

HOLLAND ON SEA 2020

January

Storm Ciara crosses the country with strong winds on the 10th. Some damage to beach huts by a surge tide. Blowing sand again blocks the lower end of the new access slope. Mobility scooters are unable to access the promenade.

February

February was a very wet month. Some slips to the cliff occurred and damaging some beach huts around the Cliff Road area.



Sand clearance from the promenade, March.

March

Coronavirus. Public Houses close, the Roaring Donkey has boarded up its windows. Public Hall closed, including the Public Library. Very many meetings and events cancelled or postponed. The church's close for worship, then close altogether. Shops close except for food (except take-aways) and newsagents. Residents may only go out for essential food shopping, medical care or essential work which cannot be done at home, and for one hour of exercise per day.

Police patrol the roads, and the lower promenade. They have powers against un-necessary journeys, or driving to a place for exercise. The Kings Cliff hotel closed except for essential workers.

TDC remove the considerable accumulation of blown sand along the lower promenade.

Drilling work commences to the cliff top path above where the recent cliff slip occurred. (footpath closed at that point).

April

Another smaller cliff slip near York Road it is reported.

Sovereign Court progressing.

The Easter weather was good, but visitors were discouraged from coming to the coast. A car had been driven from London and the occupants went sea fishing. The police soon made them return home.

The BBC national TV News came to Holland on Sea, but called it, Holland on the Sea, with a reporter to seek opinions about loneliness issues during the present Covid-19 restrictions. Dorset Close was the area chosen. (Sunday 19th)

May

Sovereign Court, Kings Parade, in building for a long time, is now devoid of scaffolding and the outer elevations appear complete.

Visitors are asked by TDC to stay away during the Covid-19 pandemic.

June

From the second week of the month more non-essential shops are now allowed to open, but many still appear closed. The Golden Fillet has a one-way in and out system with metal railings positioned at the frontage. The owner sadly died recently, and the premises closed for a while.

The protective boarding covering the windows of the Roaring Donkey PH has been removed.

July

The beach has been busy with families and others. Parked cars regularly line the whole length of Kings Parade. On certain fine sunny days, the Hazlemere Road, York Road and Brighton Road car parks have been well filled. The two lower promenade kiosks have kept busy.

Re-opened shops have a one-way system.

The Oakwood Inn re-opens

August

The Windmill Bakery is to remain closed until September.

Many busy days for the beach as the generally good weather continues

Hazlemere Road car park is being used as an occasional Covid-19 testing station.

September

The Hazlemere Road carpark Covid test centre continues. Signs state that photography is not allowed.

Building works are continuing at a new property on Frinton Road close to Stratford Road junction.

October

Essex moved from the government Tier 1, medium, to tier 2, high risk for Covid-19 following a request by ECC. Tier 3 is Very high risk.

November

A second national lockdown begins on the 5th. Schools remain open this time.

There has been a series of Spring high tides. Flood alerts issued for the area.

A vaccine has been developed and approved.

A futuristic looking dining pod has been constructed outside the Kings Cliff Hotel.

December

On the 2nd the National Lockdown ends with the county returning to tier 2 restrictions. Non-essential shops can re-open.

Many residents put up Christmas decorations early to counter the continuing coronavirus conditions.

It's been a wet month. More low, and high tides have been experienced.

Rising coronavirus cases in west Essex result in Tier 3 restrictions being imposed, but Tendring remains in Tier 2.

Corona virus case begin to rise quickly, and a new variant, more easily transmitted is discovered.

Boxing Day. Tendring District now in the new Tier 4 restrictions. Residents advised to stay at home, only essential needs like food and medical conditions, and exercise permitted.

Holland on Sea Recorder. Roger Kennell. IP7 6AN

Note: Covid-19 has restricted the activities of the recorder for this year.