
KILVE NEWS



Issue 375

February 2024

EDITORIAL

I'll start 2024 with a round-up of the end of 2023. Firstly, thank you all very much for your generous donations with the Christmas greetings in the December issue (including the greeting below, which just missed the deadline). Altogether you raised £400 which has been shared between the Stogursey Forget-Me-not Café and the Quantock Foodbank. I was lucky enough to attend a session at the Café, and was very impressed. Helen and Rose and their volunteers are doing a wonderful job. And there is news of the Foodbank on page 10.

Simon Blackley tells me that the Poppy Day collection from St Mary's, Kilve Stores, the Hood Arms and the Plough totalled £352.42. He is thinking about more creative ways of raising funds next year, so if you have any bright ideas, let him know!

In this issue, amongst other items, there is news of the Easter Fair, an entertaining piece by John Hoare about the award of the BEM to Robbie, and an urgent plea for help from our community transport scheme (KHARS). I hope you enjoy your reading.

Jenny

Contact the Editor on 01278 741663
e-mail jakent@btinternet.com
or text on 07745 805006



NON-KILVE SUBSCRIPTIONS

A reminder that the subscription for readers in other villages is now due. It is still £5 for the year. You can leave the payment at Kilve Stores in an envelope marked *Kilve News*.

Kilve News is available to read without charge on the village website (www.kilvillage.co.uk). And all households in Kilve will continue to receive their free copy of each issue.



What a difference some hard work and a friendly farmer make! See Pat's article on page 3 for more details.

HILLTOP JUBILEE PATH

The owner of the path at the Rowditch end has written to Kilve Parish Council about the bridle gate on her land; she requires it to be kept open.

At the full parish council meeting on 16 January it was agreed that the gate should be kept open. KPC will install a notice on the gate to this effect. The gate was installed by KPC at the farmers' request so they could close it only when moving livestock in or out of the field, to stop animals escaping down the path.

Some people are still closing the gate when no livestock are being moved. When closed it poses an unnecessary barrier, particularly to horse riders and cyclists and impinges on their safe use of the path. Please make sure to leave this gate open.

Greg Glendell

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POND LIFE

Well, hasn't the pond changed since the last Pond Life report? I think we can say that we now have an actual pond again!

Huge thanks must go to Nick Thorne with his Big Boys' Toys for saving us a lot of work and achieving far more than we could have hoped to do by hand. Thanks also to those who turned out to the December work party (see above), helped place sleepers to stop the digger sinking into the mud and planted bulbs to brighten up the banks in the spring. As you will have seen there is now a temporary barrier of pallets alongside Hilltop Lane, just to make the edge visible to vehicles coming down the hill in the dark: we don't want to be hauling any cars out of the mud. The plan is to rebuild the low stone wall along there later in the year. The water channel has been re-routed to the side to hopefully reduce the amount of silt dumped but we may need to finesse that. The dam and weir are working well right now but we may need to make alterations in the dryer summer months.

So for now we can sit back and see how the pond settles down and sprouts over the spring; hopefully we'll see the wildlife discover it too. (This elver has already done so!)



Let me know of any further thoughts or suggestions and watch this space for news of the first spring working party. Anybody going to volunteer to build a duck house?

Pat Hayward

READING GROUP

The most onerous task for a Reading Group member is their choice of book! Over the years the method of selection of "The Read" has evolved into an annual nomination of one book for each member of the Group. This is surprisingly challenging. Our criteria have evolved too as the Group has developed. In the beginning the only decisions were that the book was out in paperback and readily available second hand (with an eye to the cost).



Nowadays we are willing to pay a little more, which increases the book pool, and we also don't want to be seen as skinflints! The main criterion now is that the choice is available on audible as well as paperback or Kindle. We are also not keen on a very long novel, although once or twice the book has been so good that that is forgotten.

Our December book, *The Return of John Macnab*, written by Andrew Greig, a Scottish poet, ticked all the right boxes. The novel was written and set around 1996 in The Highlands and was inspired by John Buchan's *John Macnab*. It was a rollicking tale of derring-do by a trio of disillusioned outdoorsy Scots. The prose was excellent as one would expect from a poet! The descriptions were beautiful, but some of the detail was a little confusing. I actually read the book twice, once quickly to get to the end of the story and then again more slowly to sort out the characters and places. I found it most enjoyable, though as is often the case, some members loved it and some didn't.

The self-imposed challenge for the three protagonists was to flout the system and poach a salmon, a brace of grouse and a deer from three local estates. Fortunately for our Group they collected a few female characters on the way to add some spice! In actual fact it carried a political message to protect the Highlands for the general public and trying to curb the actions of a few rich landowners, many of them foreign. The Independence Referendum was in the background.

Notwithstanding all of that, there was a lot of humour and many adventures along the way. Fortunately, the deer was only tranquilised. There was also some love interest. Don't want to give away too much of the tale, but the ending was most satisfactory and the one part of the story that everyone enjoyed!

Sue Hares

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EASTER FAIR

Following the great success of our Easter Fair last year, we are delighted to announce that we are arranging for a repeat in 2024, and as is the custom it will be held at Kilve Court on **Easter Monday 1 April**.



As of last year, our Fair will not only include antiques and collectables but there will also be stalls selling crafts, arts and local produce.

The Fair is very reliant on the help given by the residents of Kilve and volunteers are required in assisting stall holders in setting up their stalls, car parking attendants, kitchen helpers (both coffee, lunchtime and afternoon tea services are offered) and manning the village stall.

If you would like to volunteer some help on the day please contact me on 01278 741594 or text on 07850 102874.

The proceeds from the village stall have always been an important part of the monies raised on the day, and if anyone has any saleable items they would like to donate (no jumble please) we would be most appreciative. Please contact me on 01278 741594 or text on 07850 102874, and I will be pleased to arrange collection.

It does help enormously to have donations for the village stall before the Easter week-end if at all possible.

If you or anyone you know would like to reserve a stall space you are asked to contact Gill Parsons on 07527 062975 or email gillian.1.parsons@gmail.com.

Thank you.

Robbie

It was suggested to me at the Christmas lunch that unwanted Christmas presents might be well received on the village stall.

Jenny

VILLAGE CRICKET TEAM

The date for the first village versus club match is now Friday 24 May at 6pm. If you would like to be part of the village team please get in touch with the cricket club or email mill@hayward.uk.net. We will have some nets practice sessions during April/May – and you need to have no prior experience to have a go!

Sarah Hayward

FORGET-ME-NOT CAFÉ



Jubilee Rooms
Castle Street, Stogursey
**Every other Wednesday
10.30am until 12.00 noon**

Forget-me-Not Cafés provide support, companionship and a warm welcome to those who are recognising issues with their memory, as well as their carers, family, and friends.

There are a variety of activities, some involving existing local groups, such as music, singing, arts, crafts, poetry, bingo, quizzes, or, if preferred, just a quiet chat over a coffee.

The Café runs twice a month, planned so that it is open the alternate week to Watchet Forget-me-Not Café. We have been running for more than 5 years and we celebrated our birthday in January. Many friendships have been made over the years.

Please come along and see what we do.

Please note that our guests with memory issues must be accompanied by a family member, friend or carer.

Free entry, but a donation towards the running costs of this volunteer-run café would be welcome.

What we did in December

We had fun at our Christmas Party in the Jubilee Rooms which were so festive and beautifully decorated.

Santa and his Elf joined us again, aka Nick and Jim from Somerset Passenger Solutions. We enjoyed music from the Strummers of Stogursey and the Sea Shanties, and the Watchet Community Choir and we would like to thank everyone including our fantastic team of volunteers, who came along and helped make the party so wonderful.

We were delighted to be involved in the Christmas Tree Festival in St Andrew's Church. We had fun hand-painting all the tree ornaments. It was a lovely way of bringing people together.

FUTURE DATES

Wednesday 14 February

Wednesday 28 February

Wednesday 13 March

Wednesday 27 March

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KILVE GOLF KLUB REVIEW 2023

KGK has successfully completed a seventh season of fixtures. The penultimate fixture was at England's oldest golf course at Royal North Devon Golf Club at Westward Ho!, where we shared the course with grazing sheep and horses.

The 2023 final placings were:

- 9 hole winner: Bruce Eyley
- Putting champion: Dave Davison
- Nearest the pin winner: Dan Sefton
- Most improved golfer: Bruce Eyley
- 'Could do better': Jamie Scott, for attendance, or lack of it!
- 18 hole club champion: Nick Thorne

Our group now has over 20 members from Kilve and Holford. We play social matches twice a month, with a nine hole fixture at Cannington and a series of 18 hole fixtures around the county. Players are free to play as frequently as they like. Social events include a summer BBQ, a festive game in December and our awards evening at the Hoods Arms at the end of the season. The group consists of women and men, with a wide range of experience and handicaps.



Recently two of our founding members Mandy & John Hoare, pictured, unveiled our Honours Board, which is now proudly on display in the Hood Arms.

Thank you to all of our members for making 2023 such an enjoyable year.

I look forward to seeing you at our AGM on Thursday 1 February in the Hood Arms and to a great 2024, which will be a little drier hopefully!

If any potential new members would like to find out more about us, you are very welcome to come along to our AGM, or to one of our matches, or to give me a call on 741095 or email mtwalton@btinternet.com.

Mark Walton

NEWS FROM ST MARY'S



Services for February

- 4 Feb 11am Family Service
- 11 Feb 11am Holy Communion at **Strington**
- 14 Feb 10am Ash Wednesday Holy Communion at **Holford**
- 14 Feb 7pm Service for Lent at **Nether Stowey Church Centre**
- 18 Feb 9.30am Morning Worship
- 25 Feb 11am Holy Communion

Gill Parsons

AWARDS FOR THE HOOD ARMS

Congratulations to the Hood Arms, which has just won Gold as part of the Taste of the West awards scheme for 2023, in the Hospitality (Bed and Breakfast) and Hospitality (Dining Pubs) sections.



The inspectors' citations included "This is a real hidden gem. The Hood was not on my radar, but it went well beyond my expectations. Not only is the place excellent, but the owner's passion also shone through the building and the food. I have not stopped recommending it to people I know. Outstanding and memorable and a real star for the South West."

"The food was superb on all levels. Perfectly cooked, delicious, and so well presented on the plate. The chef was giving a lot of attention to detail. I could not recommend the Hood more. One of the best meals I've had for quite a while."

Well done to Paul, Tracey and all the team!

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A DAY TO REMEMBER!

The award of the British Empire Medal to Robbie Rutt last year is common knowledge throughout the village. What may not be as widely known is the background to the award and the details of the presentation itself.

Some three years ago, a chance comment over a cup of coffee galvanised a small group of villagers into pursuing the widely held view that Robbie deserved formal recognition for his outstanding service to the community for over 40 years.

The online nomination form was easily accessible and allowed supporting evidence to be uploaded when available. The majority of this evidence was compiled by Robbie's partner David, who had the challenging task of deciding what not to include in the submission. It then fell to Pam Cuff, Steve Collins and myself to provide letters of support for the nomination. We were made aware of the importance of maintaining secrecy regarding the nomination, and received guidance from the Honours and Appointments Secretariat at the Cabinet office. Our nomination was formally submitted in December of 2021.

Although we were all confident that if anyone deserved an honour, it was Robbie, there still remained the forensic assessment of all the evidence by the Cabinet Office. It was a long and frustrating wait but in May 2023 Robbie was greeted with a letter from the Prime Minister's Office inviting him to accept the award of the British Empire Medal.

Formalities over, the news spread quickly and was celebrated well beyond the immediate village.

The British Empire Medal was to be presented by the King's official representative, the Lord Lieutenant of Somerset, at the Bishop's Palace, in Wells, on Monday 4 December 2023.

Unfortunately, the journey to the Bishop's Palace proved to be almost as memorable as the presentation itself. David offered to drive those of us involved in the nomination to Wells and, ignoring the appalling weather, the five of us set off, with plenty of time allowed for potential delays. The journey was uneventful until we reached Keenthorne Garage, where the road was closed because of flooding. Undeterred, we rerouted through Spaxton, with David managing to avoid the ever present lagoons and occasional surfer! Bridgwater proved to be equally unforgiving and the A39 seemed to disappear from time to time. Progress was further hampered by stoppages that added to the journey time as well as to the mounting anxiety in the car. Anyone who knows Robbie will be aware that he absolutely hates being late. Phone calls to the master of ceremonies to provide updates on our changing ETA did little to calm the nerves.

At last we arrived at the Bishop's Palace, to be greeted by the aides to the Lord Lieutenant, including the High Sheriff of Somerset. Only two awards were scheduled and with the first having been presented earlier, we settled down for Robbie's special moment. The deputy Lord Lieutenant read out a summary of Robbie's citation, followed by the presentation by the Lord Lieutenant, Mr Mohammed Saddiq. A moving and memorable occasion that will live long in our memories.

We headed home. Having mastered the atrocious weather conditions on the way over, the journey back to Kilve presented no serious problems for David and we were able to celebrate a little more informally upon arrival at Grantchester. What a day!

What next? A Buckingham Palace garden party, hosted by the King, awaits. We will look forward to hearing all about it in the not too distant future.

John Hoare



KILVE QUIET LANES AND TRAFFIC COMMITTEE

We applied to the HPC Community Fund Small Grants Programme last year and have been awarded £1400 to install fingerposts and way markers along the Hilltop Jubilee Path. There will be oak fingerposts at the Cider Barn and Rowditch ends of the path and one at the junction of Hilltop and Rowditch to direct walkers and riders to Kilve Beach, the new permissive bridleway or to Holford. We held a very interesting meeting with Somerset Highways in December to discuss the Quiet Lanes project. There is clearly very limited money available to do the items on our list. However, the speed limit change between Holford and Kilve to 40mph is planned in quarter 1 2024. The speed limit on the A39 around Winrush Corner is, sadly not being moved as Highways would have to compulsorily purchase land to clear the hedgerow and install signs.

Quiet Lane status is progressing in Sea Lane and Pardlestone Lane. We have asked for confirmation that the new speed limit will be 20mph. Hilltop and Rowditch are not currently being included. We have challenged this but could have these lanes converted to 'access only' as it is low effort and hence low cost. The wall rebuild in Sea Lane and road edge repairs in Pardlestone Lane are in the 2024 Works Order. We have asked for dates when this will be done and are holding our breath!

To improve road safety on exit from Pardlestone Lane, double yellow lines will restrict parking on this pedestrian designated area.

Money for repairing potholes is centrally funded and ringfenced. Highways will review every pothole reported so they can be prioritised and fixed. This is where you come in: we would like every pothole in Kilve Parish to be reported. Please note the location of your favourite pothole and report it using this link:

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/report-a-problem-on-the-road/>

If you can't report it this way, one of the Traffic Committee can help. They are Bruce Eyley, Karen Scott, Pat Hayward, Graham Keating, Greg Glendell and for Holford issues, Mike Copleston. If you would like to join the committee or the Parish Council, please contact the Clerk, Karen Scott.

Bruce Eyley

QUANTOCK FOODBANK



The Foodbank has finally taken delivery of its new electric van which is to be used to take the Pantry service to villages where people are unable to get to the Foodbank base in Watchet.



On 18 December, the van came to Kilve to be loaded up with over £1800 worth of food and Christmas treats purchased with donations from residents of Kilve and Holford.

Marlene Mason, the Foodbank administrator, is most grateful to the people of the two villages for the massive support given to the project.

Look out for the van as you drive around!

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Happy New Year from the Village Hall Team! We had an excellent turnout for our first event of 2024 – Bingo with Eugene Brandon doing an excellent job as our caller for the evening. Over 30 people braved the cold for a jolly evening.

Village Hall Garden – Spring tidy-up – CAN YOU HELP?

We need some help to blitz our garden area for the year, ready for Open Gardens Day etc. We are going to have the guidance of Brian Ward to do this at 10am on Wednesday 14 February, for a couple of hours. Please come and join us – bringing secateurs and trowels perhaps!

Our next meeting is Monday 12 February at 2pm – do join us if you are interested in what's going on – help is always needed for the events below. If you have ideas for the future please do get in touch: kvh@hayward.uk.net or via any committee member or the village hall post box. We could still do with some additional members to help make the events happen, as we are all busy with other stuff in our lives. If you can get involved please let us know, or come along to the meeting on the 12th.

Hiring the Village Hall

Did you know that it only costs £7.00/hr for a villager to hire the main hall for non-commercial use, or £4.50/hr for the Denovan Room? The hall has a public address and sound system and a well-equipped kitchen – it's a great place for a kids' party or a special celebration. To book check out the website: <https://kilvevillage.uk/village-hall/>. Or go direct to our NEW booking system: <https://venuehire.scribeaccounts.com/Kilve-Village-Hall> or email: kilvevhbookings@gmail.com.

100 Club

The winners for November and December were:

- Nov: 1 Mark Walton (yes, again!)
 2 David Tansley
 Dec: 1 Lucy Hares
 2 Jennie Mundy

It is the start of a new 6 month session, so please ensure you renew promptly, perhaps at the January coffee morning if you read this before then!

Kilve Calendar 2024

The very last few are on sale in Kilve Stores. A great success again, which will help with village hall maintenance! Thank you one and all!

Things to look forward to

Saturday 27 January 10.30am: First coffee morning for 2024 and 100 Club renewals due – first draw of the new round – the more the merrier.

Saturday 24 February 10.30am: Coffee morning

Saturday 24 February 6.30 for 7pm prompt start: Quiz night! Quiz master – Eugene Brandon, rounds set by various local luminaries. Teams of 4, please (but if you haven't got a team, just let us know and we'll sort something out on the night). Fish & chips incl. entry £10 pp, Sausage & chips incl. entry £6 pp, or no food £2 pp. Pre-payment only please. Bar will be open. Tickets on sale in Kilve Stores / Committee Members / Jan coffee morning / kvh@hayward.uk.net.

Thursday 21 March 7pm for 7.30: Cri du Canard – a French bal, in association with Take Art. French dance music and simple dances. £12/£10 concession. Tickets on sale soon – Kilve Stores / coffee mornings / on-line (<https://takeart.org/event/the-village-bal-with-cri-du-canard> for link) / kvh@hayward.uk.net.

Saturday 23 March Saturday 10.30am: Coffee morning NB – a week early to avoid Easter weekend and Antiques Fair.

Saturday 27 April 10.30am: Coffee morning – VH AGM / Village Meeting, probably from 9.30am in fact

For more information and tickets etc contact: Claire (01278 741654), or kvh@hayward.uk.net.

To book the hall: kvhbookings@gmail.com (forms and online bookings are here: <https://kilvevillage.uk/about-kilve/village-hall/>).

Sarah Hayward



Monday 26 February at 2pm

Crowcombe Village Hall

A personal story of wartime survival

A talk by Yolanda Bentham about her remarkable father, consultant psychiatrist David Ropschitz, and his journey from Vienna to imprisonment in an internment camp in Italy in the 1940s

All welcome

DIARY DATES

Wed 14 Feb 10am Garden tidy-up, KVH

Thurs 22 Feb 3.00pm Kilve Voices,
KVH

Thurs 22 Feb 7.30pm Take Art: Blair
Dunlop, folk singer, Holford
VH

Sat 24 Feb 10.30am – 12 noon Coffee
Morning, KVH

Sat 24 Feb 6.30 for 7pm Quiz Night,
KVH (see previous page for
ticket details)

Mon 26 Feb 2pm Quantock u3a,
Crowcombe VH

Thurs 29 Feb 12 for 12.30pm Ladies
Who Lunch, Hood Arms

OUR NEXT ISSUE

Our next issue will be for March 2024.

Please send contributions to the Editor (contact details below) or leave at the Village Stores (marked *Kilve News*).

Please note:

NO LATER THAN 18 FEBRUARY

If you have reports, adverts or contributions ready before the deadline, please let me have them as soon as possible. It really does help having them well in advance.

Please send contributions in a Word or Publisher file, or just as text in the body of an email. I sometimes need to adjust sizing and layout to fit, and I cannot do this with text contained in PDF and JPG files.

Contact the Editor on 01278 741663

e-mail jakent@btinternet.com

or text on 07745 805006

KHARS

Kilve and Holford Community Car Scheme

Run by volunteers

CAN YOU HELP?

Brian House our co-ordinator is moving from Kilve in the coming months, so we need to find someone to replace him. The duties include:

- Receiving telephone calls for trips from our registered passengers.
- Informing our voluntary drivers, via e-mail, of the requests.
- Allocating the trips to drivers, via e-mail or phone.
- Updating information on the system.

Are you interested
in the above or even becoming a driver?

Then contact one of the following:

<i>Brian House</i>	<i>Chairman / Co-ordinator</i>	<i>01278 741384</i>
<i>Sheila Collins</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>01278 741077</i>
<i>Roger Cuff</i>	<i>Driver Liaison / Committee member</i>	<i>01278 741229</i>