

## Re: Holford Parish Council – Alfoxton

Message 9 of 23



From / Jayaraja  
To Clerk <clerk@holford-pc.gov.uk>  
Date Mon 04:14 PM



Hi Hema,

I wanted to introduce myself and the Alfoxton Park Trust and our vision for Alfoxton to the local Parish council. Firstly though I want to say how uplifting and touching it has been to receive such a warm, supportive, encouraging and generous welcome from the local community. It has been a delight.

It is probably fairly obvious that the main house, surrounding buildings and walled garden are a little run down to say the least. Our intention is to restore them with sensitivity and respect to the heritage, tradition and cultural significance they deserve. Just this morning as we sat having our team meeting in the sunshine a couple of visitors called by wanting to visit the house, just as they had visited Coleridge Cottage the previous day in Nether Stowey. Another family complete with dog came this afternoon. It serves as a reminder of the importance of this building and landscape in the cultural life of England and our responsibilities as the current guardians of this heritage.

As you can imagine the renovation will take some time, partly due to the extensive nature of the work required, the necessary planning agreements and financing the work. The situation with Covid also impacting the number of volunteers, tradesmen and contractors we can safely have onsite.

Our aspiration is to be able to host meditation, writing, poetry and arts retreats. We would also like to have occasional open days. On such occasions we would hope to be able to have talks on the history and significance of Alfoxton, introductory talks on Buddhism, and sessions of meditation.

When the Covid restrictions are lifted and I'd be happy to come and meet the Parish Council to share our ideas and plans more fully and answer any questions. If any members of the Parish council or other local people want to call by and say hello they'd be very welcome. Hopefully in the not too distant future we will be able to formally invite the local community to come and visit. In the meantime I'd be happy to answer any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely

Jayaraja