



Holmes Chapel Partnership Community Newsletter

Issue 80: April 2021

WELCOME TO THE APRIL PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER

April brings us Easter - a second lockdown Easter and a year since our Community Newsletter has been online only. Let's hope that the data the government is working to matches the dates they have set for more freedom in the coming weeks. We would love to distribute paper copies of the newsletter once more in cafés, pubs, the library and the train station - anywhere where people used to gather and will hopefully gather again soon!

In the meantime you may have seen our banners advertising our

Safe Walking Routes to School Campaign

We hope to have some news soon that there will be improvements to our walking and cycling experience in and around Holmes Chapel.



Don't forget the Easter Relay Run to raise funds for the NHS. See the **When? Where? How do I donate?** details inside.

Let's hope for blossom and blue skies over the Easter holidays!

We will be holding our

Holmes Chapel Partnership Annual General Meeting
Monday 19th April 2021 at 7.30 p.m.
Via Zoom

If you would like to join us, you would be very welcome!
See inside for the link

Your Partnership Team



SAFE WALKING ROUTES TO SCHOOL CAMPAIGN We have been busy!



Following our poster competition for Primary School pupils we hope you will have noticed the banners round our village to try and draw attention to the Partnership Campaign for Safer Walking Routes to School. Only by support and pressure from residents will we get any improvements to the infrastructure round and about Holmes Chapel. We all want to do the right thing and leave the car at home for short journeys but when doing so is unpleasant and dangerous, it makes it difficult. Keep telling us your experiences via SWRTS@hcpartnership.org.uk.

And for good measure



Let's hope drivers take note, whether they are residents behind the wheel or people passing through!

NEWS

NON-STOP 24-HOUR RELAY ROUND HOLMES CHAPEL To Raise Funds for the NHS

WHERE?



Start – handover – finish point is the car park of Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School

WHEN?

Starting at 3pm on Friday 2nd April finishing at 3pm on Saturday 3rd April.

WHO?

Vicky, Clare, Iain and David.



SCAN ME

WHY?

The NHS is a national treasure that makes a difference to the health of millions of people every day.

Over the last year it has been tested more than ever and we are in awe of the people who continue to give so much to care for others. We want to do something to help.



HOW?

We appreciate anything you can donate to this worthy cause. You can do so via <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/24hrrelayholmeschapel>
To make it even easier use the QR code.



HOLMES CHAPEL PARISH COUNCIL NEWS



New Play Area at Strathmore Close

The small park off Strathmore Close which was one of the Scottish estate's best kept secrets has now been transformed into a Play Area. This was the original plan for the space when the estate was built, but the playground was never installed by the developer.

Contributors to the Neighbourhood Plan suggested that this might be a project for the Parish Council to undertake. Thanks to *Awards for All* Lottery Funding of £10,000, the playground has now been completed – not without a great deal of time and effort on the part of Parish Councillors who had to commission a specialist contractor to design the layout and install the equipment. Installed just in time for the better weather, we hope it will bring enjoyment to many, many children in the years to come.



Village Children Volunteering!

A new initiative is underway to get our junior residents involved in keeping the village looking clean and tidy. At the latest meeting of the Village Volunteers on Sunday there were 12 new volunteers joined in to help out, and between them cleaned up a lot of litter, which others have chosen to leave behind, as well as getting involved with weeding and gardening.

The Parish Council were delighted to support this venture and have provided tools for the junior gardeners.

Grateful thanks to Alison, Naomi and Graham, who co-ordinate these volunteer sessions and to all the junior volunteers who have given up their time for Holmes Chapel. We are also grateful for the ongoing commitment of our long standing volunteers, who have tirelessly worked in Holmes Chapel for many years. Great work!

Find out more about the sessions: <https://www.holmeschapelparishcouncil.gov.uk/village>

Parish Council - a bit about us!

The work we do here at the Parish Council is for you the residents of Holmes Chapel! The Parish Clerk is paid a salary to administer Parish Council business. The Councillors, however, give their time for nothing to work for the good of the community. We are indebted to them for this. They attend regular meetings to make decisions on the various projects we undertake.

As of May last year, we have been up and running, with all our Council and committee meetings being held remotely via ZOOM, at the usual time of 7pm on a Thursday. Some decisions must be made by the Full Council, which meets usually every 6 weeks. However, a lot of the detail is determined at committee level; our councillors sit on at least one committee as well as being obliged to attend the meetings of the Full Council. We have three committees - Village & Infrastructure (VI), Amenities and Strategy & Finance. They all have delegated authority to consider planning applications, and more can be found out about the committees responsibilities here:
<https://www.holmeschapelparishcouncil.gov.uk/council>

The VI and Amenities committees meet between each Council meeting, with Strategy & Finance convening once per quarter and for budget setting.

Agendas for all our meetings are published three working days before the meeting - on a Friday usually - and are available both on this website:
<https://www.holmeschapelparishcouncil.gov.uk/meetings> as well as being displayed on the noticeboard by the office. All of these meetings are public, and there is provision at every meeting to hear from members of the public who wish to come along and raise any issues or concerns with the Parish Council.

The minutes from the meeting are published as soon as possible after the meeting and normally are on the website by the middle of the following week.

We are always pleased for residents to get involved and are happy to welcome members of the public at any of our meetings.

Holmes Chapel Partnership Annual General Meeting Monday 19th April 2021 at 7.30 p.m. Via Zoom

This year our AGM will take place as a Zoom meeting, if you wish to attend please click on the link below to register.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUsd-6srzkjGNFY-08Of2P4Uuux0UzEMFij>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. The [AGM for the meeting can be downloaded here](#)

**Peter Whiers
Project Officer
Holmes Chapel Partnership**

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

We know that as new houses get built young families move in, as Holmes Chapel is a great place to raise children. Children grow up and move away to lead their own lives but the parents stay on because our village still has a lot offer. We would like to run a series of stories on what has happened to the young people who once called Holmes Chapel their home. It is of interest to those who once knew them and perhaps an inspiration to the current generation of youngsters. If you would like to let us know about the later lives of young people who grew up here, please get in touch with news@hccpartnership.org.uk. Oh and in case you are wondering, we might get in touch with Harry Styles but then again we all know what he is doing!



Sam at Primary School

Our first **Where are they now?** candidate is Sam Jackson. Thank you Sam!



Sam Jackson

Professional singer Samuel Jackson was brought up in Holmes Chapel, attending Hermitage Primary School and HCCS. As a child, he was taught piano by Christine Jones and sang in the Choir of St Luke's Church for many years. After studying with renowned singing teacher Patrick McGuigan, he successfully auditioned to study at Manchester's Royal Northern College of Music in 2012. He graduated from the RNCM in 2016 with first class honours, and in 2018 with a masters in vocal performance. Recent professional engagements include chorus roles with Opera North, Buxton International Festival and The National G&S Opera Company, as well as appearing as a soloist alongside choral societies across the country. This November, Sam will appear alongside the Holmes Chapel Singers for a performance of Handel's *Messiah*.

Sam also teaches voice and piano in a number of local schools, including Alsager School, Congleton High and Sale Grammar School. He also runs a thriving teaching practice from his home in Alsager, teaching singing and piano pupils of all ages.

In 2019, Sam begun to organise concerts and events in Holmes Chapel performing alongside his wife Jess, who is also a classically trained singer. The first of these was a performance of songs from the shows, featuring both Opera and Musical Theatre. The second was a traditional carol concert followed by a Christmas cabaret. Both events attracted large audiences. Throughout lockdown, Sam and his wife Jess have staged several online concerts via Facebook and later zoom. Sam is hoping to produce more live events in the near future both in Holmes Chapel and Alsager, where he and Jess now live.



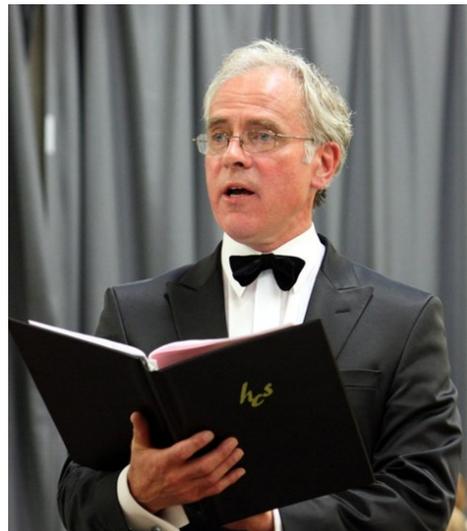
Sam Jackson & Christine Jones

NEW CHAIRMAN FOR HOLMES CHAPEL SINGERS

Holmes Chapel Singers were formed from the Holmes Chapel Operatic and Dramatic Society in 1985. We usually perform 3 concerts each year, aided by professional soloists and instrumentalists. Musical Director is Jayne Guest. After a year of lockdown she has just announced the programme for the forthcoming concerts - starting with Handel's Messiah to be performed at St Luke's Church on 27th November.

After many years of distinguished service, Mike Oliver has retired as Chair of Holmes Chapel Singers. At the AGM Steve Best was elected to replace Mike as Chair. Mike however is not abandoning the Singers altogether as he remains a much valued member of the bass section. Steve has been a tenor in the Singers since 1994 when he moved to Holmes Chapel. He also sings with a number of other choirs, including St Christopher Chorale, the Methodist Church choir, and Hallé Choir.

Jayne is making plans to resume rehearsals in June - in accordance with government guidelines, and as long as it's safe to do so. Rehearsals are on Tuesdays at The Hermitage School or the Methodist Church, from 8pm to 10pm. New members will be very welcome.



**Steve Best
New Chair of
Holmes Chapel Singers**

Five reasons why you should come and join Holmes Chapel Singers

- ◆ Sing uplifting classical and contemporary music under the direction of our inspirational MD, Jayne Guest.
- ◆ Enjoy the quality of our professional soloists and musicians.
- ◆ Meet new friends over our interval cuppa, come along for a drink at the George and Dragon after rehearsal and engage in our social events.
- ◆ Learn how to sing and/ or improve your technique.
- ◆ There are no auditions, you just need to enjoy choral music!
- ◆ More details from stevebest50@hotmail.com or 07875 765411 And for more about the choir, visit the website <https://www.holmeschapelsingers.co.uk/>

And singing is good for you!

HOLMES CHAPEL CHILDREN TAKE ON VIRTUAL SPONSORED WALK AROUND ENGLAND!



Sisters Megan (9) and Robyn Kozyra (6) take part in the virtual walk

Pupils from Holmes Chapel Primary School are raising their fitness levels as they return to school, by walking the counties of England virtually!

Organised by the school's PTA to raise funds for new outdoor equipment, the sponsored initiative allows the children to log their daily steps on journeys to and from school and when out with family. Every step contributes towards the walk as the children virtually visit every county in England.

So far the children have collectively walked over 1 million miles from the start in Lancashire, criss-crossing the northern counties, to their current position in Shropshire.

The PTA is now calling on family and friends of the school to sponsor the children in reaching the end of the journey with just over 2 million more steps to go!

"The closure of schools in January scuppered many of the fundraising activities we had planned for the start of 2021" commented Annabell Barnfather, co-chair of the PTA. "As we did last year, we have had to come up with more creative ideas so we can continue to provide the extra-curricular items and experiences that our children so deserve.

"The virtual walk a fantastic fundraising initiative in both encouraging the pupils to be physically active while also educating them about the counties of England. Please sponsor our children and give them the extra spring in their steps to complete this momentous challenge!"

To sponsor the children visit: <https://worldwalking.org/fundraising/b3eu8>

For further information please contact:
Karoline Peach
HCPS PTA
07760133004

OPENING OF CONGLETON LINK ROAD

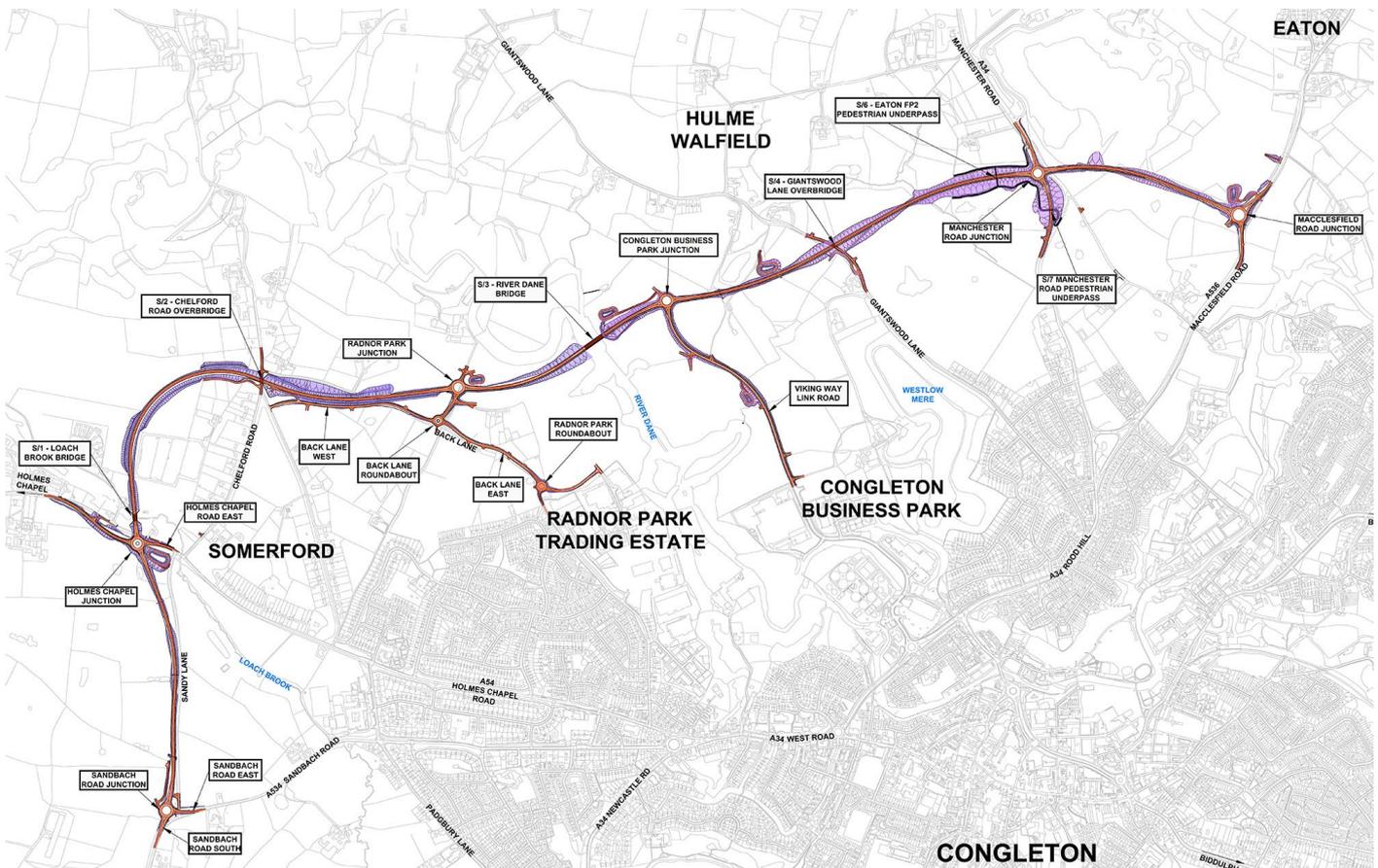


The 5.5km Congleton link road will open for the public to walk and cycle along on 16th April, before opening to vehicles on 19th April. Take the opportunity of a traffic-free cycle or walk – it doesn't happen often!



The project has been named Wolstenholme Elmy Way – after Congleton's famous pioneering educationalist and campaigner for votes for women, Elizabeth Clarke Wolstenholme Elmy. The opening to traffic will be marked by a small Covid-secure ribbon-cutting ceremony followed by local classic cars enthusiasts driving their vehicles along the route for the first time.

Cheshire East Council is contributing £24m towards the scheme with central government and developer contributions meeting the balance of the £90m project. Let's see whether it reduces the number of vehicles travelling through Holmes Chapel – especially HGVs.



HOLMES CHAPEL ECUMENICAL CHRISTIAN AID GROUP Giving thanks for our vaccines



Here in Holmes Chapel, as more of our family, friends, and neighbours receive their COVID vaccinations, we rejoice and are glad that our loved ones are protected. We give thanks for all the NHS staff and key workers who continue to save lives across the UK.

For the poorest and most vulnerable communities across the world, there is little hope of a vaccine rollout. These people already face a lack of water, food, and healthcare.

Christian Aid is already on the ground, helping keep people safe from coronavirus with practical support – but with your gift of thanks we can do more.

Have you or your loved ones had your vaccine?

Please give thanks with a donation to help protect our global neighbours while the vaccine is out of reach.

Our group in Holmes Chapel have set up an online giving page with Tap Simple on this link:

<https://cutt.ly/HolmesChapel>

TapSimple is the online payment method preferred by Christian Aid Head Office, and whilst it has a small charge similar to Just Giving, the charge covers the cost of keeping the payment information safe and secure online under GDPR regulations.

Any queries or questions please speak to your Christian Aid representative or phone Caroline Wood on 01477 535746 (Holmes Chapel Christian Aid Co-ordinator).

Thank you for taking the time to read this article in anticipation of your kind support for the very important work of Christian Aid.

COME AND BE A FRIEND TO THE DANE MEADOW!

The Friends of Dane Meadow meet once a month and have a bit of a work session – we rake the paths clear of leaves in the Autumn, we tend to the new trees planted just before lockdown last year and generally do what we see needs doing. Usually we meet on the second Tuesday of the month at the picnic tables at 10am and take it from there – an hour of work and chat ensues, to the benefit of all.



Our next session is **April 6th** and we have some woodchip to transport and improve the path by the shady pond. If you would like a bit of fresh air and a workout, do join us! 10am at the picnic tables.

EASTER WILL BE LOCKED DOWN AGAIN



This time last year it is a good job we didn't know that we would still be living a restricted life due to Covid one year down the line. There have been positives - and one of those is the way our community has innovated in order to carry on.

One of these innovations last year was the Cross set up on Easter Sunday in the Sensory Garden. The gesture was much appreciated by the community, so the same will happen this year. The cross will be in place on Easter Sunday only.

The Easter good wishes and the cross in 2020.

THE CLONTER FAIR Sunday 5th September 2021

CLONTER

CALLING ALL ARTISAN STALLHOLDERS!

With the gentle easing of national restrictions we are hopeful that we will be able to go ahead with our annual family day out and fundraiser on Sunday 5th September.

It is a lovely day out with artisan craft and food stalls, family games, car booters, classic cars and musical entertainment throughout the day.



The fair takes place at Clonter Opera Theatre, Swettenham Heath.

If you would like a stall please email events@clonter.org for more info and to book your pitch.

ELECTIONS - MAY 6TH 2021

Voting is taking place in the Dane Valley Ward to elect the Police and Crime Commissioner. Because of Covid concerns the Polling Stations will not be in schools. The following changes have been made:

For Dane Valley: **Holmes Chapel Community Centre, Station Road CW4 8AA** instead of HC Comprehensive School

For Brereton Rural: **Holmes Chapel Library, London Road CW4 7AP** instead of Brereton Primary School

Polling cards are being distributed from 25 March, which will carry details of the new venues. All electors affected by these changes will also receive an additional leaflet with their polling card, pointing out the change of location, and reminding them of the option to choose to vote by post.

Information about the candidates available to date:



[Jo Conachie](#)
Liberal Democrats

The official candidate list has not yet been published. However, we expect at least **4 candidates** to stand in the Cheshire Constabulary Police force area. The official candidate list should be published on 9 April 2021.



[John Dwyer](#)
Conservative
and Unionist Party

Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) are elected to hold the police to account. They have responsibility for their police force's finance, and can appoint or dismiss the Chief Constable.



[Nicholas Goulding](#)
Reform UK

Once elected, each PCC must produce a Police and Crime Plan, which sets their force's strategic direction.



[David Keane](#)
Labour and
Co-operative Party

Find out more about Police and Crime Commissioners at the [Choose my PCC website](#).

“U3A AIR WAVES” Programmes for April 2021



Holmes Chapel & District u3a is continuing its partnership with Dane Sound Radio with a new series of programmes under the banner “u3a Air Waves”. There is a mix of music programmes and “magazine”-style programmes.



“**u3a Jazz with Peter Shields**” is a 2-hour programme of music from Peter's personal collection, with spoken commentary about each selection.

A Jazz Appreciation interest group has been posted on the u3a website.

The broadcast is at **8.00pm on Tuesday 6th April repeating at 8.00pm on Tuesday 20th April.**

To Listen in, simply go to www.danesound.com and click on “Listen Live”.



“**u3a Americana & Country with Roy Rawlinson**”

is a 1-hour programme of Country Rock, Bluegrass, and Electric Folk with spoken commentary about each selection.

The broadcast is at **8.00pm on Tuesday 13th April, repeating at 8pm on Tuesday 27th April.**

To Listen in, simply go to www.danesound.com and click on “Listen Live”.

u3a Air Waves “Insights”

Monday 10:00-12:00 & Saturday 16:00-18:00



**News;
Updates; Stories
& Features**



Debra Cummins; Heather Jones; Shena Lewington;
Roy Rawlinson; Peter Shields: Valerie White

The third offering in April is our “**Insights**” magazine programme, a mix of news, readings, music, stories and features, all prepared and recorded by our u3a members and interest groups.

The 2-hour broadcast is at
10:00am on Monday 19th April, repeating at 4:00pm on Saturday 24th April.

To listen in, go to www.danesound.com and click on “Listen Live”.

You can listen on Alexa by saying
“Play Dane Sound Community Radio”

We do hope that you can join us – happy listening!
For more information go to: www.holmeschapelu3a.org.uk

HOLMES CHAPEL RAILWAY STATION CORNER

“April has put a spirit of youth in everything” William Shakespeare.



I am delighted to see all the signs of Spring after what seems to have been a long and wet Winter under the shadow of the Pandemic. The Station planting is coming to life including the daffodils and the hellebore.



A short walk down to the Holmes Chapel Viaduct along the River Dane reminds us of our beautiful Village setting.



NEWS

Northern are busy with their plans to promote the benefits of rail travel as the Pandemic restrictions begin to lift and I hope to be able to share some of their (and our) ideas soon! In the meantime we are trying to make Holmes Chapel Railway Station as pleasant to use as possible. Journeys are only permissible for essential prescribed purposes. There is one train per hour to Manchester via Stockport and one train per hour to Crewe stopping at Sandbach.

It is good to see the freight trains and other unusual movements through the Station.



Class 37 storming through the Station on the 16th March 2021. Some 309 of these locomotives were built between 1960 and 1965. Manufactured by English Electric in Newton-le-Willows at the Vulcan Foundry Ltd and Robert Stephenson & Hawthorns Ltd of Darlington (becoming part of English Electric in 1955). The sound of a class 37 diesel-electric locomotive is heart warming!



Class 66 hauling empty stone wagons. The 66s are endearingly known as 'sheds' because the front looks like a garden shed.

Tony Wright

WHO CAN GROW THE TALLEST SUNFLOWER?



Your Holmes Chapel Partnership Team will be handing out sunflower seedlings in pots for free. You collect and grow on and let us know the results – with appropriate photographic evidence, of course.

Collect your junior sunflower plant from the Sensory Garden from 10am on Saturday May 1st and get nurturing it!

HOLMES CHAPEL EASTER TRAIL

By popular demand, Dane Sound Community Radio will be running the Holmes Chapel Easter Trail 1st - 11th April.

Search out the Easter Chicks (as picture shown) in the village shop windows.

Trail Blazers - email contact@daneshound.com for more information and a form to keep a record of your finds.

Another fun, safe, family event for Holmes Chapel.

Listen in at www.daneshound.com

Your local Community Radio Station, *run by your community for the community.*

