**Holme Parish Council News**

**Happy New Year!**

**Welcome to Ed Whittaker, our new Parish Councillor.** Ed has lived in the village for a few years, lives in Vicarage Close and may be known to some of you through his young family. He will soon have undertaken his Councillor training and be ready to play his part in your Parish Council.

Just as a reminder, the other Councillors are John Griffin (Chairman), Dave Neal (Vice Chairman), Howard Watson, Wendy Aylesbury, Jan Weatheritt and Peter Sargent.

I have been asked to publicise the existence of the **Defibrillator**. It is fixed on the outer wall of the village hall in a lit cabinet. To access it in an emergency just hit the red button and it will drop down. If you should ever need to use it, open the case and switch it on and it will tell you what to do – it’s very obvious and straightforward. After use please do let me know as the pads and battery have to be replaced. It should go without saying that it should not be accessed at all unless there is an emergency – a Councillor does check it regularly. Please do not allow children to play with the cabinet.

**Noticeboard**. I am awaiting delivery of a lovely new noticeboard to replace the rickety one near the village hall. One third of this is going to be for Council use and will be locked. The other two segments will be open for use by village organisations and village-based businesses. Please remember to remove the posters you put up after the event has happened.

**Gravel**! If you have a gravel drive, next time you are in the garden could you please check and sweep up any stones which have made their way onto the road. Gravel easily gets into the drains and contributes to the regular blockages. It’s very noticeable along Church St and I have approached some householders about it. Whilst on the subject of drains – Please remember that Anglian Water say only the 3 Ps go in the loo please (pee, poo and paper) - not wet wipes, sanitary items, cotton wool etc.

**Bonfires.** I have had complaints about people having bonfires. It’s not illegal, this is what is says on the HDC website…

***If you have a bonfire…***

***Do:***

* *think about your neighbours and position the bonfire away from other properties*
* *remember that smoke hangs in the air on damp, windless days and in the evening around sunset*
* *check garden waste for small animals such as hedgehogs*
* *keep the bonfire as small as possible*
* *burn only dry garden waste*
* *put out the bonfire as soon as possible to avoid smouldering.*

***Don’t:***

* *burn household rubbish, tyres, plastic, treated wood or paint*
* *light bonfires when your neighbours have washing out or at times when people most want to enjoy their gardens, such as weekends and bank holidays*
* *light bonfires when wind may cause the smoke to travel into your neighbours’ gardens or properties or across roads*
* *use oil, methylated spirit or petrol to light a bonfire*
* *leave a bonfire unattended.*

***How do I complain about a bonfire?***

*We recommend that you first politely discuss any issues with the person having the bonfire as they may not realise it is causing a problem. Explain that the smoke is disturbing you and ask them to put out the fire or move it to a different location.*

*If you cannot resolve the problem, you can*[***report it to us***](https://forms.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/ENVIRONMENTALHEALTHCOMPLAINTS/launch)*and an officer will investigate your complaint.*

**Litter. Our litter picking volunteer is incapacitated at present. On your walks around the village please think about picking up litter if you see - and if you'd like to borrow a litter picking stick and a hi viz jacket just give me a call as I have a supply to lend. Thank you!**

**Also please note my telephone number will soon be changing to 831451.**

All good wishes for 2020!

**Next full Council meeting: Tuesday 17 March 2020 at 7.00pm** at the Village Hall. All welcome to listen, please let me know ahead if you wish to address the Council.

Holme Parish News can now be read online – on the Council website [www.holmecambsparish.org](http://www.holmecambsparish.org)

Mrs J Osborn - Parish Clerk. 01487 831559 holmeparishclerk@gmail.com

**HOLME WI**

**A New Year Starts**

Our attention now turns to 2020 and the start of a new WI year. We do not hold a meeting in January, instead we meet for our annual meal at the Admiral Wells, where we have a good catch up, lots of talking and lots of eating.

Our meeting year will start in February with A Village Life, and we have lots of interesting guest speakers signed up already.

Our Knit and Natter group is going strong producing a great quantity of knitted items including hats for the Sailors Society, blankets for Olivemead Care Home and baby clothes for local NHS Trusts.

Our book club is also going from strength to strength with a full membership.

So, let’s look forward to 2020 and the start of another year, which hopefully will not go as quick as 2019 did.

Please remember, if anyone is interested in joining please do come along and see what we are about and what we get up to. We meet on the first Thursday of every month at Holme Village Hall, Short Drove, Holme PE7 3PA at 7.30pm.

Please contact holmewi@gmail.com for further details.

All ladies will receive a warm and friendly welcome.

**Holme Youth Club**

The committee members decided the nightout would be to activity World but unfortunately it was fully booked right through to April so we had to make a quick decision to get booked up and are once again going to the ever popular Bounce on 7th February.

Holme Youth Club membership is open to school years 5-10 who live in Holme or attend or have attended Holme school.  If you meet this criteria and would like to know more pop along to the village hall on a term time Friday between 6.30 and 8.30 or email reneemitcham@btinternet.com to find out more.

**Holme Community Speedwatch**

We are really hoping our campaign is working as the percentage on the last few sessions has been way down to single figures.  Long may it last.  We have also noticed the volume of traffic along the B660 has been much less so perhaps the rat runners have found an alternative route.

We will continue to persevere throughout the rest of the village as Short Drove and Church Street have been causing quite a bit of concern from residents.

Unfortunately a lot of the speeding traffic is during times when we are unable to hold sessions i.e. after dark - which is a big worry as we are a village with no street lights and few pavements along the sides of the roads so could we appeal to those people who thinks it wise to speed through our village to consider the residents who may be walking along the road and slow down!

If you would like to support speedwatch in Holme you just need to be willing to give up an hour or so every now and again and we can get you trained by Cambridgeshire Constabulary and add you to our list of volunteers.  If you are interested and would like further information please contact reneemitcham@btinternet.com

Many thanks

Renee

**Holme Church of England Primary Academy**

We are a small, inclusive, primary school in the beautiful village of Holme. We have excellent teaching across the school with children making strong progress from their starting points. Our recent KS2 SATs outcomes for Yr 6, including 100% for reading, place our school as the second highest performing primary school in Cambridgeshire. This means that our children leave primary school well equipped for their secondary education.

We provide a rich, varied curriculum where the creative arts and sport are valued.

On our January INSET day the teachers and teaching assistants spent the day considering how our learning environment supports good mental health for children and adults. Together, we have reviewed our quality provision.

Last week was wellbeing week and the children took part in a range of different activities. Across the week– they worked with different members of staff to experience: yoga, music, prayer, reading for pleasure, art, and circuits.

These sessions allowed the children to reflect on activities that help them to relax or energise. The hope being they can use strategies from the week to help them in the future when they might feel overwhelmed.

We care deeply about each and every one of our children and work hard to ensure that each one reaches their potential.

Mrs Thomas (Interim Headteacher)

If you are looking for a place for your child, we still have a handful of places across the school; please contact Cambridgeshire admissions for more details. In the meantime, please do visit the school website [www.holme.camb.sch.uk](http://www.holme.camb.sch.uk) or telephone 01487 830342.

**A message from our Vicar**

Greetings,

It was a delight to see so many of you at our Christmas Services, I loved getting to speak in person to many of you and sharing the joy of Christmas together. I had a few people ask about what the new relationship between the churches looks like and I am pleased to let you all know that as of the 1st January 2020 Holme with Conington, Glatton and Sawtry form a new group of Anglican churches (called a Benefice), working together and sharing resources. It has been in the pipeline for a long time and it is great news that the Benefice is now official.

We look forward to celebrating this with the whole community and have some celebration meals, concerts and events in the planning for 2020. Talking of food get your frying pans at the ready! Shrove Tuesday also known as Pancake day is a key day in the church calendar and lands this year on 25th February. Shrove Tuesday is the traditional feast day before the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday. Lent is the 40 days leading up to Easter and was traditionally a time of fasting.

Shrove Tuesday always falls 47 days before Easter Sunday, so the date varies from year to year and falls between February 3rd and March 9th. Shrove Tuesday was traditionally the last opportunity to use up eggs and fats before embarking on the Lenten fast and pancakes are the perfect way of using up these ingredients hence, we now have delicious pancake day! Ash Wednesday(26th Feb) the official start of Lent is an opportunity to say sorry to God and go into a season, 40 days, penitence (this is often marked by giving or taking something up) and this is symbolised by having a cross, made with ash marked on your head (or hand) as a public declaration of saying sorry. This year Holme CofE Primary Academy are going to be Alearning more about this special time in the church calendar and will be hosting **an Ash Wednesday Service, 26th February at 2:30pm at St. Giles**, the service is going to have contributions from the pupils, the imposition of Ashes and start our season of Lent.

Something else that you might like to know is that on Saturday 8th February St. Giles and All Saints, Sawtry are joining together for Messy Church. This will be held at All Saints at 4:30pm and includes, games, crafts, activities, refreshments, space to chat and is for all ages. It concludes with a hot meal!

If any of these services are of interest to you we would be delighted to see you there.

Every blessing,

Reverend Becky Dyball