**Annual Parish Meeting Edition**

Holme Parish Council News

The Annual Parish Meeting is held each year and this year a short meeting was held on Zoom on 29 April. The Editor has kindly agreed to print all the usual reports here to allow you all to read them**.**

**Village notes**

**Grass cuttings** and garden waste should be disposed of properly in the green bin please. I have had reports of people putting them under roadside hedges and in ditches and dykes, this counts as littering or even fly tipping and it is illegal so please don’t do it. Flooding can be caused if the watercourses and drains are blocked. If you need more than one green bin please contact the District Council – you can have as many as you like (but only the first one is free).

**Dogs** Now we have better weather dogs are outside more. There have been many dog thefts so please do keep an eye on your furry friend. Also please don’t allow it to bark endlessly or terrorise neighbours /callers. And.please PICK UP THE POO!

**Next Council Meeting**. The next full Parish Council meeting is on Tuesday 4 May 2021 at 7.00pm. If anyone wants to attend you are welcome (Zoom). Access details are published on the agenda. I can send you a digital link or phone no if you ask for it before 4pm on the day. Unless regulations change this will be the last zoom meeting. We shall see!

Janice Osborn Parish Clerk 01487 831451 holmeparishclerk@gmail.com

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

Find me *HolmeParish Clerk* on Facebook.

Chairman's Report 2020/2021

Structure

 At the end of last year Terry Snitch moved out of the village, which led to him resigning from the council.

We were very pleased that Ed Whittaker could join the council. Ed wasted no time in getting involved organising the support group when we went into lockdown 1.

All our council meetings this year have taken place on zoom, thanks to Janice and Ed who introduced us to this new technology.

Thanks to the Vice Chairman David Neal for standing in for me when I was not available. David also charges, moves and looks after the Speed indicator devices (S.I.D.)

Thanks to all the councillors for all the support and the jobs they do around the village which we would normally have to pay for.

Final thanks to Janice our Clerk for controlling me and keeping the council on the straight and narrow.

Finance.

Our yearend balance was £47854 compared with £42403 last year. We have kept within the budget. With help from the Reading Room Trust we have bought a second Speed Indicator Device. We have had the path in the church yard relaid and had a tree survey carried out.

Traffic

As I have mentioned we have bought a second S.I.D. With funds from the County Council we have had the red 30mph roundels painted on the B660.

I am sure once we have come out of lockdown 3 Renee Mitcham will restart our Community Speedwatch programme.

We have carried out a health and safety audit on the grave stones in the Churchyard and the Cemetery. This has led us to have to lay some headstones down. If anyone does see a headstone which in not safe please let us know.

2020 was a year of remembrance and we were very happy to give our support and respects on VE Day, VJ Day and Remembrance Sunday.

Despite the council’s objections and with support from District Councillor Tim Alban, the planning application for 10 dwellings on the Yaxley road has been granted.

John Griffin

**HOLME WI APRIL 2021**

The vaccination program is well underway and now all our members appear to have had at least their first vaccine. As the situation starts to ease slightly as we move out of Lockdown, we are hopeful of at least meeting outside this summer. We recently dropped our Easter Bags to all our members which included a chocolate bunny and a bunch of daffodils, keeping our members in touch and reminding them we are in this together.

Members are still keeping busy knitting and the weekly Zoom Coffee Mornings are still going ahead as well.

Now we wait for the end of May when larger groups are allowed to meet up and we can hold a meeting outdoors.

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

Alison McGuinness

President

**2021 Sir John Cotton 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 Sir John Cotton Educational Foundation continued to meet over the year via Zoom, we all embraced the technology to overcome the pandemic restrictions. Sadly we said Goodbye to Nancy Watson who has been a trustee for many years but felt it was time to step back, we greatly appreciated the work that she carried out for the foundation. Following her resignation we made a collaboration agreement between the Sir John Cotton Education Foundation and the Sir John Charity Lands Foundation. This has been ratified by the Charity Commission and allows us to use the same eight trustees for both halves of the charities. We held an extraordinary meeting in November 2020 to ratify this change.

The Sir John Cotton Charity Lands Foundation was able to distribute funds to 24 parishioners within Holme and the Educational Foundation was able to give financial support to 10 of our young adults in higher education near the start of their academic year, who each applied personally for their award. Many kind acknowledgements were received for their cheques and this acknowledgement will from now onwards become a standard requirement to be reconsidered for all future Sir John Cotton grants.

Kate Gipson Chair

Sir John Cotton Educational Trust.

**St. Giles**

For the first time in history the Church of England nationally asked all churches to close their buildings. During this period the church has been far from closed and has adapted to a combination of on and offline resources to sustain worship, strengthen faith and care for the community. Weekly online services have been offered, collective worship has continued in Holme School and we as a church family give thanks for the resilience and care shown by the community of Holme. Thank you for all *you* do for each other.

Reverend Becky

**Holme School**

**Staffing updates**

Mrs Clara King joined our staff in September as the new Executive Head teacher across both Holme and Stilton Schools.

Mrs Alison Cole is now the Special Educational Needs co-ordinator across the two schools. We welcomed Miss Weeks to be the teacher in the Year 3 and 4 class.

This year we said goodbye to Mrs Tesloff who has spent many years at Holme supporting the children. We wish her a happy retirement.

Just before Christmas we recruited three new teaching assistants to support teaching and learning across the school; Miss Wilson, Ms Parsons and Mrs Francis.

**DEMAT**

The school has received a good level of support from The Diocese of Ely Multi Academy Trust throughout this period. They continue to compliment us on our provision and caring school ethos.

**COVID 19**

COVID 19 has continued to pose challenges for the school community this year. The staff have risen admirably to all of these challenges and worked together as a tight team to keep the school running smoothly, following all the regulations.

A rigorous Risk Assessment has been continually updated to include additional cleaning, hygiene measures, zoning and protocols for staff. Throughout this period we have not allowed unessential visitors on site.

We are proud of the fact that none of our permanent staff have contracted Coronavirus. Staff now use the lateral flow tests twice a week.

The classrooms have been configured so children are sitting in rows and sharing equipment is minimal. We have divided the school into two Bubbles, each one having a separate start time, break time, lunchtime, end time and adults. The children play within their classes on the playground.

From January 2021 to March 8th the school remained open only for children of keyworkers and those children classed as vulnerable.

For this period of time children working at home continued to access a full curriculum via remote education. The teachers and other staff worked tirelessly to provide daily live lessons and to upload videos and activities to our learning platforms. 8 devices were loaned to families to enable the children to access their work.

A parent kindly paid for a subscription to a virtual library to allow all of our children to continue to read and enjoy a range of books at home.

As a school we have continued to support the government messaging around only meeting one other person from a different household for exercise. We have reminded parents of the rules that do not allow play dates, meet ups and sleepovers.

**Parking**

This has not been as much of a problem this year, due to our staggered start and end times. We continue to remind the school community about considerate parking in school newsletters.

**Numbers on roll**

We currently have 107 children on roll and our numbers for the new Reception starters in September are encouraging.

Mrs Thomas (Head of School)

**The 5th season of the Admiral Wells Golf Society**

managed to squeeze in a few matches between lockdowns in 2020, and whilst we made the best of it, the official competition was understandably cancelled due to the circumstances.

 2021 is looking much more promising and the season has already started, socially distanced where required of course, with the first event taking place as soon as the clocks changed at the end of March.

 We are all praying for some much warmer and drier weather with a full calendar planned up until the final in September.



We are a friendly society with around 20 members. New members are always welcome and if you would like any more information, please contact me directly.

Many regards,

Ashley Butten a.butten@btinternet.com

**Holme Reading Room Trust**

The Holme Reading Room Trust (HRRT) is a Holme based charity which looks to support good causes which benefit local parishioners (individuals, groups, clubs and societies). Each year we can allocate up to £5000 in total to good causes that meet the charity's criteria. In most cases we ask that applications for funds are matched by funds generated by the applying person or group. An application form can be requested from Jenny Whittaker via the website Holmereadingroomtrust@gmail.com

I am pleased to report that despite the challenges associated with Covid 19 the HRRT was still able to support four applications totalling £4,389. Good causes included the village magazine, the Sunflower competition, an additional Speed Indication Display unit (traffic calming) and the Friends of Holme School.

The HRRT fund continues to perform well and we look forward to receiving, considering and where possible supporting new applications throughout 2021

**Holme Village Pre-school**

We, like many others have had a tough year. We had to close during the first national lock down and reopen to a very different world back in June 2020. After a few months adjusting, the pre-school is moving forward and is in a very strong position. As always the children's development and learning is at the forefront of what we do. We are a committee-led, charity-run, setting and currently fundraising to redevelop the garden, including a much needed replacing of the old astro turf, new toys and play opportunities for the children. We have limited spaces for this summer term 2021. For more information about being part of our committee or enrolling your child, please contact Our Manager Laura mangagerholmepreschool@yahoo.com

Laura Hurst Manager, Holme Village Pre-school Tel:07842 192 052

**From Cllr Simon Bywater**

The past 12 months have been incredibly challenging for us all but it looks as though we can all begin to see the light at the end of a very long tunnel. The impacts of this dreadful virus have been far reaching but the way residents have responded and pulled together has been remarkable.

Many residents have also had to endure flooding to their homes at the end of 2020, which was more distressing during the Christmas period. Please be reassured that I will continue to work tirelessly on this issue

The last year has been hugely challenging especially in my role as Chairman of the Children and Young Peoples Committee. I was honoured to be selected for this role by the leader of the County Council and other councillors’ .The importance and the enormity of this role I have embraced and feel I have worked extremely hard to represent the most vulnerable in our society. Education issues e.g. ensuring our children continue to be educated, whilst also being covid aware and protecting the wider community has been a mammoth task but I know that the team has done a remarkable job in doing this. It has been a huge learning curve for me, and you should all feel assured that I have always had the communities’ best interests at heart and worked to ensure the community Holme has a voice.

My four years as the elected County Councillor comes to an end in May 2021 and I will be standing for re- election again on the 6th of May. It has been a huge privilege and honour to have represented you at the County Council for the past 8 years. I will be out and about leafleting (covid safe) but if you do see me walking around please don’t hesitate to stop and chat about any issues you feel are important to you.

My final thanks go to all the volunteers/workers

**Holme Community Speedwatch**

As with everything else Speedwatch has been suspended for the majority of the past15 months but we have just been given the go ahead to restart on May 1st. With the closure of the B660 currently closed it has been a pleasure to walk along Station Road and not cower into the side of the footpath as the cars and trucks roar past, but once it re-opens they will be back so we will do our level best to keep things sensible and safe.

Community Speedwatch is a group of volunteers who are trained and supported by Cambridge Constabulary to monitor the speed and volume of traffic on our village roads. The police contact those registered as exceeding tha speed limit and attempt to encourage them to reduce their speeds. If you can spare an hour or so each month and would be interested ij helping with the scheme, please email csw.holme@btinternet.com and we will arrange your training and add you to our list.

If you have any concerns about speeding traffic within the village please email details of the location and the times when you feel it is bad to csw.holme@btinternet.com and we will do our best to set up a session to monitor the weight of traffic and the speeds and try to make our village safer for all.

**Holme Youth Club**

In line with everything else Holme Youth Club has been closed for far longer than we ever anticipated but we are hoping, with everything crossed, that we will be opening again in September.

The hiring terms of the Village Hall and the number of parents who volunteer to assist in supervising our sessions will have a large bearing on this as we work on a ratio of 1 adult to every 7 members- hopefully that will mean you will get a duty once every half term.

Holme Village Youth Clubmembershp is open to young peoplein school years 5 to 10 who live in Holme Village plus those who attend Holme School. We meet on term time Fridays from 6.30 pm to 8.30pm in Holme Village hall with an admission fee of £2.00 to cover the hire of the hall and administration costs plus subsidised visits and events during the year. We have a subsidised “bar” with soft drinks and snacks for sale and a wide variety of activities and equipment for you to enjoy.

Watch for further information in the Parish Magazine or email reneemitcham@btinternet.com for further information.

**Holme Cricket Club**

The highly anticipated season gets started this week, and Holme CC have many games this season. The support so far has been fantastic and the team are ready to go!

The preparation over the winter has meant that we now have a team kit, as well as off field clothing from the club. We are looking forward to the season getting underway.

Our upcoming games this month will be available on our social medias, or can be sent by email.

Please see the fixture list opposite.

Ian Kendall @bglgroup