



# Holmes Chapel Partnership Community Newsletter Issue 74: October 2020

## WELCOME TO OUR OCTOBER NEWSLETTER!

### Safe Walking Routes to School

We have heard from lots of you about the hazards of walking to school. See inside for an update. There is still time for you to have your say!



We have our usual **Spotlight on ...** section. This month we are focusing on Social Groups.

The Sensory Garden in the village is still full of colour but our Virtual Gardens page will soon be going into hibernation.



**Active Travel** is still on the agenda but it's going to be a long and winding road! See inside for an update



We have had a wonderful spell of weather in September but it seems as though Covid 19 liked it just as much as we did and has taken the opportunity to get out and about! "Back to normal by Christmas" now seems like an impossible dream as we are now looking at 6 months of restrictions. This has put paid to our plans for the usual Christmas Market but we are very much hoping that Santa can still get out and about on his sleigh in December - more information about that in the November issue.

Our programme of events supporting people living with dementia has had to be put on hold as well but you can still support the Alheimers' Society - see details inside.

In this issue we also have updates from the Parish Council, the Station and the U3A, whilst Fiona Bruce alerts us to the Kick Start initiative and the British Legion reminds us of Remembrance Sunday.

With best wishes from  
**Your Partnership Team**

# SPOTLIGHT ON...Social Groups

## HOLMES CHAPEL CINEMA



Holmes Chapel Community Cinema was set up to bring big screen movie entertainment to the village!

With the help of a start-up grant from the Parish Council we showed our first film **Belle** in 2014 in the Vic Club before moving to the Community Centre in 2016 where we have shown over 50 fantastic films to village residents.

We try to cater for a wide range of movie tastes and have shown films as diverse as WW2 war drama **Dunkirk**, hilarious comedy **Bridget Jones's Baby**, action spectacular **Spectre** and the feel-good favourite **Mamma Mia! – Here We go again!**



Our movie season runs from September to May and we show one movie a month, normally on a Thursday evening, at the Community Centre. Tickets cost £5 and are available from the Community Centre and Holmes Gifts and Interiors on Church Walk in the village centre. We partner with a company called Reels on Wheels who provide a cinema quality large screen, projection and sound for an immersive cinema experience. We can seat up to 160 people in a screening and before the film you are welcome to buy drinks and snacks from the Community Centre bar. We think we have the country's best behaved cinema audience – so if talking and mobile phones annoy you, you may find our dark, quiet screening are just what you are looking for!



The community cinema is run by a small group of volunteers and we are always on the look out for new members to help arrange and publicise our events, check tickets and act as ushers at the screenings. If you are interested in joining our small friendly team let us know via Facebook or by saying hello at one of our screenings.



To keep up to date with the latest news and screening times you can follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/HolmesChapelCommunityCinema>, visit our Web Page <http://www.hc3.co.uk/> or read our noticeboard which is on the wall outside Holmes Chapel Library.

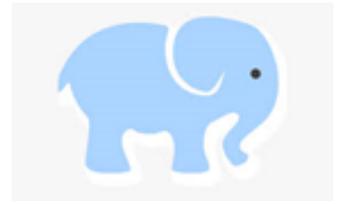
Unfortunately, due to Covid19 social distancing requirements, the cinema cannot show films at the moment but we are hoping to be running again in 2021.

In the words of Arnold Schwarzenegger – We'll be back!

# SPOTLIGHT ON...Social Groups

## BUMPS, BABES & TODDLERS

During normal times this group for pre schoolers and parents/carers meets every Monday morning from 9.30 – 11 in the Methodist Church hall.



It is run by a committee of parents and provides play equipment, including slides and see saws, role play - dressing up clothes, toy kitchen, garage, etc along with jigsaws and a craft table with a different craft each week, painting, glueing, colouring, etc.

There is a baby room with play mats, cushions and baby toys and visits from breast feeding consultants.

A snack is provided mid morning which is served by volunteers from the church and each session finishes with the children sitting in a circle singing nursery rhymes while the toys are cleared away.

Helpers for the various tasks and the committee are always needed and new visitors are made very welcome. We hope this very happy group can restart as soon as it is safe to do so.

### During the present crisis:

BBT cannot of course run at the moment and there is concern for new mothers who have given birth during lockdown and since. BBT carers are very aware how difficult this has been and would like help.

In conjunction with the church we hope to provide packs for new families with a congratulations card, a small gift and contact details for people and organisations that could help as well as information about when BBT will reopen. If you would like to access this help, or know someone who would benefit please contact Julia Tomes, Children's and Family Lay Worker for the Methodist Church – [julia.tomes51@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:julia.tomes51@hotmail.co.uk) 01606 738478.



### Church Mice

On the first Monday of the month, as BBT finishes, the children are invited into the church worship area to help find some mice that have escaped and are hiding there. (Cute knitted ones in case you wondered!) When they find them they bring them to hear a 3 minute Bible story before tucking them up in bed for another month. A quick extra for those who wish to stay.

## SAFER WALKING ROUTES TO SCHOOL

Holmes Chapel Partnership has had a massive response to its new campaign for Safer Walking Routes to School launched on its website last month. We have had reports of dangerous situations via **SWRTS@hpartnership.org.uk** from residents on all the housing developments built on the fringes of Holmes Chapel.



Liz Alcock started the ball rolling with her campaign earlier in the year for a safe way to walk along **Macclesfield Road** to the Hermitage Primary School from Saltersford Gardens. We have had further emails of support for the campaign expressing anxiety about using the footpath to get from home to school:

*"I find it hard to negotiate a pram and a five year old safely over the bridge and across the road to school"*

*"The footpath is a nightmare – overgrown hedges and lorry wing mirrors overhanging the footpath"*

The footpath over the railway bridge at the station is for a short way separated from the traffic but that is no help when you have to get up to the bridge and down the other side:

*"It is an extremely unnerving to walk with my three and six year olds and indeed many parents who live on our estate refuse to do it"* writes a resident of the Brooklands development.

*"The pavement is so narrow I have always been worried about being hit by a wing mirror from a coach or lorry"* says another resident about negotiating **Station Road** on foot.

Then there is **Middlewich Road** and the problems experienced by residents of the Cottons Estate getting to the Primary School and the centre of Holmes Chapel. Residents report:

*"Children have to use the pedestrian crossing and then walk up a very busy main road getting buffeted by lorries on a very narrow path."*

This pedestrian crossing is in a 40mph rather than a 30mph zone:

*"The lights went red and the green man started flashing ... but the approaching car was going so fast I decided to wait and the car sped through the red light. If we had been following the rules of the road either I or my 7 year old would have been at best badly injured"*

According to the original plans presented in the public consultation there was meant to be a footpath linking the Cottons estate with Ravenscroft. Why was this never built? The residents of Ravenscroft (our CEC Ward Councillor included), when surveyed, were not keen on this link but surely they need to think beyond their own personal interest and be more community minded? Holmes Chapel Partnership is collating the evidence in order to support the Parish Council and make a case to Cheshire East Council for some urgent improvements to help the residents of Holmes Chapel get around safely on foot. What suggestions do you have? We would love to hear them!

## The Missing Road Sign

Still no explanation why the school sign which, on the evidence of Google maps, was once sited on a lamp post on the way down from the railway bridge is no longer there. Councillor Les Gilbert has enquired and has received a response: CEC are only replacing Give Way signs at busy junctions. This sign will be replaced when funding is available.



For traffic leaving the village centre and travelling east there is a warning sign that there is a school in the vicinity.



Once you get into Hermitage Drive there is a school sign which flashes at the start and end of school and imposes a 20 mph limit. Could you actually go more than 20 mph per hour down this road anyway? Especially at the start and finish of school. It would be far more use on Macclesfield Road to slow traffic down around the junction

For traffic heading downhill westwards towards the village centre there is no indication that there is a school nearby. This is the post where the sign should logically be. This is where families have to walk to get to school from Saltersford - there is no option. There is no pavement on the other side. We really would like to know why there is no sign!

There are currently two SIDs situated along this stretch. Every vehicle seemed to be doing at least 33mph as it descended the hill.

## REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

This will take place on Sunday November 8<sup>th</sup> but unfortunately due to the current restrictions there will be no parade.



## RECYCLE WITH ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY

It's National Recycling Week and we need YOU!

**Did you know that you can turn your old jewellery into funds to support people living with dementia?**



From cufflinks to costume jewellery and earrings to broaches, by sending us your unwanted items you could help transform somebody's life as well as doing some good for the planet.

For more information visit the website:  
[www.alzheimers.org.uk](http://www.alzheimers.org.uk)  
or email [recycling@alzheimers.org.uk](mailto:recycling@alzheimers.org.uk).

## PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE



### Conservation Area Appraisal

The Parish Council is delighted to have been awarded a grant from the Neighbourhood Planning Programme to fund a Conservation Area Appraisal. The original Conservation Area was designated in 1975 and has not been re-appraised since, so this is a good opportunity for it to be revisited. Kirsty from Henderson Heritage will be carrying out the appraisal, and we look forward to sharing the results with residents.

### Picton Square

Holmes Chapel Parish Council is looking to fund some improvements to Picton Square, to create a pleasant, quiet area that residents can enjoy. We would like to understand what residents, especially those who live on or near Picton Square wish to see improved in that area.

We would be grateful if you could take the time to complete the questionnaire, which can be found online at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/pictonsquare>

### Community Support

Don't forget that if you need some help with basic errands such as food shopping or prescription collection, please contact the Parish Office on 01477 533 934 (lines generally are open 9am to 1pm Mondays to Fridays) or email [Clerk@holmeschapelparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Clerk@holmeschapelparishcouncil.gov.uk) and we can link you up with a trusted volunteer for help.

### Parish Council meetings

Interested to read about items discussed and decisions made by the Parish Council? Minutes and Agendas for all Full Council and Committee Meetings can be accessed through the website:

<https://www.holmeschapelparishcouncil.gov.uk/meetings>

## HOLMES CHAPEL AND DISTRICT U3A 10TH ANNIVERSARY



In November this year HC&D U3A celebrates its' 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It has grown from an idea into a vibrant organisation with 675 members (at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020), drawn from Holmes Chapel, Goostrey, Cranage, Swettenham, Middlewich, Sandbach, Knutsford and places further afield. It offers companionship, social events and learning opportunities through a wide range of activities including walking, ping-pong, bowls, pilates, darts, bridge, book groups, art, French, crafts, local history, a science and technology group, and many more.

The Covid-19 crisis has inevitably affected many of our activities. However, groups have continued to meet using Zoom, and in back gardens. As constraints are eased, the U3A is coming back to life. Outdoor groups, such as walking and golf, are well underway, and with local venues beginning to reopen, indoor activities will restart over the coming weeks. We have a lot of events planned for our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Extensive tree planting has been carried out in Dane Meadow and a U3A flower bed is now in place in Holmes Chapel. Watch out for a U3A banner, which will soon appear in various locations. We are working towards a series of broadcasts on Dane Sound Radio, and an anniversary tree will be planted in Holmes Chapel. Some events have, of necessity, been postponed to 2021: for example, a U3A "showcase" meeting; a mass walk engaging multiple groups of walkers around the Holmes Chapel area, and an evening celebration with live music.

We are restarting Monthly Meetings on Zoom (*members only*):

*8<sup>th</sup> October at 10:00am* Our member Keith Stevens will give a timely Zoom presentation entitled "Covid-19: Did We Have to Shoot Ourselves in the Foot?" As with all Keith's presentations, it will be well researched, informative, and entertaining. There will be opportunities to ask questions. You will, of course, have to provide your own coffee and biscuits! *12<sup>th</sup> November at 10:00am* Join us for a fun gathering on Zoom to mark our tenth anniversary in the company of "Fool's Gold", a duo who will entertain us with a variety of musical instruments and explain the history and mystery of the songs they sing. Check them out at [www.foolsgoldacoustic.co.uk](http://www.foolsgoldacoustic.co.uk)

You are able to join the U3A if you are over 50. Take a look at our website, [www.holmeschapelu3a.org.uk](http://www.holmeschapelu3a.org.uk) where you will find more detail, our latest monthly newsletter, and joining instructions: a bargain at £5 for 2020/21 membership. You will find our U3A to be friendly and welcoming – do join us, and get involved!

**Peter D Shields, Membership Secretary**

## NEWS FROM DANE SOUND COMMUNITY RADIO



### Join in the fun at Christmas with the Holmes Chapel Community Christmas - Lights Up!

Residents & Businesses  
across the  
Dane Sound area of  
Holmes Chapel  
Goostrey &  
Cranage  
are all welcome to  
Join in the fun!

27th November  
To  
January 2021

**'Light's Up'**  
for bright &  
cheerful villages

[www.danesound.com](http://www.danesound.com)

### TO JOIN IN:

Register with the event on Facebook - **'Holmes Chapel Community Christmas-Lights Up!'**  
or email [contact@danessound.com](mailto:contact@danessound.com)

Complete the online form, return with your contact details including your address.

Send across a photo of your display or let us know it is active so we can add it to our gallery.

Then the fun begins - "Santa's Little Helpers" along with their families can find the displays using the google map.

A fun, contactless, safe and free event for all our community!

## THE TOY APPEAL



**The Toy Appeal** is a local registered charity operated by Dee & Chris Drake from Twemlow. Since 2013 they have provided a sack of toys to thousands of children who are living in poverty in Cheshire and the North West. Social workers, schools, women's refuges, food banks and drop-in centres can refer a child or family to the Appeal, who will ensure that they have presents to open on Christmas morning.

The Appeal is supported by many volunteers and businesses in Holmes Chapel & Goostrey, and would now normally be accepting donations of new toys for the sacks. However, due to COVID-19 they have had to take the decision not to accept toy donations this year. This comes at a time when requests for help have never been higher. There are at least 5000 children relying on the charity this Christmas and they desperately need to raise as much income as possible in order to purchase the toys.

*"We appreciate times are hard for many people right now, and that everyone may not be in a position to help, but if you can, please donate. We spend £25 per toy sack for each child. We are run by a team of volunteers, meaning every penny donated goes directly to the purchase and distribution of the toy sacks", says Dee.*

If you would like to support this wonderful charity please visit their Just Giving page and donate what you can. <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/2020ToyAppeal>. You can find more information on their website at: [www.thetoyappeal.com](http://www.thetoyappeal.com).

## PRESS RELEASE FROM FIONA BRUCE MP

### MP urges businesses to sign up to landmark employment scheme



Local businesses are being urged to help both themselves and young people by backing the government's new Kickstart scheme.

This is a new £2 billion initiative which aims to create thousands of new jobs across England and help breathe life back into the economy after the coronavirus pandemic.

Under the Kickstart scheme businesses can benefit by offering unemployed people aged 16-24 on Universal Credit a six-month work placement which is to be fully funded by the Government.

The Government will pay 100 per cent of the young persons' age-relevant national minimum wage, national insurance and pension contributions for 25 hours a week, which the employer can choose to top up if that would help them. In addition, the Government will also pay employers an one-off £1500 contribution for each young person they take on, to support any training or associated costs of setting up the scheme.

The scheme will initially be open until December 2021, but there is the option for it to be extended. Young people will be referred into the new roles through their Job Centre Plus work coach with the first Kickstarts expected to begin at the start of November.

There is a proviso that young people should be taken on to the Kickstart Scheme in groups of 30 and where a single employer cannot take on 30 people Fiona Bruce MP is looking to connect smaller local businesses into a consortium as local employers are allowed to group together under the scheme.

Local employers are invited to contact the office of Fiona Bruce MP via [harriet.crompton@parliament.uk](mailto:harriet.crompton@parliament.uk).

For more information please contact  
Fiona Bruce MP - 01260 274044  
[Fiona.bruce.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:Fiona.bruce.mp@parliament.uk)

## ACTIVE TRAVEL



The lockdown period earlier this year brought the traffic situation into stark relief: residents could suddenly cycle and walk safely along our roads without being intimidated by accelerating cars, HGVs hugging the edges of the roads and speeding tractors and trailers. We wanted to do better for our community! Holmes Chapel Partnership together with



the Parish Council applied for the government's Active Travel funding to enable residents to carry on walking and cycling on our roads.

However, one Holmes Chapel resident writes:

*"We had been cycling and walking more as a family during lockdown and are sad to see how much the traffic has increased recently. It has put us off cycling locally and we now travel more outside the village to do family bike rides ...which adds to the traffic on the roads and lunch, ice creams etc are bought elsewhere."*

As related in the previous Community Newsletter Holmes Chapel has not so far benefitted from any of this funding as it has all gone to the surrounding towns. I have had exchanges with Councillor Laura Crane who is the Portfolio Holder for Highways on Cheshire East Council on this subject. Our MP Fiona Bruce was included in one of these, as she was also querying the way some of the Active Travel money was being spent.

There has now been a response from The Cheshire East Highways Team:

**Reducing speed limits to 20mph:** "we do recognise the importance of this in appropriate areas however this scheme would not be funded by the emergency active travel fund" It seems a strange response when this was one of the specific suggestions of the Active Travel document put out by the Department of Transport.

Apparently " this suggestion will be fed into a parallel process of developing Local Transport Plans (LTP) that set out priority schemes to be delivered between 2020 and 2024, where funding allows"

So don't hold your breath, folks!

Nevertheless " Cheshire East Council is committed to engaging with stakeholders in relation to the LTP and consultation is scheduled to take place between October and November this year . We will engage with Holmes Chapel Parish Council and Holmes Chapel Partnership in relation to transport measures that are need locally."

Let's see what October and November bring.

**Hazel Sutcliffe**  
**Chair Holmes Chapel Partnership**

## CHESHIRE EAST BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Notice of temporary closure

S14 (2) ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Cheshire East Borough Council in exercise of its powers under Section 14 (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers issues this notice temporarily to prohibit traffic in the following length of road:-

**Brookfield Drive, Dane Valley Ward, Holmes Chapel, CW4 7 for its full extent.**

The alternative route will be via the following streets: - Middlewich Road, Chester Road  
Location Map - <https://one.network/?tm=118892348>

Pedestrian / cyclist access to any premises situated within the temporary closure will be maintained at all times. Vehicular access will be maintained for emergency vehicles and residents where possible.

The closure is necessary to enable Cheshire East Highways to carry out drainage repairs.

**It is anticipated that the works will take place on the following date(s): Monday 5th October 2020 to Wednesday 7th October 2020.**

This notice will become operative on Monday 5th October 2020 for a period of 5 days or for such less time as is necessary to enable the works to be completed.

If you have any enquiries relating to the works please contact Cheshire East Highways.

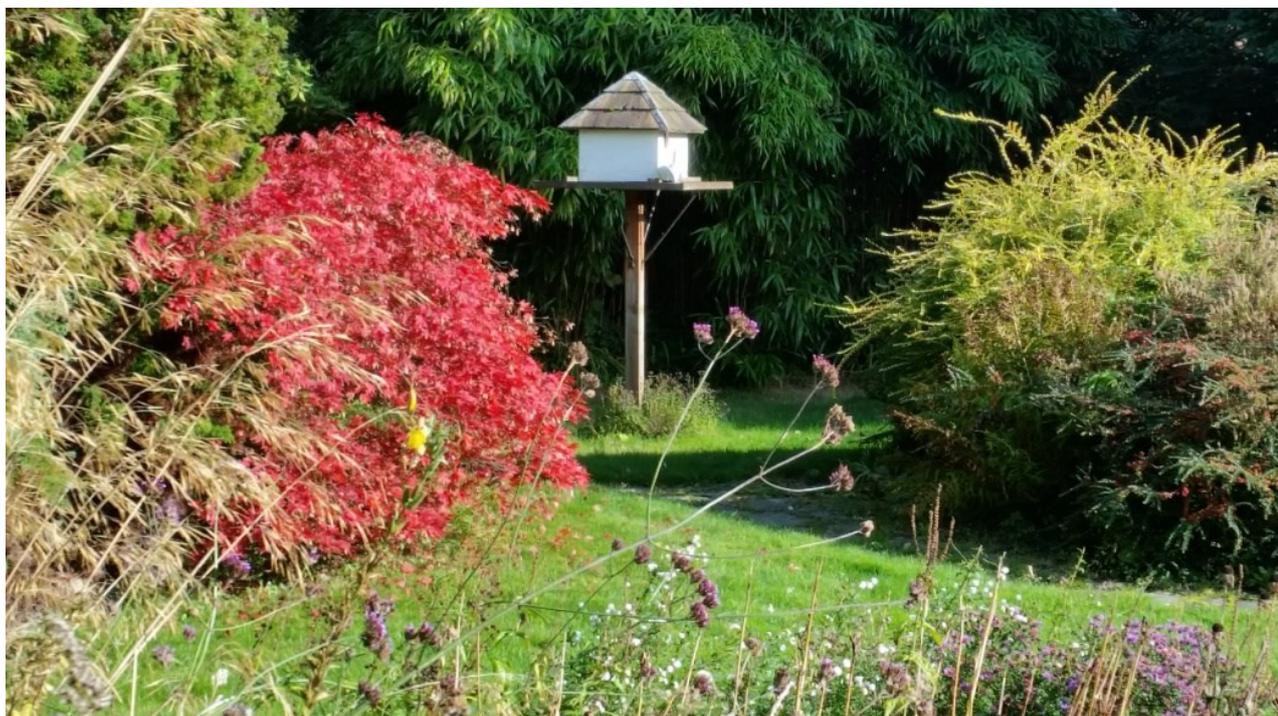
## BONFIRE & FIREWORK DISPLAY

Due to COVID-19 and Government Guidelines the Victoria Club have confirmed that this year's bonfire & firework display will unfortunately not go ahead.



## VIRTUAL GARDENS WAVE GOODBYE

As winter approaches and the plants die back, we will be packing up our Virtual Gardens page on the website from the end of October. Many thanks to everyone who took part: they brightened up our lives during lockdown and beyond. We are very much hoping that next year we will be able to stage a real tour of real gardens!



Autumn colours and the last of summer. The birds shouldn't go hungry!



## HOLMES CHAPEL RAILWAY STATION CORNER

### We Now Have Our Full Train Service Again After 6 months!

I am very pleased to say that we have had our full train timetable restored with trains running twice an hour to Manchester Piccadilly and Crewe. Trains depart at one minute past the hour to Manchester Piccadilly (stopping at Goostrey, Chelford, Alderley Edge, Wilmslow, Handforth, Cheadle Hulme, Stockport, Heaton Chapel, Levenshulme and Manchester Piccadilly).

And 28 minutes past the hour to Piccadilly (stopping at Alderley Edge, Wilmslow, Styal, Manchester Airport, Heald Green, Gatley, East Didsbury, Burnage, Mauldeth Road and Manchester Piccadilly) - one interesting trip is to catch the train to Styal, visit the National Trust (Quarry Bank Mill), walk down by the river to Wilmslow & catch the train back to Holmes Chapel.

Trains to Crewe (stopping at Sandbach) depart at 28 minutes past the hour and 41 minutes past the hour.

The usual advice: check before you travel! I use the National Rail app or ask Graham, the Station Master.

Talking of Graham, here he is in playful mood (although a little scary with his themed mask) but with the serious message of the need to wear a mask at all times when at the station and travelling on the trains. He also kindly posed for a photograph by one of our new mangers.



Through generous funding from the Community Rail Partnership via our very supportive Community Rail Officer we have been able to restore and paint four mangers, line & add compost and fill them with dianthus and pansies. On both the Crewe and Manchester platforms - to hopefully brighten up your day!

**Tony Wright**

# Shop locally

Put your money where your house is

Holmes Chapel

