**Holme Parish News May 2020**

**Holme Parish Council News**

The Coronavirus outbreak means that Council meetings are cancelled. However I am still working and the Council is running as normally as possible. I am receiving lots of information about support groups being set up all over the county so if you need anything you can’t find online please ask.

*Good news*: It has been heartening to hear the clapping on Thursdays and to see our little community becoming closer knit. Keep it up! Thanks to Councillor Ed Whittaker who is leading the Holme village support network so please do not hesitate to use it if you need anything, or to volunteer to help if you feel able to.

*Bad News*: I have been approached by many of you complaining about bonfires. Whilst it is not illegal to have a bonfire it is definitely not desirable at present. HDC, the NHS and the Cambs Fire Service have asked us not to have them, not only to reduce the nuisance to neighbours now that a lot of us are home all day and the potential danger of fire spreading but also for the protection of vulnerable people with lung or chest complaints (or those with the virus!). I know you want to tidy your gardens and the tip is not open and it’s frustrating.

**The Annual Parish Meeting** will not take place, instead the annual reports of all the village organisations will appear in this magazine, thanks to the Editor.

**If restrictions are lifted – the next planned full Council meeting is on Tuesday 19 May 2020 at 7.00pm** at the Village Hall. If we are not able to meet in person then a virtual meeting may be held, and if anyone wants to listen you are welcome – see noticeboards for details nearer the time.

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 831451 holmeparishclerk@gmail.com

**Holme Parish Council Chairman's Report 2019/2020**

First of all I hope you are all safe and well. It is a very weird time we are living in, however we do live in a lovely village. If you want your spirits lifted and if you are able, just take a walk and look at the bluebells.

**Structure**

I am sorry to report that Terry Snitch has retired as a councillor. Terry was responsible for compiling and preparing the information for our application to the Highways department for a grant for traffic calming along the B660. After a few failed attempts, thanks to Terry this year we were successful. Terry also maintains the Speed Indicator Device along the B660. I am happy to report that Terry is happy to continue with this.

Following the recent Community Governance Review we intend to appoint two additional councillors when restrictions are lifted.

 We had three very strong applicants for Terry's replacement from which Ed Whittaker was co-opted on to the Council in January.

I would like to thank all the councillors for their support this year and to Janice the clerk for keeping us on the straight and narrow.

**Finance**

I can report that our yearend balance is £42403 compared to £39006 last year. A full and detailed balance sheet can be viewed when the minutes of each meeting are issued.

**Traffic**

Terry Snitch and David Neal continue to maintain and move the traffic speed indicator displays (SID). The information obtained from the SID and from Renee Mitcham's Community Speedwatch went a long way to help our successful bid for traffic calming.

**Village Maintenance.**

We have made improvements to the Cemetery fence and gates and provided an additional dog poo bin. The dog poo problem is still with us, albeit less than it was. Than

ks to Howard Watson and David Neal for erecting the new noticeboard outside the village hall which I am sure you will agree looks very good.

A Coronavirus support group has been set up under the leadership of Ed Whittaker. Thanks to Ed and his 30 volunteers. I would also like to say how much the village appreciates the Admiral Wells’ community shop, this is a much needed service.

The footpath from the crossing to the nature reserve is still an ongoing project. Janice has identified and spoken to someone at Network Rail and we thought we were getting somewhere, however we then went in to lockdown.

Fixtures for the Golf Society and the Cricket team have also had to be postponed, thanks to Ash Butten and Ian Kendall for arranging them.

John Griffin

Chairman

**From Tim Alban**

**District Councillor for Stilton, Folksworth & Washingley Ward**

"It has been another busy year, especially in terms of new planning applications and the ramifications of those previously granted.  Unfortunately fly tipping is still an issue but I have worked with residents and the District Council's Enforcement Team to try and tackle it.

It continues to be a pleasure to work with the Holme Parish Councillors, Janice the clerk, our County Councillor Simon Bywater and my fellow District Councillor, Marge Beuttell for the benefit of the village and its residents.

Life has changed so much in the last few weeks and I have been hugely impressed by the prompt responses from local councils, organisations (some of which didn't exist until recently) and individual people who are doing so much to help others, not just in Holme and Conington but further afield.
**Open for business**
Huntingdonshire District Council offices may be closed to visitors but the work of the council very much carries on, with many of the staff who usually work there now working from home.  The Customer Service Centre is available during office hours on 01480 388388; calls outside of this time are directed towards the Out of Hours service.

**Website details & apply to defer part of Council Tax**

The council has website dedicated to Corona Virus questions [www.wearehuntingdonshire.org](https://www.wearehuntingdonshire.org/) which offers all kinds of information including how to ask for help and how to volunteer; it also includes details of how to apply to defer the District Council's part of the council tax for April and May.

For more general enquiries please visit the District Council's main site [www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk](http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/)

**Household Bins**

Huntingdonshire District Council is still operating a full household refuse collection service and bins should be left out as normal.  Extra re-cycling may be left in clear plastic bags with re-cycling bins, on the appropriate day.

**Bulky Waste**

Extra household rubbish and garden rubbish can not be added to regular collections but the council does still offer a bulky waste collection service; the details of what can and can't be collected, along with the fees charged are available via the previously mentioned phone number and web link.

**Bonfire**

The Government, District Council and Cambridgeshire Fire Service are all advising against having bonfires at the moment; as well as being potentially causing problems for anyone battling the Covid-19 Corona Virus, the smoke is an irritant for those already dealing with other health issues.

**Getting In Touch**

To contact me please email tim.alban@huntingdonshire.gov.uk or call me on 07913 101145

All details correct as of 14th April, 2020"

Kind regards, *Tim*

Tim Alban

District Councillor for Stilton, Folksworth & Washingley Ward

Tel: 07913 101145

[www.facebook.com/TimAlbanForStiltonWard](http://www.facebook.com/TimAlbanForStiltonWard) (First contact for residents in Stilton, Folksworth &

Washingley, Holme, Denton & Caldecote, Great & Little Gidding, Glatton and Connington).

(If you are a resident of Sibson-cum-Stibbington, Elton, Alwalton, Morborne, Haddon, Water Newton or Chesterton, please contact my fellow ward councillor Marge Beuttell in the first instance via marge.beuttell@huntingdonshire.gov.u

**AGM REPORT FOR PARISH COUNCILS**

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR SIMON BYWATER SAWTRY & STILTON**

At the time of writing this short article we are well into our 4th week of this very difficult Covid 19 crisis. I have been utterly amazed how people and various voluntary groups have “stepped up to the Plate” helping to support their own communities during this difficult time. I have also been extremely impressed by staff at the County, District and Parish Councils. I want to pay thanks for all their hard work during this extremely testing and difficult time.

The Huntingdon District Hub is now live and functioning well. If you can offer help or is someone who perhaps needs help or support please call 01480 388 388

[www.wearehuntingdonshire.org](http://www.wearehuntingdonshire.org)

Mon-thurs 0845-1700hrs and Fri 0845-1630hrs

I have been working hard as a County Councillor locally and with my additional responsibilities as Chairman of the Children and Young Peoples Committee (CYP) at Cambridgeshire County Council. This continues to be my biggest statutory commitment at the County Council, which I’m selected for each year by Full Council. These past weeks have been the hardest I have ever come across in my 7 years as a councillor. It is a role I am very passionate about and take extremely seriously. It is a County wide responsibility for Children’s Social Services and Local Authority Education services. This involves meeting a wide variety of partners and stakeholders to ensure the CC are doing their very best for all young people in Cambridgeshire.

If you would like to know more and be kept up to date with latest information please visit my Facebook page where I have been putting regular updates <https://www.facebook.com/CllrSimonBywater/>

Finally, we don’t know when this situation will end, but we will get through this by working together. Many thanks for all your help, keep well and stay safe by following the Government guidance.

Best wishes

Simon

Simon Bywater (County Councillor Sawtry and Stilton Ward)

April 2020

Simon.bywater@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Mobile:07984 637553

 **HOLME COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH**

Another year of trying to educate motorists to observe the speed limits throughout the village has shown we need to continue as the statistics are still not good.

The main problems we have are at the “rush hour” times  - in the evening from 5-6.30 pm up to 250 vehicles come through the village from the direction of the A1 and 15% are exceeding the 30 mph limit – in the morning between 8-9.30 am there are up to 100 vehicles with 40% exceeding the limit.  During the day the numbers drop but the percentage is always above 10% consequently the campaign will continue.

Our 16 volunteers, from all walks of life and all ages from 18-80, are all trained by Cambridgeshire Constabulary.  They cover one session each per month in groups of three, at times convenient for them, which takes some sorting out!  All recorded speeders are forwarded to Cambridgeshire Constabulary, who then send out letters politely asking drivers to observe the speed limit.  The second letter is a little bit stronger and the third letter is delivered by hand by a uniformed officer who may take the opportunity to check documents and vehicle while issuing a strong verbal request as well as the written one.  This visit is made at the convenience of the officer concerned who will call in during a routine patrol at any time of the day or night.

Whilst these unprecedented conditions have resulted in total suspension of the scheme the through traffic has reduced in volume but not in speed so we will be back!  Once the lockdown is over the traffic volume will pick up again and as soon as the police have the spare manpower to process our returns, the campaign will be up and running once again.  If you know of any particular area within the village or a time where speeding is an issue please let us know and we will try to set up a session to cover it.

We are always looking for more volunteers to enable us to do more sessions so if you feel you can spare an hour or so, every so often at your convenience please contact reneemitcham@btinternet.com and she will arrange your training and get you onto the rota.

 **HOLME VILLAGE YOUTH CLUB**

With up to 50 members on role we have a weekly attendance of between 18 and 30 young people coming along to the village hall on a Friday evening to “hang out” with their friends and take advantage of our subsidised tuck shop and the equipment available for them to try out.  We continue to add games to the play station (we rely on the members to advise us on that one!) and this year purchased a replacement pool table to add to the table tennis, football table, air hockey as well as arts and crafts, hair styling, board games and music either by CD or on our remote speaker to use with their own phones.

Every year we try to arrange three outings to different places.  In July last year our day out was a coach trip to Battlefield Live, near Thorney and ten-pin bowling in Play2Day in Guyhirn on the way home.   In October a night out at Bounce was greatly enjoyed by 30 members.  In February we had planned to go to Adventure World or Inflata Nation Inflatable Theme Park but they were fully booked so we will have to think much further ahead in future.  The members then decided that Bounce was such good fun they would go back there again and 28 members went to bounce the night away.  A big thank you to the parents who provided transport for these two events.

The lock down has meant suspension of the Youth Club until further notice.  Consequently the day trip in June or July will not go ahead this year and although we are keeping an open mind about the possibility of reopening after half term at the beginning of June in all reality it looks more likely we wont be starting again before September.  But rest assured WE WILL BE BACK once conditions allow - although it could be a long time before they are back to normal.

Membership of Holme Youth Club is open to school years 5-10 who live in Holme village or attend or have attended Holme School.  Meetings are normally on term time Fridays from 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm.  Our AGM, when the members volunteer to be on the committee to help organise the activities and running of the club and at least three adults are appointed as Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, is usually held at the end of September but a suitable date will be advertised as soon as conditions allow.

For further information please contact reneemitcham@btinternet.com.

**HOLME WI REPORT FOR HOLME PARISH COUNCIL 2020**

Since the last Council meeting, we have had another good year. Our membership currently stands at 29 members. We have also enjoyed a variety of guest speakers including The Dogs Trust, a lady plumber, an *Eat Well for Less* style taste test, chicken wire sculpting, gin tasting and sign language to name just a few. Although the sign language was a challenge, we did manage to sign along to Adele’s Hello song, although not sure how many of us kept up with the pace.

It was our turn in 2019 to host our area Group Meeting. This is held in May and we get together with the other WIs in our group. We entertained them with a Viking Re-enactment Group who told us all about life as a Viking in East Anglia including the crude medical tools they used and the types of food they ate. Our evening finished with a shield wall and a charge, startling some of the members sitting on the front row.

We once again went to Tolethorpe, this time to see Blithe Spirit and picnicked in the grounds beforehand.

Our Knit and Knatter group have been very busy knitting hats for the Sailors Society, blankets for Olive Mead Care Home and over 50 little orange Myeloma Buddies for the Myeloma Cancer Charity. Although these were found to be tricky to knit, apparently they were even harder to stuff. Our Book Club is also doing well with a full membership.

We held a hugely successful Leap Year Quiz in the Village Hall on 29th February 2020 with the team *The All Girls* coming first. One of our teams, *Holme in the Corner*, also won the WI Federation Spring Quiz the very same week.

Now, as Spring approached, something else was also approaching, the Corona Virus, and as with all organisations, this has put everything on hold for the foreseeable future. However, members are keeping busy knitting, baking, sending cards and messages and there is also a weekly quiz to keep our brains occupied.

Let’s hope this doesn’t last for too long.

Alison McGuinness

President

**St Giles Holme with Conington 2019/20**

The report last year ended with the announcement of the appointment of Becky Dyball as our new vicar and we were delighted to welcome her to the benefice at her licensing service in October with a packed church in Glatton attended by large numbers from Holme village. Becky is joined by her husband, Alex, and son Noah. Alex is proving to be indispensable with wide ranging skills including all things IT, audio and practical and we are hugely grateful for his input.

Becky hit the ground at pace covering all our services, school collective worship and additional services. She led the Christmas Candlelit service which was hugely enjoyable and as usual full of villagers.

There have been 3 funerals, 6 weddings and a christening in the church over the past 12 months. Many of the weddings are for couples who are celebrating at Holmewood Hall but who wish to be married in church.

Unfortunately, once again, we were the subject of two break ins and again nothing was stolen but we have had to cover the cost of replacing the leaded windows.

Since the arrival of COVID19 in our communities in March this year, we have been forced to close the church building. Services continue via Zoom and Becky and Alex have done a tremendous job using technology to link us all up where desired. Becky is providing fantastic pastoral support for our community, please get in touch with her if you need help or support.

As a result of many cancelled weddings, the closure of the church building and no 1940s weekend, church finances are particularly tight. We would appreciate any financial aid you feel able to give to allow the church to continue to be at the heart of our village.

Louise Papworth Churchwarden

Holme School Add Logo

Currently, for the first time in our schools history, most children are now accessing their learning at home. The teachers upload work to the website [www.holme.cambs.sch.uk](http://www.holme.cambs.sch.uk) and families communicate to the school via the office@holme.cambs.sch.uk email address.

We have uploaded lots of information to the website to support families and members of staff are doing regular check-ins on key families.

Despite this unusual set up, the staff and families are really rising to the challenges and the overall feedback has been positive.

The school site is currently open for the children of keyworkers and manned by a rota of staff, still able to work. Whilst on site we have recently begun to redevelop the outside area for the Early Years Foundation Stage children. We recently put out a plea to the parents and local community for materials and have been overwhelmed by people’s generosity.

The school and its staff continue to adapt to the world around us, but still maintaining our core values. We continue to be small but mighty!

Kelly Thomas

**Holme Village Pre-school**

The Pre-school had a great first term to the academic year. The children learned about winter and the changes brought about by the season. They also learned about safety around these changes, including firework safety. We even had a visit from a fire fighter. The children very much enjoyed trying on all the equipment and learning about what it is used for.

The children put on a fantastic Christmas performance for family to come and watch. They sang beautifully and looked adorable in their costumes. It was a wonderfully cute and festive afternoon.

In December the Pre-school staff and Committee organised a Pub Quiz fundraiser. Thanks to the Addison Arms for hosting and donating, as well as many local businesses who donated prizes for the raffle, over £1000 pounds was raised for the Pre-school. This money was used to improve the outdoor play area for the children. They have since been enjoying the new play equipment very much, particularly the new climbing frame.

Throughout the year Key Sports have been coming into the Preschool once a week for a session of sport and games. The children really enjoy these sessions, which help to develop their physical skills, as well as turn-taking, colour and number recognition, teamwork and other social skills.

We are very happy to have received an Ofsted grading of “Good” in February. The inspector was very complimentary about the Pre-school and the work being put in by the team.

We had some lovely plans for the summer term, but unfortunately the Pre-school has been closed since March due to Covid-19. Since then Laura, the Pre-school manger, has started her maternity leave and Kelly is now managing the pre-school until she returns. We remain hopeful that we might be able to reopen before September so that the children leaving this year might still have a little graduation and say goodbye to the staff and their friends.

**Holme Village Hall report 2020 Annual Parish Meeting**

There is very little to report this year as there have been no major work carried out other than the 5 yearly electrical inspection which highlighted one or two items that needed attention.

As in previous years, the hall continues to be put to good use by the regular groups and private functions, with the special rate for children’s parties proving popular.

As there was no Forties event this year, the committee had a welcome respite from the hectic activities of the first weekend in October.

At the moment the hall is not being used at all as pre school has closed and other organisations are not meeting due to the regulations.

As always, my thanks go to the committee for their help and support during the past year. However, this year particular thanks must go to Trudi who has decided the time has come to hand over the reins of her role as booking agent, cleaning manager and general factotum making sure the hall runs smoothly. We are pleased that Victoria has stepped in to take over from Trudi and I’m sure she will continue to maintain Trudi’s dedication to the task.

**HOLME SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB ANNUAL REPORT 2020**

After promotion we were playing well and holding our own around mid league table, which was good as the standard in the 1st Division is obviously stronger.

Our recruitment open nights in October encouraged four new members from Yaxley, Folksworth and Peterborough, but sadly still no support from any Holme Villagers.

Friendly matches with a couple of local teams from Sawtry and Elton were arranged. These games allow the new club members to gain experience under competition conditions at different venues and play on new carpets.

The facilities made available to the club are much appreciated , and thanks to the village hall committee allowing us storage space for our equipment.

The pandemic put a halt to the season when with just three league matches to play, but hopefully we will be ready to go in September, fingers crossed.

Sheila and Geoff Ward from Tydd St Giles Club, close friends of John and Sheila Papworth, have been coming to Holme for over 20 years playing league matches. Sadly the Covid 19 virus caught up with Sheila and she passed away just a month ago. Our condolences go out to Geoff and his family.

All being well we plan to restart in September but obviously this is dependent on it being safe for us to do so.

Vivienne Hempsell holmesmbc1@gmail.com

**2020 Sir John Cotton Educational Foundation report**

The village receives income from The Flitwick Charity which was set up by Sir John Cotton in the early 20th Century to assist educational opportunities for Holme village residents.

The Foundation was able to give financial support to 11 of our young adults in higher education near the start of their academic year. If they continue their studies into the next academic year – whenever that starts, they will be able to personally reapply to us for a further grant for a maximum of up to 4 payments.

We remain open to consider any applications for support to residents of the village, whether they be young or older if it is connected to an educational course or trip. The Foundation next formally meets in November 2020, but any applications in the meantime can be passed to myself Kate Gipson at 1 Vicarage Close.

Kate Gipson Chair Sir John Cotton Educational Foundation

**Annual report for 1st Short Drove Rangers**

Last year I took 3 girls from Holme Guides and Rangers to a week-long camp called Camjam, they enjoyed many different activities including, circus skills, wood turning, bowling, inflatables, themed parties, and making lots of new friends.

Autumn term saw a drop in numbers, which came close to closing the unit. We joined with Holme Guides to fundraise at St Peter’s Church Christmas Fayre, by holding a cake stall, we raised a total of £100 to be split between the units.

It was decided in January that to improve numbers we needed to change our meeting times, so we now meet weekly alternately at Holme at 7.30pm Mondays and at Yaxley Scout and Guide headquarters at 7.30pm on Tuesdays, this with an additional 2 new leaders for the unit has enabled us to offer places to more girls in the 14-18 age group. We have welcomed 3 new members since the beginning of the year.

Due to this current situation we have switched to virtual meetings and meet online once a week, the girls are working towards interest badges at home, I have also set the girls several challenges including camping before the end of April (indoor if the girls don’t have access to a tent or garden) we are also having a sunflower growing competition.

Moira Bussey Leader 1st Short Drove Rangers

**MIDLAND RALLY & EVENTS CLUB**Life on the Holme Front 3rd 4th OCT 2020

Lots of events have been cancelled until Mid August though, depending on the circumstances, hopefully Life on the Holme Front will be going ahead on October 3rd & 4th. Lots of events and attractions, some new, are planned and more details will be in a future issue of the Holme Parish News.

For more information please contact

Dave Hoyles 07901 984627 / 01159 281300 or Ricky Kemp 07768 871842

**A message from our Vicar Becky**

Hello everyone,

I continue to hold you all in my prayers. It feels like we are living in a bizarre film that we can’t turn off. I’ve had a number of conversations with many of you sharing similar expressions of bewilderment, worry and fear. Please know you are not alone and that you have a brilliant community around you. I have been so encouraged by the care, creativity and generosity offered in these unusual times. As a church community we continue to meet using the wonders of zoom and hold our communities, service providers, front line workers, those unwell and those grieving in prayer when we meet.

We have a special resources page with activities for all ages, orders of service, guidance on funerals, space to light a virtual candle in memory of someone, spiritual guidance and links to live services via zoom which can be found here: [www.allsaintssawtry.org.uk](http://www.allsaintssawtry.org.uk) Please do feel free to get in touch with me directly if I can be of any help, or you would just like to chat to someone different.

**Prayer**

The number of searches on Google for the word “prayer” have greatly increased over the past few weeks as the coronavirus has garnered headlines. Prayer is a way in which we can communicate with God and is open to everyone. Last month I shared a few prayers in the magazine which many of you have said you have found helpful.

**For hospital staff and medical researchers**

Gracious God,
give skill, sympathy and resilience
to all who are caring for the sick,
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.
Strengthen them with your Spirit,
that through their work many will be restored to health;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
**Amen.**

*Prayers with children*

***A prayer for when a friend is ill***

Dear God, (*name of friend*) is ill.
They are not allowed to go to school or come over to play.
I’m sad because I miss them.
They must be feeling miserable and lonely as well.
Please be close to them.
Please be with the people who are looking after them.
Please help them to get better and to know that you love them.
**Amen.**

**Diary Dates for May 2020**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Friday 1** | **Green Bin collection****Mobile Post Office – 2-4pm** |
| **Monday 4** | **Grey Bin Collection** |
| **Wednesday 6** | **\*415 Bus to Peterborough**  |
| **Friday 8** | **VE Day****May Bank Holiday** |
| **Monday 11** | **Blue Bin collection** |
| **Wednesday 13** | **\*415 Bus to Peterborough**  |
| **Friday 15** | **Green Bin collection****Mobile Post Office – 2-4pm** |
| **Monday 18** | **Grey Bin collection** |
| **Wednesday 20** | **\*415 Bus to Peterborough**  |
| **Friday 22** | **Mobile Post Office : 2-4pm** |
| **Monday 25** | **Blue Bin collection****Spring Bank Holiday** |
| **Wednesday 27** | **\*415 Bus to Peterborough**. |
| **Friday 29** | **Green Bin****Mobile Post Office : 2-4pm** |

Tid is doing order and delivery only on  Wednesdays.

Contact is 07894495544 or tids.fish@hotmail.co.uk

I suppose orders would need to be in on Monday.

**\***

**Wet Fish Man**

Tid is doing order and delivery only on  Wednesdays.

Contact is 07894495544 or tids.fish@hotmail.co.uk

I suppose orders would need to be in on Monday.

**\*415 Bus to Peterborough** pick up from 10.15 am Pingle Bank then Station Road & Holmewood. Return at 1.30pm

**\*\* Decker bus to Oundle** – pick up Village Hall 9.30am; School 9.35am; Holmewood 9.40am.

Return 12.15 from Oundle.

**HACT Ring and Ride Tel: 01480 411114** – membership £15 per annum. http://www.hact-cambs.co.uk/home

**Community Car Scheme** **Tel:** **07795542084** .

The scheme remains suspended due to the risk that Covid 19 presents to both passengers and drivers. There is a message to this effect on the scheme phone 07795 542084, which will be changed when the scheme is able to resume its service. Messages for the scheme can be left on this phone which is checked every few days. Anyone needing transport to attend a hospital appointment should contact the hospital, as they are able to arrange transport in some cases.