Holme Parish Council News

Hello and I hope you all had a pleasant summer.

The Parish Council never sleeps and over the last couple of months I have been approached about things as diverse as speeding, bins, birds, trees, footpaths, Church keys, hedges, a request for help, loose dogs, burials, Remembrance Sunday, Planning and Enforcement of course and many other things as well –you would be surprised at the variety of emails I get. One was a request to park a coffee van on Beach Road (wrong Holme!) and another complained about the number of trains – well my *personal best* is 13! In September I finally saw some of the other local Clerks again in person rather than online and gleaned useful information about **Think Communities** (A County Council initiative) and a new Policing action group to target speeding and anti-social road use. Councillors also attended a Policing meeting.

The hottest local topic recently is still overhanging bushes and brambles. I have taken to walking about with some secateurs in my pocket but it’s **your** responsibility to make sure people are not attacked by brambles and branches overhanging from your hedge and trees. Now it is dark earlier it is a real hazard for all pedestrians, along with the dog poo which is always worse when it’s darker.

 I noticed on Facebook a report of man approaching a girl out walking. Please just ring 999 if there is perceived danger and always take your phone with out with location sharing enabled. Take a photo of car number plates if you can too. Use the ///What3words app for pinpointing the location.

**Thank you** to Joanne Wood and helpers for running the fabulous Scarecrow competition! I enjoyed making mine!

Looking ahead, on Remembrance Sunday an Act of Remembrance in conjunction with the Royal British Legion will take place at the same times as usual (ignoring 2020!) - 2.30pm at Conington War Memorial, 2.45pm(ish) at Holme War Memorial and a short service at 3pm in St Giles’ Church. All welcome.

Finally, I am on the hunt for a new volunteer (or a team of several people!) to carry out footpath gritting in the winter time. Chris Cardell has done this for us for a few years and I would like to thank him for his work. All equipment is provided and training given – if you are an early (ish) riser, are fit and well and could keep the footpaths clear on icy or snowy mornings to enable parents and children to get to school or pre-school safely I would be happy to hear from you and to put you in touch with the County Council team leader. You are covered by insurance once training is completed.

The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday 18 November at Holme Village Hall.

Janice Parish Clerk

**Stones of Remembrance**

Some of you will know that the Guides in Holme used to paint stones most years for placing around the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday.

The stones looked a bit tired and are ready to be repainted – I am cleaning them up. However the Guide Unit has closed so it would be good to have some input from you and your families.

I intend to put a box of undercoated stones outside my house (Home Farm, 24 Church St) on Saturday 23 October and would like to invite you to take one home to paint (or use felt pens) in a manner suitable for remembrance. You can also supply your own stone if course! When it is completely dry please return your stone to the appropriate box by Sunday 7 November for sealing to make it weatherproof and I will do this for you, or if you can seal it with *Mod Podge,* varnish or similar yourselves then just place it at the memorial.

Hopefully there will be a good show by the time Remembrance Sunday comes around.

Janice Osborn

HOLME YOUTH CLUB

After a much longer closure than anticipated Youth Club reopened on 10th September. I am very pleased to say that attendance was good and enough volunteers came forward to help us keep it going right through to Christmas and, we hope, beyond.

Holme Youth Club is open to school years 5-10 who live in Holme or attend or have attended Holme School. We have to be quite strict about this criterion as we just do not have the capacity to cater for additional people from round and about.

All those who volunteered to assist will be contacted very shortly to be given their duty dates.

Our AGM will be held on 8th October at 7pm in the village hall and we will be looking to appoint a new committee of a few adult volunteers to run the admin side of things and 6 members to organise the club and decide what equipment, tuck shops stock and external visits the members would like. Members it is your club it is down to you to decide what happens there – the adults don’t really understand what you want so speak up and have your say.

If you would like to find out more details about the Youth Club please contact reneemitcham@btinternet.com



The new academic year has begun smoothly and I have enjoyed seeing the new starters come into school.

We are now able to hold whole school Collective Worship as well as having the classes play together at lunchtimes.

Thank you to the Friends of Holme School and the Reading Rooms for funding our new play equipment. The musical instruments are a fun, if not noisy addition to our school grounds!

This week I inducted our new Reading Ambassadors and School Councillors. Hopefully, this year the children will get the opportunity to carry out their roles fully around the school.

Over the next few weeks our Key Stage 2 children will be taking part in a ‘Body Positivity’ project, run by a local artist. This project will allow the children to produce a collection of personal artwork related to body image and positivity, plus group artwork to be displayed in school. We are hoping to invite parents and the local community to view our ‘exhibition’.

Sadly, this will be the last article I write for this school. Last year, a review of leadership roles within the school took place and I have decided to take this as an opportunity to seek a headship role outside of the Trust.

I have thoroughly enjoyed being part of this school for the past 12 years and leave with many fond memories.

Mrs Thomas

  **From Becky**

**THANK YOU!**

Hello everyone,

It was an utter joy to see so many of you at the St. Giles’ Gift Day on the 11th September and thank you to everyone who gave so generously both buying cakes and through the giving envelopes together you have raised over £500 with even more envelopes continuing to come in. Thank you so much!!

It was through conversations at the Gift Day and a want from many to have a space to see others in the village that we have decided to host a ‘Coffee and Cake’ drop-in session on the 2nd Sunday of each month between 2:30-4:30pm. There will be hot and cold refreshments, an opportunity to look around and a play space for children with books, toys and a craft activity. This will be followed at 4:30pm with a new service called ‘30 at 4:30’ and does exactly what it says on the tin, a 30-minute service at 4:30pm and offer alternate informal and more traditional service. Please keep an eye on the notice board outside of church for updates and amendments to the programme. We are part of a wider benefice and share services and activities across the villages with a wide variety of services and activities taking place and some exciting new ventures starting in the coming months.

Two that I would love to draw your attention to are:

**Messy Church**: which takes place on the 3rd Saturday of every month at 4:30pm at All Saints’ Sawtry. The next one is on Saturday October 16th – Feel free to just turn up but if you would like more information please contact Ali Scott: ali@scottfamily.plus.com , 01487 832478 or 07506411507

**Little Saints**: This is a brand-new Baby and Toddler Group for the Benefice. It is launching on Thursday 4th November and will run each Thursday during term time between 9 -10:30am (doors open from 8:30am) and is being held in the Methodist Church Hall, Green End Road, Sawtry. Little Saints’ is a relaxed fun space with a pattern of stories (Bible and others), singing, refreshments, crafts and simple prayer. It will be £1 per family and there is no need to book in advance but if you would like more information please contact Alex Dyball: littlesaintssawtry@gmail.com, 01487506217

Here are some dates for your diary:

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| Sunday 3rd October | 9am | St. Giles Holy Communion |
|  | *Benefice Harvest Lunch at St. Nicholas, Glatton 12:30* | *Contact Rosie for details rosiedarby78@gmail.com* |
| Saturday 9th October | 2:30-4:30  | St. Giles Coffee and Cake |
|  | 4:30 | St. Giles 30 at 4:30 |
| Sunday 17th October | 9am | St. Giles Holy Communion |
| Sunday 7th November | 9am | St. Giles Holy Communion |
| Saturday 13th November | 2:30-4:30 | St. Giles Coffee and Cake |
|  | 4:30 | St. Giles 30 at 4:30 |
| **Sunday 14th Remembrance Sunday**  | 2:30pm | CONINGTON act of Remembrance  |
|  | 2:45/50 | HOLME act of Remembrance followed by short service in St. Giles  |

**HOLME WI**

**SEPTEMBER 2021**

We held our first monthly meeting in the village hall since March 2020. It was good to be back in the hall, especially as our guest speaker needed a projector to show us his wildlife film. Simon from Wild Presentations was back by popular demand with his new wildlife film ‘Wild Scotland’. Simon spent some time last year after lockdown restrictions were eased in the Abernethy Forest in the Cairngorms. He was there during late September and early October and after setting his cameras up very quickly filmed a Pine Martin on his porch helping himself to the nuts and eggs left out. Red squirrels are in abundance and lots of bird life including the very elusive Crested Tit. The scenery in autumn was just beautiful and Simon also took the opportunity to visit the Aviemore ski resorts whilst they have no snow. This gave him the opportunity to watch the mountain hares and ptarmigan, grouse-like birds that blend in very well with the rocks and boulders. Simon is a brilliant guest speaker, very passionate about his work, and as a special exclusive we were treated to a short film about the reintroduction of the sea eagle back to the Isle of Wight. A friend of Simon’s is part of the team doing this reintroduction and at one point had 9 sea eagle chicks tucked away in his garage ready for the journey to the Isle of Wight to start their reintroduction. One of chicks bit him on the face so he was keeping a good distance from that one. Simon said it was probably a female chick, they are usually the more feisty! A thoroughly recommended guest speaker who I am sure will be returning in the future with more adventures.

We then held our second meeting in the village hall at the start of September, so all is going well, fingers crossed! Our guest speaker was Alicia, and she gave us an enthusiastic demonstration using a Thermomix. A kitchen gadget that a few of our members already use and some of us had never heard of. A powerhouse gadget that can do almost anything, it can sauté, roast, puree, mix and chop, amongst many other things. Alicia made some lovely creamy tomato soup for us to try, which was delicious. It has attachments to mix meringue, cream etc, and to steam fish and vegetables. It is not cheap, but Alicia assured us it can replace kitchen items such as a bread maker, blender, juicer, mixer, food processor and even your cooker hob. When connected to the internet it gives you access to over 7000 recipes, and as demonstrated, the machine itself guides you through the recipes, so for the tomato soup, it was showing on the screen what needed to be done at each stage of the process. For instance, it would show what needs to be weighed and added to the pot. Alicia gave us a really good demonstration and is a good speaker with a lot of knowledge of the machine and it’s varied uses.

Remember, we meet on the first Thursday of the month and would warmly welcome anyone wishing to come along and see what we get up to.

Anyone wishing to contact us please email WIholmevillage@gmail.com

Alison McGuinness

President

HOLME COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

Our little band of volunteers continue with our programme of trying to educate drivers to stick to the speed limits within our village.

 The percentages were looking good at 15% or so but alas Saturday morning saw 30% again so our job is still necessary.

 We are hoping to set up additional sites as the lack of consideration in high density residential areas of the village is causing a lot of concern with property and lives at risk.

 If you can spare an hour or so a month and would like to support us in our endeavours please contact CSW.Holme@btinternet.com and we will arrange for your training with Cambridgeshire Police and get you on the list.

 SIR JOHN COTTON CHARITIES

The Sir John Cotton Education Foundation offers Grants to:

* Young persons, aged between 18 and 25, bona fide residents of the Parish of Holme, who proceed into further education establishments for the duration of their original course
* Towards apprenticeships or self-funded, recognised re-training courses for young persons (no age limit) who are bona fide residents of the Parish of Holme, to some useful trade or occupation to improve their employability, for a maximum of 3 payments
* One off payment to those young persons aged between 16 - 18 years who undertake short term educational activities such as camps or conferences.

The Trustees meet in November to award the Grants so if you think you might be eligible to receive one please apply to SJCEF1@outlook.com submitting your name, age, address in Holme and details of the course you are taking.

All awards are made at the discretion of the Trustees.



Announcing the launch of our updated website

<https://www.citizensadviceruralcambs.org.uk>

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic, we have all become used to finding information and services on-line for ourselves. This is equally true regarding quality information that helps us sort out any problems we may have.

As part of our continual improvement programme, we have now invested in upgrading our website to make it even easier for people to find the quality information they need to help with their problems. The updated website went live on the 23rd August. It has a new user-friendly interface and contains much more up-to-date information about the myriad of issues that people may have to deal with.

It is organised around key topics / articles, and guides you through a number of steps to help you find the relevant information quickly. In addition, the extensive powerful search capabilities work throughout the site. Information is grouped around the common problem areas of debt, benefits, work, housing, family / relationships, consumer and other.

We advise nearly 10,000 people every year with over 41,000 problems and a further 8,000 people use our SELF-HELP website. 95% of our clients would recommend us to a friend.

*With our new upgraded website,* we intend to help even more people find the information they need to improve their life situations.