite remember how, because the bypass was created before we were), on her way from her parents in Morden, near Wimbledon, to her Aunt and Uncle's house in Lansdowne Road, Alton. The family used to stop off at the Pick Your Own at the Bonham's end of the village. It was a great excitement for London kids! Little did she think she would one day live in Holybourne.

Years passed and we moved here in September 2005, having searched hard for a house with a little land for us to rear a few animals and enjoy the "Good Life", having also spent two months homeless.

We still think about the first morning we woke up in our new house. The bedroom curtains did not fit so, from underneath, we saw the most beautiful sunrise – rather like the picture on the October page of our calendar. Then it struck us – it was rising over OUR field! (Well, OK, technically it belonged to Abbey National, but little details like that did not bother us!) The chickens moved in the next day, the sheep a week later, and we were off. The rest, as they say, is history...! sunrise.jpg

We were immediately struck with the sense of community and belonging, and of a village that cared about the people

in it, and what it looked like. Coming from Bordon it was a bit of a shock to the system! What makes the village special is the people who live here and, as much as I am sure that some villagers think we are batty, others are genuinely interested in what we are doing and stop to have a chat when passing. In return, we try to keep folks informed with news on our notice board in the field, articles in the magazines and e-news, and help keep the footpaths at our end clear and tidy.

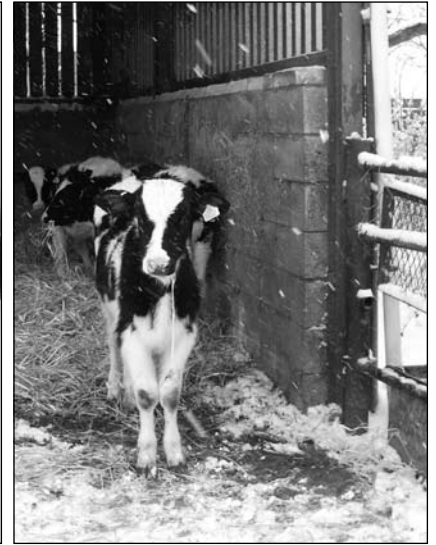
Since arriving we have got involved with some of the village events and have enjoyed them – we would do more if we had the time! Sarah has enjoyed doing a bit of supply work at Andrews and some private tutoring around the village, all within walking distance, which is perfect. We are also able to walk into town and make use of the amenities there. In fact we feel we are in the countryside, but with close access to the town. We love being able to walk from our front doorstep straight onto a network of footpaths.

We moved here to get away from an uncoordinated attempt on re-growth in Bordon – we just hope the same does not happen here! Holybourne is special because it doesn't have big, closely packed housing developments. Nor does it have traffic lights and other street furniture cluttering it up.

We like it – just the way it is.

Tom & Sarah Main

Down on the Farm Spring 2009



Well, spring is officially here! According to traditional folklore the first day of spring is 20th March – the beautiful warm sunshine we have been having during the daytime encourages us to think we've left winter behind us, but the cold nights that bring late frosts remind us that we are not quite out of the woods yet! And what a winter we have had this year, one of the coldest for a long time, and more notably we had snow! Proper snow that was with us for a couple of days! Although it caused chaos on the roads no doubt many of you made the most of the winter wonder we rarely see nowadays.

Whilst the cold weather plays havoc with delicate plants in the garden, crops that over-winter in the fields are tough enough to cope with the extreme temperatures. In fact, the winter oilseed rape that was planted in late autumn actually likes the cold weather, and despite appearing to cause problems to all living things, the snow gives the crop a nice warm blanket for a few days whilst everything above it freezes.

As well as winter oilseed rape, winter wheat, barley, oats and beans were planted in the autumn. The winter wheat is two varieties, both of which will probably go for animal feed. The winter barley is a variety called Pearl – yes, the same pearl barley you put in your stews! But in this case it is grown for malting for the brewery industry. The winter oats are again sold on contract to Quakers so you could well be eating a little bit of Holybourne in your morning porridge! Spring barley (also for malting) has been drilled in the last couple of weeks.

All crops are doing well. They have all had fertiliser applications, and are up together with their spray programs. The winter oilseed rape has been sprayed to get rid of charlock, runch and poppy – weeds that are not welcome amongst the crop, and suffered a bit of pigeon damage, but are now growing out well.

All grassland will be chain-harrowed, rolled and have a top dressing of fertiliser before the cattle are turned out.

Twenty-four acres of one year grass ley has been planted for silage this year. Sean has also taken on an additional ninety acres of permanent pasture this year at Holybourne Down. Many of you will know these fields for their steep hills which provide ideal sledging slopes!

The majority of grain stored on farm has now gone. The oats all met the specification for the Quakers contract, and the remainder of the Wheat has been sold and is leaving the yard at the moment.

The livestock have been over-wintering under cover. The yearlings are happily enjoying life at the yard at Saintbury Hill in Froyle, some will come back to Holybourne in the forthcoming weeks to graze. Sixty cattle were sold as stores and left the yard early March – these cattle are between twenty-two and twenty-six months old and are sold to be fattened up. They made good money considering the current economic climate. Thirty-seven weaned Friesian-cross have been bought, and will be kept indoors at Manor Farm until mid-April when the weather warms up enough to turn them out. More weanlings will be brought to the farm in early May.

Please remember that all the cattle grazing on Sean's fields are young stock, and are easily frightened. Please keep dogs on leads when using paths that cross their fields and make sure all gates are closed.

Gates have been erected at the start of Watvere Lane (at the bottom of Brockham Hill) and the field that adjoins it. This is to stop fly tippers and poachers encroaching on Froyle Estate's land. Unfortunately this is an ongoing problem that both Sean and the Estate have to deal with.

And finally on a happy note – Minnie the pig has become a mummy!! She moved to a new home last autumn and was put straight to a boar. She gave birth to seven healthy babies at the beginning of March - she and her mini-Minnie's are doing well!

Laura Richards & Sean Baddeley

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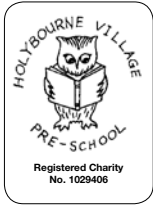
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***5b Normandy Street,
Alton, Hampshire, GU34 1DD***



Holybourne Village Pre-school



The Spring Term is full of exciting activities for the children at Holybourne Pre-school. There are a number of events planned for the children, and also the staff and committee have a very busy fundraising agenda to raise money for equipment and outings.

We are currently preparing for our annual Easter Egg Hunt where the children have an enjoyable time searching for hidden eggs in the vicarage garden. This is one of our major fundraising events where we hold our Easter Raffle. We are continually delighted at the generosity of local businesses in both Holybourne and Alton that donate prizes for this event.

We are also holding our Annual Bike Ride in Treloars. Sponsorship from this event will go towards the Pre-School's summer trip to Paulton's Park. This is a fun filled event and the children love riding their bikes and trikes – all for a very good cause!

We will be holding a “Fancy Dress” week, where for a small donation the children come into the pre-school in an outfit of their choice. In addition, we will be holding a “coconut shy” at the Village Picnic and hopefully participating at Andrew's Endowed Summer Fayre.

In addition to all our planned fundraising events there have also been some significant changes to the Pre-School:

The Pre- School has recently extended its opening hours to a three-hour session and is now open from 9am until 12pm, five days a week.

Recently, we have had quite a few new starters and it is such a pleasure to see how they are welcomed in and how new friendships are forming. We currently have 26 children and are almost at full capacity.

We would like to say a fond farewell to Lucinda Yelland who has worked at the Pre-school for over four years. We



would like to wish her every success in her new career at Treloar's School. She will be missed by both the children and staff at the Pre-school

Finally we would like to extend a huge thank you to all the staff, committee and parents of the pre-school whose dedication and support are paramount to its overall success.

**Tina Copplestone, Secretary
Holybourne Village Pre-School Committee**





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VANDALISM AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN HOLYBOURNE

Over the last few months we have seen an increase in both vandalism and anti-social behaviour in the village.

In order to decide where to put their resources in response to this sort of problem, the EHDC Community Safety Team, the Police and other agencies monitor calls made to 101.

So, if you come across an incident of vandalism or anti-social behaviour:

PLEASE REPORT IT BY CALLING 101

This will allow the authorities to build a picture of what is happening and to start to take appropriate action.

So that the HVA can be informed and track action, please would you also report incidents to any member of the HVA committee or by e-mail to:

Watch.HVA@holybourne.com

We can only address these problems by concerted action by all villagers.

If a situation is urgent then, of course, dial 999.

Karen Bennett
Chairman, HVA

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Parents, Teachers and Friends Association Andrews Endowed School



With the New Year well under way, the PTFA are now busy organising the Summer Fayre. This, along with the Christmas Fayre, is one of our major fund raising events of the school year and will be held on Saturday 21st June 2009, from 11am to 2pm.

Following the phenomenal success of the Christmas Fayre, where we raised a staggering £1600, we are hoping that this year's Summer Fayre will be equally successful. Along with our traditional stalls run by the children at the school, we will also have a barbeque, café, tombola, raffle, the opportunity to buy something from one of our outside stall

holders, children's entertainment, custom bikes, vintage fire engine, farm animals and much, much more.

If you would like to have a stall, can help out either on the day or beforehand, can offer a raffle prize or even have a famous friend or relative who could open the Fayre for us, we would love to hear from you. Please contact either the school office or Ria Burr on 01420 86738 or email mariaburr@btinternet.com

We are continuing to raise money to develop the outside space for the children and all the money raised goes towards this project. We cannot do this without your support and look forward to welcoming you on the day.

Spring Clean Your Brain Quiz

Entertainment

1. Which country won the first Eurovision Song Contest?
a) Switzerland b) France c) Luxembourg
2. In which London Theatre can you see 'Jersey Boys'?
a) Shaftesbury b) Prince Edward c) Adelphi
3. The location of which film was in Carnforth, Lancashire?
a) The Full Monty b) Brief Encounter
c) Pride & Prejudice

History

4. Which Royal House came to power in 1485?
a) Hanover b) Tudor c) Stuart
5. Who was American President during the 1930's Great Depression?
a) Roosevelt b) Coolidge c) Truman
6. In which year, in a referendum, did Australians decline to become a Republic?
a) 1979 b) 1989 c) 1999

Sport

7. What are the first names of Pietersen and Collingwood?
a) Keith and Peter b) Kevin and Paul
c) Kyle and Phil
8. For which Formula 1 team does Jenson Button race?
a) Ferrari b) Toyota c) Brawn GP
9. In which sport did supermodel Jodie Kidd represent England?
a) Rowing b) Hockey c) Polo

Word Power

10. 'Cosmology' is the study of
a) Universe b) plastic surgery c) Earth's surface
11. 'Traumatology' is the study of
a) wounds and their treatments b) miracles
c) dreams
12. 'Hodophobia' is the fear of
a) water b) teenagers c) travelling

Answers on page 35

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Rocket Man

As you look up into the sky at dusk the brightest object you will see in the night sky is the International Space Station reflecting the light from the setting Sun to us. It looks like a slow-moving star as it crosses the sky.

It is currently as big as a five-bedroom house but if we take into account the vast solar panels that provide the structure's power supply, its total area is fast approaching that of a football field. Its orbit varies from 208 to 285 miles above the Earth's surface and circles the planet sixteen times a day, travelling at 17,500 mph. There are fourteen pressurised modules which were launched by the American Space shuttle or on Russian Proton or Soyuz rockets and then fitted together in Space.

The Space Station has been home to three-person crews since November 2000, who overlap on their six month missions and altogether more than 160 astronauts have visited the Station, some more than once. From now on it will be home to six astronauts at a time. They work in 'weightless' conditions (similar to those experienced by divers as they fall from the high diving board into a swimming pool) which takes a lot of getting used to. Each day they must perform regular exercises to counteract the effects of near-zero gravity which can cause muscles and bones to waste away. If a scientist drops something inside the module it just floats around the cabin until someone grabs it. This means that the astronauts must be strapped down when they want to sleep, must use a vacuum cleaner to have a haircut and must be provided with 'sticky' food otherwise it will not stay on the fork! Neither will drinks stay in cups, so drinks must be sucked down from collapsible bags. Bodily fluids are no longer pulled down by gravity and so tend to migrate towards the head, giving astronauts fat faces and blocked nasal passages. Needless to say, special arrangements have to be made for going to the lavatory (using a series of hoses and vacuum pumps) and spills are even more undesirable than here on Earth!

So, what work are they doing up there? The mission of the Space Station is twofold. Firstly, to enable long term exploration of Space and secondly to provide benefits to



people on Earth. It has six state-of-the-art laboratories where research in medicine and technology take place. For example, growing protein crystals (in non-zero gravity) can help scientists create better treatment for numerous diseases that currently have no cure. There is an American laboratory called Destiny with a 20 inch window for viewing and monitoring the Earth and its atmosphere, a European laboratory (Columbus) carrying out experiments in biology and physics, including research into new materials and their properties, and a Japanese module which has an external platform for exposing objects to Space. A further American laboratory will add to the research into the 'vacuum' of Space.

The Space Station serves as a gateway to new frontiers in human space exploration; a place where we can learn to live and work away from the Earth and prepare, in the first instance, for establishing a permanently manned base on the Moon, around 2020, and a possible manned mission to Mars around 2050.

In recent years, there have been six space tourists who have paid large sums of money to spend time on the Space Station. So if you want to hit a golf ball that goes right around the World, you had better start saving your pennies! Your holiday rep' is awaiting your call.

B.E.Lawrence

Holybourne Guides

Holybourne Guides have been busy over the winter with an interesting mix of games, cooking, drama, and activities. We had a successful sale in the Autumn raising £250 for Save the Children, two sleepovers and trips to the local pantomime and ice skating. We also had a swimming and life saving evening and some of the girls are going to have a go at scuba diving.

We would like to thank all those who donated their Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers which enabled us to get two lovely new

tents, and we are looking forward to using these. Please keep collecting this year!

We are also looking forward to the lighter evenings and getting out and about as much as possible.

For more information on local Guides and Brownies visit www.pax-hill-district.btik.com

Lucy Yendall

The Power of Positive Thinking

Are you an optimist? Is your glass half full or half empty? Do you envy and admire those who have a positive and sunny outlook on life?

For those who have a positive attitude there is no problem or challenge that cannot be met and dealt with. Having a positive approach to life is empowering and means that you fear nothing, and as such you can cope with challenges as diverse as losing one's job, losing the confidence you once had, growing old, failing exams or having a panic attack.

Unfortunately, for many people these fears can undermine and paralyse some or all aspects of their lives, particularly in the stressful times in which we live. For them, there is a little voice inside their head that constantly says "What if?" and this takes the form of looking at the blackest possible outcome of every scenario.

In truth, over 90% of what we worry about never happens and thus negative worries only have a 10% chance of happening. So, being positive is much more realistic than being negative, and, furthermore, if we do think positively, those 10% of things that do actually go wrong can be handled in one way or another. Remember, there is a solution to almost every problem.

So, can people with a "What if?" or "If only" state of mind smother the inner voice that is holding them back and become positive thinkers?

Yes, they can; but in order to achieve this negative thoughts have to be replaced by realistic and rational thoughts. By following simple practises, each of us can re-educate the mind, changing the habits of the brain's thinking processes.

Step 1: Crowd out negative thoughts as they bubble up

"STOP! These thoughts are not good for me and I will NOT allow them to rule my life!"

(Alternatively, an elastic band on the wrist can be "pinged"; giving a short sharp reminder that negative thoughts are not welcome)

Step 2: Choose two or three positive affirmations from the list below and repeat them out loud each day

The amazing aspect of this latter process is that it doesn't matter if the person believes them or not. The mere utterance of them makes the inner self believe them in time. If you do this you are no longer feeding the brain with negative thoughts, and so you are no longer undermining your own self confidence; for positive words make us physically stronger whereas negative words make us physically weaker.



If there is a relative or friend that can help you – someone who is sympathetic and who has a positive outlook, he or she can be of great assistance. It is amazing how quickly problems can be reduced when they are thoroughly talked through. "A trouble shared is a trouble halved"

What form do these positive affirmations take?

Well, they could be lines from a poem/psalm that you love, or a line from a favourite song.

Alternatively, you could use these:

"There is nothing that I fear"

"I am becoming more confident every day"

"I am breaking through old patterns and moving forward in my life"

"I am filling my life with peace and joy"

It is not, of course, an easy process to become a positive thinker – it takes a great deal of determination and constant practice. After all, you are retraining your mind. But there is no doubt that positive thinking changes everything in your life and will give you sources of energy you never thought possible. You will laugh a lot more and love a lot more. Amazingly, you will also be healthier physically and therefore be able to enjoy life to the full.

Surely, it's worth giving it a try!

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Local News for the Visually Impaired

Despite the growth of local radio, the local newspapers still remain the best way of keeping in touch with what is going on locally, provided we can see to read them or can physically handle them.

The Talking Newspaper Federation is a nationwide organisation and our local area is covered by the Farnham and Alton Talking Newspaper (FATN) based in studios at the Chantry, Farnham.

Run exclusively by volunteers the Farnham and Alton Talking Newspaper record up to 80 minutes of local news onto CD and USB memory sticks for listeners in:

- **Alton and Bordon areas**
- **Farnham and District**
- **Fleet and District**
- **Haslemere, Hindhead and Liphook areas**

Each week four teams of readers and engineers record each of the four editions onto a computer from which a high quality master CD is produced. Then using special high speed CD and USB copying equipment other teams of volunteers copy the master CD to produce around 300 CDs and USBs ready for distribution which is carried out completely free of charge by the Royal Mail.

The stories, taken from local newspapers, are edited so that as much news as possible is included. As well as general interest stories, there are also sections on 'What's on', Letters to the Editor, Births and Deaths and a short selection of local sports reports.

Once a month a Magazine issue is produced containing longer feature articles and exclusive interviews with local celebrities or people who have interesting stories to tell.

History

The Farnham and Alton Talking Newspaper was born as one of the first talking newspapers in England. The first committee meeting was held at Waverley Abbey, Farnham on July 13th, 1971 and Miss Letitia Stokes, who herself was only partially sighted and first conceived the idea of a "talking newspaper", was appointed the first President. A small studio was set up in a cellar at an Abbeyfield Home in Farnham. Initially equipment and tapes were borrowed from Talking Books for the Blind and a weekly digest of news was recorded and despatched to 18 blind people in the Farnham area.



From these humble beginnings the FATN quickly grew. The band of volunteers swelled and interest from potential listeners reached a level where the use of the Talking Book tapes was restricting growth. In 1973 the FATN entered a period of change. Funds were raised to purchase new recording equipment and the Talking Book tapes were replaced by standard C90 cassettes. With the increase in listeners the Abbeyfield premises were outgrown and FATN moved to the Farnham Red Cross building. With listener growth continuing, other premises had to be found and FATN has since had "studio homes" at the Gurkha Battalion of Church Crookham, The Phyllis Tuckwell Memorial Hospice in Farnham and the south wing of Farnham Maltings. In 2003 Farnham Maltings underwent a complete refurbishment and Waverley council offered FATN a redundant office on the Chantry estate.

Having moved into the Chantry, FATN volunteers lost no time in installing equipment and fitting the offices out as a recording studio.

April 2008 saw the change from recording onto tape to recording onto Compact Disc (CD) and from 1st April 2009 recordings will also be available on USB memory stick.

In a continuing effort to provide excellent service and up to date information, FATN has now launched its own website www.farnhamaltontrn.co.uk which contains information on the services provided, recordings to listen to and Listener and Volunteer registration forms. For further information please contact 01252 719266.

Ian and Val Cooke
Farnham and Alton Talking Newspaper

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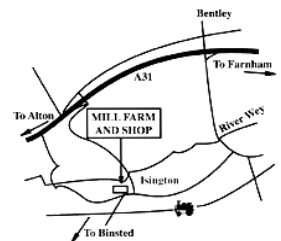
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Roman Road Excavations in Spring & Summer 2009

Roman Road excavations by the North East Hants Archaeological Society will occur over a Bank Holiday Weekend in the Spring, and the Festival of Archaeology in July. These will continue the work on the Winchester Roman Road towards London. A two-lane highway was found in the Spring 2008 excavations near Farnham - see www.hants.org.uk/nehhas/HP07-8s.htm. The Festival of Archaeology is organised by the Council of British Archaeology as a national event, to which archaeological bodies contribute local events that the public can visit.

The Spring 2009 weekend will also be near Farnham, where two terraces climb the sides of a narrow valley, and it may be another two lane highway. A reputed kiln is nearby which will have a magnetometer survey, and it may provide dating evidence for the Roman road from pottery finds. The line continues that coming into Farnham, and follows the general direction of the Roman Road to Winchester of 28° north of grid east.

During the Festival of Archaeology we will return to the western edge of Chawton Park Wood, where a packed flint layer came up in 2008 over a light air photo streak. An area of this will be exposed to show visitors. There is also a dark air photo streak, probably a ditch, and another light streak, which will be excavated.

The Society's work has been validated by the Institute of Field Archaeologists, who set and ensure high standards are maintained. Our Project Director has been elected an Associate Member of the Institute.

Experienced and novice excavators are welcome.

There is a training course available during these digs. It will include exercises in layout of trenches, planning of features, section drawings, levelling, & geophysics. Information on some of the advanced techniques being used to detect this Road will be given, with some exercises. Dig and training costs: £50, digs only £10 for the season. Publications on this and other Roman Roads will be available. Campsite and accommodation leads given.

Booking can be for any number of days, including one. Minimum unaccompanied age is 16, but younger children with an adult welcome.

For details contact Dr Richard Whaley, Project Director on nehhas@hantsweb.org.uk or 01252 548115, or 2 Rotherwick Court, Farnborough GU14 6DD (sae appreciated), or online details and booking form www.hants.org.uk/nehhas

Maps, plans and photos can be provided, some are available from the web as above..

We don't give actual sites till people book as there is a risk of people trashing excavations or being descended upon by treasure hunters. The Spring dig is on the 1st May Bank Holiday weekend from Friday - Monday on the east side of Farnham. The Festival of Archaeology runs from 18 July - 2 August 2009, and the dig will be on the western edge of Chawton Park Wood near Four Marks.

Dr Richard Whaley

Women's English – a guide for the groom

- Yes = No
- No = Yes
- Maybe = No
- Well Yes, but = emphatically NO!
- I'm sorry = You'll be sorry
- We need = I want
- It's your decision = The correct decision should be obvious by now.
- Do what you want = You'll pay for this later.
- We need to talk = I need to complain.
- Sure go ahead = I don't want you to.
- I'm not upset = Of course I'm upset, you moron!
- This kitchen is so inconvenient = I want a new house.
- I want new curtains = and carpeting, and furniture, and wallpaper.....
- Hang the picture there = NO, I mean hang it there!
- I heard a noise = I noticed you were almost asleep.
- Do you love me? = I'm going to ask for something expensive.
- How much do you love me? = I did something you're really not going to like.
- I'll be ready in a minute = Kick off your shoes and find a good game on TV.
- Is my bottom fat? = Tell me I'm beautiful.
- You have to learn to communicate = Just agree with me

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Famous people associated with Alton

- **William de Alton, (c. 1330 – 1400)** Dominican Friar, writer and theological philosopher during King Edward II's reign became famous for asserting that the Virgin Mary was polluted with original sin.
- **Edmund Spenser (1552 – 1599)**, the Elizabethan poet and contemporary of William Shakespeare, lived in a well preserved Tudor cottage at 1 Amery Street in about 1590. A plaque on the house states that he "lived some time in these parts".
- **John Pitts**, biographical author, was born in Alton in 1560
- **Bernard Montgomery, (1887 - 1976)**, British Field Marshal, World War II commander, 'Monty' lead Allied forces at the Battle of El Alamein, commander of all Allied ground forces during Operation Overlord until after the Battle of Normandy. Lived in Bentley near Alton in his retirement and died there in 1976 aged 88. He was interred in the nearby Holy Cross Churchyard, Binsted.
- **John Murray, (1741 – 1815)**, born in Alton, a pioneering minister of the Universalist church in the United States.
- **William Curtis (1746 – 1799)**, botanist, was born in Alton and served his apprenticeship as an apothecary before devoting the rest of his life to the study of British plants. He founded the Curtis Museum in Alton.
- **Jane Austen (1775 – 1817)**, Georgian novelist, lived in Chawton just outside Alton from 1809 until her death, and wrote or revised six novels here.
- **Cardinal Newman (1801 – 1890)**, English Catholic, lived in Alton from 1816 to 1819.
- **James William 'Jimmy' Dickinson (25 April 1925 – 8 November 1982 in Alton, Hampshire)** was an English football player. Dickinson holds the record for number of league appearances for Portsmouth F.C. (764). Only Swindon Town's John Trollope (770) has made more appearances for a single club. His performances earned him a call-up to the England national football team. He went on to win 48 caps for England, making him Portsmouth's most capped English player of all time. During his record 845 club appearances for Pompey and his 48 England caps he was never once booked or sent off, earning him the nickname Gentleman Jim. There is a pub in Alton named after him called The Gentleman Jim.
- **Ian Bone (1947 –)** anarchist, studied at Eggar's school in Alton.
- **Graham Wilson (Author, Mentor, and Chaplain) (1958)** studied at Eggar's Grammar School, from 1970 to 1976. Wilson, who worked briefly at the Harp Lager Brewery and Leisure Centre, is the author of several management text books, one of which "Problem Solving and Decision Making", is dedicated to his former Biology Teacher at Eggar's, Dr Marion Phillips.
- **Yvette Cooper (1969 –)** Member of Parliament and Chief Secretary to the Treasury, was educated at Eggar's School.
- **Catherine McCormack {1972 – }** actress, Her first notable role was as the character Murrin in the multiple Academy Award-winning movie Braveheart, which also starred and was directed by Mel Gibson.
- **Alison Goldfrapp (1966 –)** singer in band Goldfrapp.
- **Emily Monk** co-author Don't Tell Mum: Hair-raising Messages Home from Gap-year Travellers.

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What theme would you like in future issues?

What do you want to see in the next issue?

What interests you?

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New archaeological survey at Holybourne

As I am sure you know, Holybourne or at least the ground underneath the recreation field, Vindomis Close and on down to the river, was the site of a small Roman town eighteen hundred years ago. Two Roman roads pass through the site, one from Silchester-Chichester and the other from Winchester, probably to London, meeting as a crossroads under the top end of Vindomis Close. During the first part of the Roman period, the recreation ground lay within a double-ditched fort or more properly a 'mansio'. This was a Roman imperial government posting station where messengers carrying official documents could stay overnight or change their horses. At its peak in the 4th century, the town is estimated to have had a population of about 2500 people before declining at the beginning of the Saxon period. A 4th century Roman travel guide called the Antonine Itinerary lists a settlement called 'Vindomis' as being 21 Roman miles from Winchester and 15 from Silchester. The distances fit Holybourne almost perfectly and that is the reason why Vindomis Close has its name.

A number of excavations were carried out, partly under my direction, in the 1970s and 80s when the Alton by-pass was constructed and on the site of Vindomis Close and a few trenches were opened up in what is now the recreation ground as well. Many of the finds from this work can be seen in Alton Museum.

English Heritage has now asked me to carry out a geophysical survey inside the recreation ground in order for them to better understand the underlying archaeology and the implications of any further applications for sports facilities. The survey should take about 4 days and uses an instrument called a fluxgate gradiometer. This is a type of magnetometer, which detects variations in the earth's magnetic field that can be caused by man-made features such as buried ditches, kilns, hearths etc. If you have watched 'Time Team' you will have seen the 'geophizz' team carrying out similar surveys.

I hope to carry out the survey in May or June, depending on the weather and any sports fixtures. It will involve gridding out the field into 30m squares marked by temporary bamboos and carrying the magnetometer backwards and forwards in parallel lines across the grids. This has no effect on the ground whatever and, once the bamboos have been removed there will be no sign that the work has been done. The readings are saved in a data logger on the machine and will be downloaded for processing on a computer before being printed out as a 'map'.

There is no guarantee that the results will show anything, as magnetometers can easily be affected by metal in the soil or on occasion by particular geology, but hopefully, we will be able to detect the roads and ditches hearths and kilns of the Roman town. Perhaps the subject for another article.

David Graham

Quiz answers: 1a 2b 3b 4b 5a 6c 7b 8c 9c 10a 11a 12c

Magazine Production Team

Editor Barrie Lawrence 89535

Assistants Dave Budd
Sam Freer
Sally Lloyd
Laura Richards

Proof Readers Melanie Bellamy
Val Cooke
Samantha Songhurst

Advertising James Bull 80990
jamesbull65@hotmail.com

Distribution John Honnor 541723

Design and Layout Nicky Plumb
(Freelance Graphic Designer) 83647

Printing Image Print 2001 Ltd 89253

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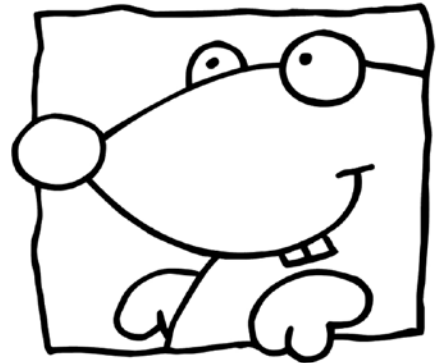
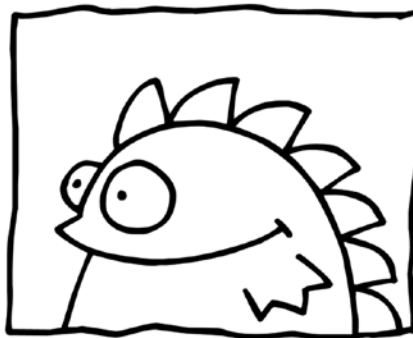
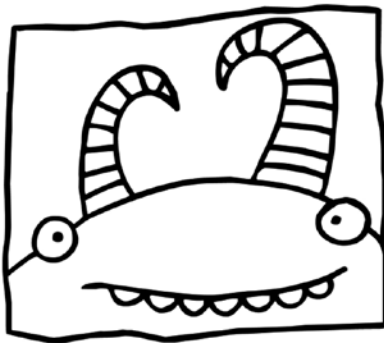
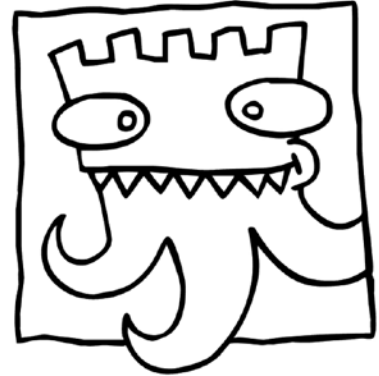
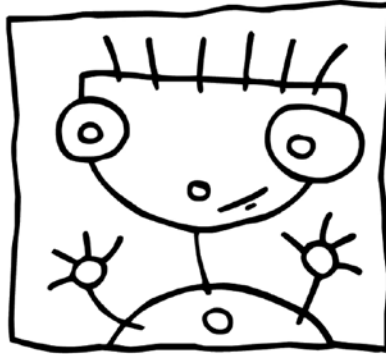
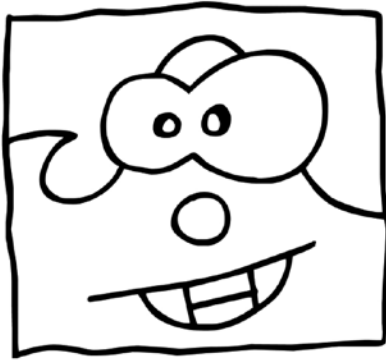
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Kids Page

Colour and decorate these funny little aliens.
You could even use them to make a card or picture!



Create your own funny little alien!

Have great fun designing and sewing your own felt cute little alien toy

Help required
from a
grown up
for cutting and
sewing



You will need:

Help from a grown up

Two large squares of felt
Needle and embroidery thread
Cushion stuffing
Fabric glue
Wiggle eyes, gems, sequins, scraps of felt or material, fabric paint
– whatever you can find to decorate your alien!
A template that you have created yourself
(or you can use our aliens as a guide)

Instructions:

Cut out your template and place it onto each of the felt squares
and draw around it.
Cut the template shape out of the felt squares.
Sew them together around the edge using running stitch.
Leave a small gap to stuff the toy.
When the toy is full, sew up the gap.
Glue on buttons and ribbons and anything else you have in your craft
box to make your alien look really funny!

Example of a running stitch



Example of a template