**Holme Parish Council News**

Dark nights are here and Christmas is on its way my favourite time of year.

One trouble in the dark nights is dog poo. Please pick it up. It is the law. The strategy of spray painting the poo to mark the spot so pedestrians can avoid it more easily and to remind the perpetrator to remove it next time they pass can begin again. If you have issues and you would like this to happen please get in touch with me and most of all THANK YOU to all of you that do pick it up.

Speeding – Top speed this month in the Village coming in from the railway crossing was 70 MPH and average speed 35MPH.

Our Parish meeting last night at the Village hall touched on topics such as the budget, bus transport and Sawtry swimming pool from our County Councillor Simon Bywater. A few topics discussed by the Councillors were the layby along the B660, placement of a new play park for the children of the village and Cambridgeshire County Councils Heritage list. Any proposals for houses or building to be put on the list for the Village are welcome by email – holmeparishclerk@gmail.com.

The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday 19th January 2023 at Holme Village Hall.

On behalf of the Chairman and Councillors as well as myself, I wish you all a Merry Christmas

and a very happy 2023 Kiri Brudenell

**From our Councillor Tim Alban**

For me, the most rewarding part of being a district councillor continues to be helping the residents living in the villages in the Stilton, Folksworth & Washingley ward.

Since first being elected in 2015, I have worked on issues in every village in the ward, sometimes on my own and at other times with the relevant parish council or with my fellow ward district councillor Marge Beuttell or County Councillors Simon Bywater and Ian Gardener (in the Giddings).

I was especially pleased earlier this year to work with Marge, Simon and Ian to set up a joint meeting for all the parish councils and parish meetings in the ward, which has already improved inter-village cooperation.

Christmas will lead to some changes to bin collections again this year and the Huntingdonshire District Council website [www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/refuse-calendar](http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/refuse-calendar) will have full details.Although the council offices will be closed over the Christmas period by the Emergency Out of Hours service will continue to operate and can be contacted via 01480 434167 <https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/contact-us/emergency-contact/>

With best wishes for a Happy Christmas & New Year.

Kind regards, *Tim*

Councillor Tim Alban

Stilton, Folksworth & Washingley Ward

Huntingdonshire District Council(First contact for residents in Stilton, Folksworth & Washingley, Holme, Denton & Caldecote, Great & Little Gidding, Glatton and Connington).

Tel: 07903 518967

[www.facebook.com/TimAlbanForStiltonWard](http://www.facebook.com/TimAlbanForStiltonWard)

**St Giles Holme**

This advent, the time when we are counting down to Christmas and preparing ourselves for the big event, we will be thinking about journeying. All around the Benefice you will see our Holy Family set. This is a special nativity set purchased in Assisi, Italy, where St. Francis first introduced the idea of nativity sets and Diane and I, along with others, had the delight of being on pilgrimage in during October. This special set travelled around with us while we were there and now they are continuing their journey, travelling around the parishes, visiting the local schools, nursing homes, points of interest, businesses, and some people’s homes. If you want to follow their journey or spot them on their travels between now and Christmas and want to share where you have seen them, then do take a picture and pop it on our Facebook page just search *‘Holy Family -Sawtry, Glatton, Holme and Conington’.*

We would like to invite you to join our Holy Family on this special journey. We have an exciting Advent and Christmas planned across all our churches with something for everyone including Messy Christingle, Noisy Nativity, Pop-Up cinemas, Candelit Carols and Midnight Communions. Everyone is welcome at any of the churches across the villages and we would love to see you at any of the events or services. It doesn’t matter where you are on your journey with God - come and rest a while and hear the incredible story of the first Christmas, often accompanied by a festive nibble, good coffee, mulled wine and hot chocolate!

With many blessings this special season,

Reverend Becky and Reverend Diane

**HOLME YOUTH CLUB**

 Our night out at Laserforce on 25th November was very well attended with 40 members having a very lively and active evening.  Many thanks to the parents who provided the transport.

 We had originally planned to go to Laserforce on 3rd December but it was already booked so had to move to 25th November.  Because of the change of date there will be no Youth Club on 3rd December as the hall is in use for other things.  Our final session this term will be 16th December and we will be back on 6th January.

 We continue to have a really good attendance with between 30 and 40 members each week putting a lot of strain on the supervising parents as we need to have at least 5 in attendance each week.  If you feel you would be able to spare a couple of hours one Friday evening each half term (once every 6 weeks) whether you have children who are members or not, we would really welcome you as one of our volunteers.

 Membership of Holme Youth Club is open to school years 5-10 who live in Holme or attend or have attended Holme School.  We cannot accept anyone as member who does not meet this criteria as we are only able to accommodate 40 each week and currently have 60 on our membership list.  If you want further information about Holme Youth Club check out our web site or Facebook page or email holmeyouthclub@outlook.com

**Holme WI November 2022**

Clive Beeke came to our November meeting and gave us a talk all about The Ramsey Tunnels. It was an extremely interesting talk about the tunnels that run under the Great Whyte. Originally the Great Whyte was an open watercourse, with small boats called Fenlighters, sailing up and down moving goods and people. In the 1850’s it was decided the watercourse would be covered, or culverted, and eventually it became tunnels. There is one main tunnel with two smaller ones running alongside the main one. The whole exercise of covering the watercourse was to aid the flow of water, especially in time of flooding. The main tunnel chamber is directly under the clock, or ‘Dummy’ as the locals call it, and originally the flowing water was used to turn a propellor which in turn ran the clock. However, there was a flaw in this plan, it turned too quickly during flooding and didn’t turn at all in the summer during droughts. This mechanism has now been removed although the workings can still be seen. It was an excellent talk by Clive of a very interesting subject, it was accompanied by lots of maps and photographs, which were fascinating, especially the ones showing all the old bridges that crossed the watercourse. Clive is now working on Ramsey Abbey, so we can’t wait to see what he finds out about this ancient monument.

Our ladies at Knit and Knatter have been very busy, and another parcel of baby clothes and blankets is being sent off for children fleeing the Ukrainian conflict.

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

Alison McGuinness President

**Spencer Drawwater 28th August 1938 – 20th September 2022**

The family of Spencer would like to thank everyone who attended his funeral on the 18th October 2022 and to those who made a donation in his memory. We have been able to send a total of £363.70 to Cancer Research UK.

He was a well-respected man in the village and will be sadly missed.

Thank you all again.

**Holme Village Preschool**

We have had a brilliant few weeks at the pre-school with lots of exciting autumnal activities taking place and where we have been learning about the seasonal changes. The children have enjoyed taking part in the annual Holme Village Scarecrow Festival, where our entry of ‘The Very Hungry Caterpillar’ came joint 1st place! When we returned after half term, we celebrated Halloween with a spooktacular party with some fantastic costumes and lots of fun games.

We would like to invite you to our Quiz Night at Holme Village Hall on Friday 2nd December at 7.30pm, entry is £5 per person (includes mince pie and glass of mulled wine) with a maximum of 6 people in a team. There will also be a raffle on the night with all funds raised going to the pre-school. For tickets, please email managerholmepreschool@yahoo.com or text 07842 192052.

*Did you know Holme Village Pre-School is just 4 miles from Yaxley and 5 miles from Sawtry? If you are looking for a childcare setting, please get in touch with our manager, Kelly (**manageholmepreschool@yahoo.com**) who would be happy to arrange a convenient time for you to visit and answer any questions that you may have.*

**HOLME COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH**

 How lovely it is for our volunteers to have a resident of the village walk past and say “Thank you, you are doing a great job”.   Also to have someone say they had received a letter and were sorry and now ensure they drive within the limit even if Speedwatch are not on duty shows we are achieving our aim even though these numbers are low.

Our teams try to do one session on a different day each week at various times during daylight in an attempt to keep our village safe and pleasant.  Unfortunately the percentage of vehicles passing through the village who feel 30 mph is not a reasonable speed for them as they are in a hurry still remains between 10% and 20% especially in the early morning and late afternoon.  We would appeal to all those who regularly drive through the village to keep within the speed limit out of respect for the residents of whatever age.

If you feel you can spare an hour and a half a month and would like to support our efforts please contact csw.holme@btinternet.com and we can organise your training with Cambridgeshire Police and add you to our growing list of volunteers.

**Sawtry Chorale Christmas Concerts.**

Sawtry Chorale is delighted to stage its first concerts under the direction of our new, Stilton based M.D., Ollie Hamilton- Box:-

Friday December 2nd. @7.30 pm All Saints' Church Sawtry

Friday December 9th   @ 7.30 pm St. Andrew's Church Alwalton.

Tickets available at the door. Refreshments and raffle. Proceeds towards The Light Project Peterborough, the venue and the choir.

All welcome.

**Hunts Waste Busters Top Tips for Saving Money, Getting Creative & Reducing Waste This Christmas**

The Hunts Waste Busters believe in sustainable living, making minor changes to reduce our carbon footprint. Christmas is a time where our waste increases dramatically, with the bulk, ending up in landfill. We have compiled a few thought-provoking ideas, that can assist you in reducing your waste this Christmas, in addition to saving money and creating memories.

**Buy Pre-Loved**There is an abundance of ways to seek presents that are pre-loved, finding the ideal gift at a fraction of the price. Support local charities or make use of modern websites, apps or local buy and sell pages, saving you money and rehoming a good product whilst reducing the amount of unwanted gifts/clothing sent to landfill. The best present may be right around the corner from you...

**Creative Menu**Save money by utilising end of life food or leftovers to create a unique meal, reducing your food waste as well as trying something new. The internet is full of festive food ideas and recipes with the ability to input your available ingredients to make a dish that not only tickles the tastebuds but impresses guests with your cooking skills. If you don't get through it all, freeze it for a later date, giving you a much-needed night off cooking.

\*Please remember all food waste including peelings and even bones, can be put into your garden waste bin, which is processed for composting.

**Make Your Own Decorations**You may find the least expensive way to decorate is right under your nose, with items such as twigs, fir cones, and holly and willow wreaths being just some of the examples, our great outdoors has to offer, to create the ultimate in Christmas decorations. Many examples, tutorials and inspirational ideas can be found online, offering a great conversation starter for any guests.

**Recycle, Recycle and Recycle** Always check if what you are throwing away can be recycled. For any items not recyclable through your recycling bin, check your local supermarket, most have dedicated recycle points for items such as soft plastics and batteries, making it easy to bring with you when doing your food shop. In the case of many electrical stores, they will also accept e-waste such as TV's, PC's, Laptops and phones.

\*Placing batteries in your kerbside bins can cause fires in the collection vehicles.

Inspired? We hope you are... every small change makes a difference to our environment. All we can ask this year is to THINK, ACT, CHANGE and assist us in reducing waste, maximising recycling and creating a sustainable Christmas ethic that can live on for generations.

From all the Hunts Waste Busters Team, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Sustainable New Year.

 Check your Christmas holiday collection dates here: https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/refuse-calendar/

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 **Holme Parish Council**

**Vacancy for Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer**

Our recently appointed Clerk is now unable to continue working with us and we are looking for someone to take on the role of Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

The position is for 20 hours per month, a laptop, tablet computer and printer are supplied. Applicants should have experience in administration, good IT skills, basic bookkeeping and comfortable with managing a budget of £25,000.

Our meetings are held six times a year, in the evening in the Village Hall.

The salary will be subject to negotiation based on experience and qualifications and in the range of NALC LC2.

If you would like to join our friendly group of councillors, please email holmeparishclerk@gmail.com for a job description or if you would like to chat about what’s involved.