



Holton & Blyford Post

January/February 2018

Issue No 98

YOUR VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

VILLAGE HALL EVENTS

The village hall is in the heart of the village surrounded by open space. The committee organises regular events, such as the very popular Classic Car Day in the summer and the Fashion Show in the autumn, to raise much needed funds for running and refurbishing the hall. Forthcoming events are publicised in the Holton & Blyford Post, other local press and on Facebook.

The following regular activities also take place:

Art Group: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays each month 2pm – 5pm (except July, August and December)

Badminton Club: Every Tuesday 7.30pm – 9.30pm

Big Breakfast: 1st Sunday each month (except Easter Sunday, July & August)

Bingo: Every other Thursday 7.30pm

Fear Naught Boot Camp: Every Monday and Wednesday 7pm – 8pm

Pop-up Pub: Last Friday each month 7.30pm (except January)

U3A: 3rd Tuesday each month 2pm – 4pm

The village hall is available for private functions and is licensed for the sale of alcohol.

To make a booking or for further details please contact 07756 916577 or holtonandblyfordvillagehall@hotmail.com.

Committee officials

Chair: Hilary Garner 01986 874541

Treasurer: Philip Mills 01986 875932

Secretary: Helen Fensom 01986 873575

Dates for your 2018 diary.

Sunday 29th April

We will be running an **Antiques and Collectables Valuation Day** in conjunction with Durrants Sales rooms in Beccles. It will feature afternoon tea and run from 2.0.p.m. – 4.30.p.m. Up to 3 items for valuation for £2.

Sunday June 17th The Classic Car day, free entry for cars and visitors.



Is YOUR CHILD STARTING SCHOOL IN 2018?

Children born between 1st September 2013 and 31st August 2014 are due to start school in September 2018. All parents need to apply for a place for their child even if they are living in the catchment area of their desired school. If you have not already applied for a place the closing date is **Monday 15th January 2018**. Applications are made directly to Suffolk County Council either on line at www.suffolk.gov.uk/onlineadmissions or by filling in a form (CAF1) which must be returned to the Admissions Team (Tel 0345 600 0981) at Suffolk County Council (not the school to which you are applying). All schools have a limited number of places available in each year group – This is called the Published Admission Number (PAN) and this year the PAN for Holton School is 15 so if you wish your child to attend Holton please make sure your application is completed.

RACE NIGHT



The horses are coming out of the stables again for a Race night at Holton and Blyford Village Hall

Saturday 3rd February 7pm for 7.30
Bring your own drinks and nibbles

Tickets £4 from the Bookshop or ring Dot on 01986 872350

Please Support this very enjoyable evening while raising money for HCNCF

HOLTON SCHOOL NEWS

I am writing this in the last week of a very busy term which has flown by for all concerned.

In October we welcomed grandparents into the school for a Cream Tea, this proved to be a popular new initiative and will no doubt be repeated in the future.

In the last few weeks of term there has been the KS1 performance, Humph the Camel, which was brilliantly performed by all pupils in Piglets and Penguins to appreciative audiences. The children have also all enjoyed Christmas Parties, a Christmas Jumper day (I never realised there were so many different jumpers to be had!) and a Christmas Disco. Many thanks to Friends for organising many of these events and especially for making sure Father Christmas was able to attend the parties and bring a gift for every pupil – they all received a plate that they can decorate themselves.

I was privileged to attend the first Brass performance of the year by Jaguars. Considering the year 5 pupils have only been learning their instruments since September the performance they put on was most impressive. Mr Flack commented that out of the 5 schools he teaches, Holton was the most advanced in their playing. I am really looking forward to the next performance.

The Open the Book group also visited the school to act out the Christmas story to the whole school – many thanks to them for reminding us of the true meaning of Christmas.

As well as all the Christmas activities learning has been going on as usual and the end of term saw the launch of Rock Star Times tables which is a new scheme to promote learning of times tables. It is a scheme which will be done in school but pupils can practice at home too.

Friends held their first ever Christmas Fair in November. There was a good selection of stalls for people to browse and buy gifts - everything from crochet animals to jewellery to sweets. While adults were shopping there were games for children and a lovely craft corner to keep them busy. Many thanks to Mrs Thomson for allowing us to use the kitchen and making sure the supply of perfectly cooked hot dogs was never ending.

Many thanks too to Mrs Thomson for the splendid lunch she cooked for pupils as well as staff, governors and members of Friends – it was magnificent and there was a great atmosphere in the hall.

On Children in Need day everyone had the opportunity to wear something spotty and the whole school raised £300.

On behalf of pupils, staff and governors I wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Alison Hyden

THANK YOU

Pupils, staff and governors at Holton St Peter CP School would like to thank Mr and Mrs Stephenson of Woodside Farm for kindly donating a lovely Christmas tree.

It looked magnificent in the hall and added to the festive season especially for Christmas Lunch.

HOLTON SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PLAY





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ANOTHER THANK YOU

I'd like to say "a big thank you" for the wonderful display of lights in Orchard Valley, and for the beautifully decorated Christmas tree in Bill and Maxine's garden and Toni and Ash's tree opposite, all of which have given a lovely festive atmosphere to the village.

Gill Johnson

BE SAFE, BE SEEN!

That's the message from the Junior Road Safety Officers at Holton St Peter Primary School this winter. With the days drawing in, they have been raising the awareness throughout the school during assemblies as to the importance of wearing reflective or fluorescent clothing – whether walking home from the park or taking the dog for a walk. It is also very important for bike riders to make themselves clearly visible to other road users by remembering to use reflectors and bike lights too. For those living in areas where there are no footpaths and very little street light, extra care needs to be taken when out and about.

A "Be Safe Be Seen" colouring competition was run at the school and the winning entries from each class were displayed at the school's Christmas Fair which was held on Friday, 17th November. Fundraising for the East Anglian Air Ambulance was also undertaken by the Junior Road Safety Officers during the Christmas Fair and they would like to thank all those who donated to this very good cause!



WHY NOT SING?

Did you know that anyone can sing? That to sing is the easiest way to combat depression and create that "feel good factor"?

The second Wednesday in every month sees a group of people – men and women – get together and sing. We sing African, Maori, Portuguese, folk – in fact anything that can be sung as a round and learnt without being able to read music, by just voices.

Why not come and explore this fun version of music and movement. There is a free taster session on **Wednesday 10th January** and thereafter £6 per 2-hour session at Wangford Village Hall, starting at 10 am.

For more information contact Wendy on 01986 872590.

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Suffolk Libraries

MOBILE LIBRARY TIMETABLE

Greenbank	1245-1300
Lower Park Walk	1405-1420
Valley Close	1425-1445

Calling on 5 Jan, 2 Feb

MOBILE LIBRARY

Use it or lose it!

Did you know that the Suffolk Libraries mobile library visits your area regularly, giving access to hundreds of thousands of books, including large print, audiobooks and children's books? You can also hire CDs and DVDs for a small charge. If the items you want are not on the van you can reserve them from the library catalogue free of charge and have them delivered on the van at a later date. The staff are friendly and helpful, and offer a warm welcome to anyone who visits. The steps convert into a lift for those with limited mobility. This is a valuable service to rural and isolated communities who have lost many of their other local services, and can also be an opportunity to meet up with other people and catch up with the local goings on. Come along to visit us and help to keep this service running for YOUR community – all are welcome! Please do give the service your support – the more people use it the less likely we are to lose it.

Our route is Saxmundham mobile library route 16

HOLTON & BLYFORD POST

Our AGM was held at the Triple Plea on 30th November. The Chairman Geoff Cackett, thanked Chris and Maggie Whymark for taking over the production so enthusiastically and said that a successful year had concluded with our first colour issue. Sadly however, the bid for a grant from the Villages Community Fund had proved fruitless which meant that further colour editions would be limited to special occasions as they double the cost of each issue. Anne Holland, Treasurer, said that there was currently £1184 in the bank and we were very grateful for grants from both Blyford and Sotherton and Holton Parish Councils as well as a £100 donation from Spectra this year so things were looking healthy at the moment. However the printing costs are rising and the money will quickly diminish unless advertising is kept up. Thanks were given to our current, loyal advertisers without whom we would not be able to continue. It was decided that the advertising fee, which has never been raised, would remain at the rate of £10 per issue but the free insertion offered to regular advertisers each year could no longer be maintained.

Free delivery to every house in Holton continues and now includes houses in Blyford too, so we would like to thank the team of deliverers who undertake this task. There is always a need for more help so please contact Jim or Jackie Watts (01986 835752) if you can assist, even if only occasionally.

Don't forget – we need to publish a variety of topics to keep the paper interesting. So if you have any letters, articles or photos you would like printing, please email holtonpost@gmail.com or phone Maggie on 01986 469056.

Anne Holland

FROM WILD WEATHER TO CHANGING CLIMATE

As I write mid-December we've had a pretty rough weekend weather-wise, well Sunday in particular, here in North East Suffolk. Not exactly the snowy chaos that many other areas suffered though, often without a full meteorological warning either. And that's been preceded in these parts by one or two brief cold snaps with some sub-zero temperatures. One of these even had the temerity to strike in November. But in December....it's winter and.....we're surprised?

The broadcast media, written press and social media have all gone into hyperbolic overdrive and taken all previously sane weather forecasters with them into a bizarre world of frenzy, fear, and foreboding. Today's headlines sum it up:

Big freeze chaos to get worse

Black Ice Monday

Snow Bomb

In November we were warned (all by the same 'newspaper'):

Icy Blast to Sweep Britain

Arctic Blast Health Alert

Big Freeze to last a Month

Whilst there was a modicum of news/truth in some of these it did make me wonder whether we actually still accept that there are seasons, times of the year when temperatures diminish, it gets colder and we have to take precautions/make arrangements/act sensibly.

On the other hand there's another, far more important issue here. This is reasonably normal winter weather behaviour on the face of it but certain events are certainly becoming more common and extreme. Just reading or watching world news recently, there is a plethora of stories concerning severe weather events – forest fires, droughts and consequent famine, arctic ice melting more than it ever has in human times, devastating floods and landslides...the list is endless. Even in the 2 years I have lived in Suffolk there have been some dramatic episodes locally. I'm sure most will recall that July storm in 2016 which caused sudden flash flooding in Holton, roads becoming rivers as the drains couldn't cope and the electricity cut out for several hours in Blyford. Nearly every expert now agrees that climate change is responsible for many of the extreme events referred to. And much of this has been accelerated by human behaviour. Further afield some parts of the world are under threat from sea levels rising. Large areas of Bangladesh and various islands in the Indian Ocean for example could be submerged by sea water in the not too distant future. We may think this is just happening far away from our doorsteps and of little local concern but it really isn't.

We all know that the East Anglian coast is constantly and visibly being eroded. Anyone who regularly visits Covehithe and walks up towards Benacre Broad will confirm this. The Church of Saint Andrew may not have long left. Surprisingly an EDF spokesperson declared to me, regarding the Sizewell C proposals, that the coast in that area is 'dull' and poses no threat to proposed developments.

Locally, the conjunction of a particularly high tide and heavy rain floods land alongside the Blyth right into Blyford and towards Holton. In such times the watercourses in Halesworth regularly flood causing the shopkeepers there much angst and the A12 at Wrentham also has flooding issues in similar circumstances. Much of Blyford and Holton is less than 10 metres altitude. If sea levels were to rise appreciably in the Northern hemisphere it doesn't take much imagination to ponder the effects on property, farmland, roads and other communications. So the effects of increasingly severe/extreme weather instances linked to climate change are already in our midst and we should be aware of them and take individual responsibility and action. This could be anything from contacting Suffolk Highways to get blocked roadway drains repaired to reducing personal usage of fossil fuels (less flying abroad?), not paving driveways to facilitate drainage – there are many possibilities to give thought to.

Meanwhile Christmas approaches and it looks like being less cold than earlier in December and decidedly non-white. So those newspaper front pages turn out to be fake news. But global climate change certainly isn't fake.

John Beckett



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DISTRICT EYE VIEW

Firstly, a Happy New Year to you all and I hope you had a very merry Christmas. Mine was filled with friends and family as usual. A good time was had by all.

But alas we must get back to work, my diary in January is already filled with various meeting and events.

I have Overview & Scrutiny, Cabinet and various working groups regarding the new East Suffolk Council. Lots to discuss and consider as usual. I am keeping a close watch on my district which includes the villages north of Halesworth, Westhall, Spexhall, Holton, Blyford, Sotherton and Wangford with Henham, as you can see I have a large area to cover. Don't forget if you have an issue please let me know and I will do my best to resolve the situation. I am contactable by phone or email. Councillors Surgery is in Halesworth Library on the Second Saturday in each month at 10.00a.m.

Regards, Cllr Alison Cackett



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FROM HALESWORTH TOWN COUNCIL this email:

"Waveney District Council is requiring £23000 for the free first hour in the Thoroughfare car park to be continued into 2019. The Town Council has made some alternative proposals to WDC which are currently being considered. The demand for the coming year is a significant increase over last year but the Town Council is reasonably confident that this increased demand can be met. Contributions have already started to come in from existing contributors and also from some new ones. Also, the Town Council has been approached by residents who are interested in contributing because they know how important the free one hour parking is for Halesworth. This is an extremely generous offer on their part and so if anybody wishes to contribute, please send a cheque to Halesworth Town Council, London Rd, Halesworth, IP19 8LW. This money will be ring-fenced for adding to free first hour fund for WDC and not spent on anything else." Both our parish councils contributed this year and looks like we'll be asked again.

What do residents think I wonder?

John Beckett

NEW GOVERNORS REQUIRED AT HOLTON ST PETER AND WENHASTON SCHOOLS

Both Holton St Peter and Wenhaston Primary Schools are looking to recruit new members of their local governing bodies. The purpose of these bodies is to support the schools in their drive towards improvement and excellence for all pupils by challenging school leaders, and empowering pupils, staff and parents. It is one of the best ways of serving your community.

If you are interested in becoming a school governor please contact the schools directly as follows:

Holton St Peter: 01986 872297

Wenhaston: 01502 478328



HOLTON & BLYFORD VILLAGE HALL

The run up to Christmas was a very busy time at the hall. Way back in November we had a (very) belated Spring Clean! Many thanks to those who turned out armed with buckets, mops and feather dusters to remove the cobwebs of autumn and give the hall a thorough polish.

Also in November, in addition to our ever-popular fortnightly Bingo we had a huge turnout for the Big Breakfast and almost ran out of food! We also held a very successful Craft Fair and the hall was filled with wonderful handcrafted gifts, organic beauty products, delicious cheeses, cakes and sweets. Special thanks go to the refreshment team who were kept very busy serving tea, coffee, soup and bacon butties.

During December, we had more Big Breakfast and Bingo, of course, but some lovely Christmas events have also taken place. We decked the hall with boughs of holly... well not exactly, but we created a beautiful copse of Christmas trees all sparkling with lights and baubles. These were all donated, so a big thank you for those.

On Friday 15th the Rev Jan Bunday conducted Christmas Carols, accompanied by Jason, and she told some excellent festive jokes (groans all round...). The bar was open, and the singing improved through the evening! Proceeds from the raffle are to be donated to Meningitis Now in memory of Oliver Hall, a local six-year-old boy who died recently from this terrible disease. Another festive treat was when Roger Woolnough held a workshop on how to make a Christmas Swag to hang on the front door. There was a massive turnout and some truly gorgeous creations, thanks to Roger's talented instruction, patience and assistance. We are all looking forward to his next session... whenever that is! Watch this space.

After the partying is all over and you are taking down your decorations, if you find that you have any that you no longer require, especially artificial trees, lights and baubles, then please do donate them to us for next year. It would be lovely to turn our Christmas copse into a festive forest!

Looking forward to the new year, here are some dates for your 2018 diary:

Big Breakfast Sunday January 7th, February 4th

Bingo Thursday January 4th, 18th, February 1st, 15th

Craft Fair April 24th

Antiques Valuation Day April 29th

Classic Car Day June 17th

There will be no Pop-up Pub in January or February, but we are holding a Food Festival on February 23rd and the bar will be open!

As always, we would like to thank all the visitors to our various events for your attendance and support. We run these to raise funds to keep the Village Hall open and available for everyone.

Don't forget that as well as all the fundraising events there are other things going on every week: Fear Naught Boot Camp on Mondays and Wednesday evenings, Ukulele Group on Tuesday mornings, Art Group twice a month on Tuesday afternoons, Badminton on Tuesday evenings, U3A meetings monthly on Tuesday afternoons. You can find details on our FaceBook Page.

During 2018 as part of our improvement programme we will have new windows and doors fitted to improve insulation and security, and we will also be installing WiFi. Following these we will organise an update of the internal décor to keep it looking fresh.

You can book the Hall for your own party/celebration on our special number 07756916577. The rate is £14 per hour, or just £10 if you are a resident of either Holton or Blyford.

We wish you all the very best for 2018!

HOLTON & BLYFORD VILLAGE HALL TOTE

The result of the draw held on 14 Nov was as follows:

1st - No.16 - Joan Morley - £25

2nd - No.180 - Richard Pymar - £10

3rd - No.8 - Judy Nicholls - £5

4th - No.157 - Philip Mills - £5

The result of the draw held on 14 Nov was as follows:

1st - No.60 - John Hewlett - £25

2nd - No.159 - Mrs F Pagan - £10

3rd - No.72 - John Brady - £5

4th - No.7 - John Fensom - £5



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CANCER RESEARCH BIG BREAKFAST FRIDAY 9th MARCH

9.30am-1pm

THE RIFLE HALL HALESWORTH.

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL.

CANCER RESEARCH SPRING FAIR SATURDAY 21st APRIL

10.30am-2pm

THE RIFLE HALL HALESWORTH

Stalls, Refreshments, Raffle, Tombola, Bric-a-brac etc.

**BLYFORD & SOTHERTON PARISH
COUNCIL MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
THE COUNCIL HELD ON Monday 6th
November 2017
in HOLTON AND BLYFORD VILLAGE
HALL AT 7.30P.M.**

The Chair welcomed everyone present to the meeting.

PRESENT: Councillors G Walker(Chair), S Macdonald, B Martin, J Beckett, G Dunsire, M Jackson, R Parry

IN ATTENDANCE: A Cackett, Clerk
District Cllr. A Cackett.

PUBLIC FORUM: There was 1 member of the public present.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: None.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: No pecuniary or non-pecuniary were declared.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON:

4th September 2017 – *Were agreed as correct, Proposed BM /Seconded JB. AIF. The minutes were then signed and dated by the Chairman, Cllr G Walker*

CLERKS RESIGNATION

The Clerk advised that the closing date is 15th November and to date no applications had been received. The current Clerk is happy to stay on until a new Clerk is in place.

UPDATE ON STREET SIGNS - SOTHERTON

The position of the proposed Street signs was discussed and it was agreed that they should be positioned in the following areas:

Kings Lane – Both ends of the Lane

Green Lane – Both ends of the Lane and also one at the T Junction to Sotherton Corner.

Proposed by BM/Seconded by RP. AIF. The Clerk to contact Highways and find out the cost for the next meeting.

COUNCILLORS REPORTS

3 Villages Community Fund – Cllr Martin advised that he had had problems with his PC but it was all sorted now. The last meeting had been done by email. *Cllr Macdonald request that she no longer be one of the panel for this fund. Cllr Walker agreed to take her place. Proposed by BM/Seconded by SM. AIF.*

Blyford Village Meeting – Cllr Becket advised that there had been enquiries regarding a Defibrillator which could possibly go in the telephone box. A further request has been made concerning the telephone box and whether it could be adopted. Cllrs Becket and Dunsire agreed to distribute the invitations to the Carol Service at the Church.

Clerk was requested to contact the insurance company regarding the additional cost for the telephone box and defibrillator for the next meeting.

Speeding discussions/Data – Cllr Becket advised that there have been some Police issues. JB is to get the software for the data and hopes he will have more information at the next meeting.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS/DECISIONS

Applications

DC17/4171/FUL

Wenhaston Quarry, Heath Road, Wenhaston with Mells Full planning application for change of use of the site to provide 63 holiday lodges and associated leisure

activities.

The Parish Council discussed the application and the following comments were made:

“The Parish Council would like to object to this application. There are concerns regarding the access road which is narrow and there are no passing places. They are also concerned regarding the number of units which are proposed and the impact on the surrounding area. There is no infrastructure within the area and traffic would have an impact on the already existing busy roads. There are also concerns regarding the environmental impact, wildlife and noise from the site.” Proposed by MJ/Seconded by SM. AIF. Clerk to advise Planning Officer.

DC/17/3906/FUL

Cherry Tree House, Southwold Road, Blyford

Construction of a two storey rear extension and single storey rear porch.

The Parish Council discussed the application and the following comments were made:

“No objection subject to neighbours comments” Clerk to advise Planning Officer. Proposed by GW/Seconded by SM. AIF

Decisions

DC/17/3164/LBC

DC/17/3163/FUL

Sotherton Hall, Kings Lane, Sotherton

GRANTED

FINANCE

Bank Reconciliation

The members were advised of the current balances on accounts and of the Latitude money from this year.

Accounts for Receipt/Payment

SALC Networking Day - £16.00 + VAT £3.20

Website - £35.99

Receipt for Precept - £1564.50

Grants

To update on requests from Fresh Start and St Elizabeth's Hospice.

The clerk advised that they had done no work within the parish therefore the Parish Council were unable to give any grants on this occasion.

CORRESPONDENCE

Thanks for grants from Holton & Blyford Post, Blyford Church, Sotherton Church, Village Hall, SARS.

SALC – Precept Consultation

Invitation to Christmas Carol Service

Late Mail – Village Sign. Cllr Macdonald advised that she was currently looking at different materials.

SM to liaise with JB. To report back to the next meeting.

REPORTS

Cllr A Cackett – Advised regarding the current state of the merger of Suffolk Coastal and Waveney.

Date of next meeting: 8th January 2018.

Future meetings

8th January 2018,

5th March 2018

14th May (AGM) 2018,

2nd July 2018

3rd September 2018

5th November 2018

A CAREER HISTORY

New for this issue; a potted history of a career. If you have had an interesting career why not document it and send it to us for inclusion in the next issue. Anonymity guaranteed if required.

My career. I left school at eighteen with just 6 O ' levels as I absolutely hated the A level courses and failed miserably. A contributing factor was that I was busy honing my social life which included a certain amount of beer appraisal. In those days 6 O levels would get you into teacher training college. I was offered a place at a college in the Lake District but declined the offer as I felt I had had enough of school for the time being. At the time my father was Chief Health Officer at a local District Council and I had accompanied him over the years during the holiday period. Consequently I had a real feel for his job, involving food premises inspection, housing condition improvement and environmental remediation. Best of all he had a car because of the job, when most other people at the time were recovering from the deprivations of WW11. Consequently when I saw a post of Pupil Public Health Inspector advertised at Maidstone Borough Council I decided to apply. After an interesting interview I was offered the job and duly accepted. I think the post came with a salary of £450 per annum. Not bad when my part time jobs were paid at the rate of 10p per hour! I was to undertake 16 weeks of academic training per year for four years in addition to the on the job training at Maidstone and specialist locations.

Training involved staying in digs in SE London and my father gave me a lecture on how to behave in digs e.g. Don't put your feet on the chairs to tie up your shoelaces! Oh and lock your car door when driving in London. I stayed at the same urban digs in Penge throughout the entire period. I had a very kind landlady who I remember took me to see West Side Story when it was first released in the West End.

We had frequent training trips to the original Smithfield, Billingsgate and Spitalfields market to cement our knowledge of all matters relating to meat, fish and fruit and veg inspection, all involving very early starts. But when you finished the pubs were open, having been open all night due to a special licence for Smithfield market. It was here I learnt what a bumeree was (he carted meat on wooden trolleys for the various butchers). Rough diamonds but most were salt of the earth.

After successfully completing the four year course we all faced a very rigorous set of written exams, a set practical and finally a daunting viva voce, during which your failings were probed mercilessly,

And could signal that you were not going to pass on this occasion.

Phew! I passed first time as did a doctor's son who had failed three times before. In fact all sixteen of our group passed and three received the gold, silver and bronze medals for topping the country's students for that year.

After recovering from a celebratory gathering at the Prospect of Whitby at the East End of London (made famous by Princess Margaret doing some of her courting there) I left my digs for the last time and started as an entry Public health Inspector at Maidstone Borough. So at twenty two I was on the princely sum of £1760 per

year. Then I got married and ruined it. Should have left all that for a few years. However learnt what the job really entailed and moved on to a post at Malling RDC after 18 months. I worked here gaining rural housing experience until 1974, the year of the first local government reorganisation. Shortly before this I had transferred to Cranbrook RDC where my father was briefly the Surveyor. He retired three months after I joined. Realising that new opportunities were opening up I sought and obtained a senior post at Battle RDC in East Sussex, which had an excellent reputation for staffing matters and paid better than most. In 1974 the Council was renamed Rother District Council due to the fact that the River Rother ran through the middle of the District. In this authority I was able to excel and perform to my full potential, encouraged by good management. I stayed at this authority until I retired, having progressed from Senior Environmental Health Officer through to Principal Officer, to Deputy Chief Environmental Health, Chief Housing Officer and finally Deputy Director of Community Services which broadened my area of responsibility one final time. I had sat on the Management Team since my early forties and frequently appeared on television, usually as and when there was an environmental issue and or sea defence issue, and stood in for the Council's Chief Executive when required.

I felt hung out to dry by the time I reached 56 and jumped at the opportunity to retire just before I was 57.

Now I apply my skills set as best I can for the community, but now I am becoming weary once again. Time for a new challenge?

Your correspondent.



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SOUTHWOLD ARTS TALKS

The first talk of 2018 to be organised by the Southwold Decorative and Fine Arts Society, will take place on **Tuesday 9th January** and is entitled “Artists and Espionage – The Lawn Road Flats NW3: Modernist living in mid-20th century London”. The story is told by Deborah Lambert and has a plot worthy of Agatha Christie apparently!

Then on **Tuesday 13th February** a talk called “Art, Personality and Place – reviving single Artist Galleries” is being given by Mark Bills, director of Gainsborough’s House in Sudbury.

Both lectures start at 2pm in the Southwold Arts Centre, St Edmund’s Hall, Cumberland Road, Southwold, although the one in January will be preceded by the AGM at 1.45pm. Visitors are welcome with a suggested donation of £5 payable on the door. Or you could join the society for £33 which entitles you to 10 lectures a year on a variety of arts topics plus early booking for a variety of events and outings.

Contact me on 01986 874000 or email southwoldfas@gmail.com for more details.

Anne Holland

SURVEY

You may recall that in issue 97 I wrote about an initiative introduced by your County Councillor, Tony Goldson, which sought to establish events/schemes which might help local persons to socialise and/or have a help system so they might call upon local schemes to assist them in some small way. In times of financial constraint there are many neighbourly type services which no longer exist and have left too many elderly or infirm persons feeling isolated. Such schemes often improve the health and well - being of persons who may not be experiencing the kind of social interaction that those in work may experience on a-day-to-day basis.

Consequently your Parish Council has decided to seek your response to the idea using the undermentioned survey form before proceeding further. It may be that you are all content with your lot, however the survey may reveal areas which can be funded by as yet untapped findings streams. We can make no promises at this stage. However we urge you to respond by completing the short questionnaire and returning it to 6, The Street, Holton, by 28/2/18.



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Test drive is subject to status and availability.

SURVEY FORM NEIGHBOURHOOD SCHEMES

Question 1. Are you male or female?

Q2. How many persons over 60 live in you accommodation?

Q3. What type of scheme would you like to see introduced locally?

A/ lunch club?

B/ afternoon tea club?

C/ coffee morning club?

D/ other social gathering (please state your choice)

Q4. Would a minor repairs / home help scheme be of use to you?

Q5. Would you be prepared to contribute to the cost of such a scheme?

Q6. Is there any help you would find useful not mentioned above?

Please return to 6 the Street, Holton.



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CHURCH SERVICES

JANUARY

7th	9.30am Team Eucharist at St Mary's Church, Halesworth
14th	11.15am Eucharist 3.30pm Plough Sunday at St Peters Church, Spexhall
21st	11.15am Iona Morning Worship
28th	11.15am Eucharist

FEBRUARY

4th	9.30am Team Eucharist at St Mary's Church, Halesworth
11th	3.30pm Team Evensong
18th	11.15am Iona Morning Worship
25th	11.15am Eucharist

Please check the latest "Team Times" or church noticeboard for full service details as these can change.

A NEW YEAR'S PRAYER

May God make your year a happy one.
 Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain but by strengthening you to bear it as it comes
 Not by making your path easy but by making you sturdy to travel any path
 Not by taking hardships from you but by taking fear from your heart
 Not by granting you unbroken sunshine but by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows
 Not by making your life always pleasant but by showing you when people and their causes need you most and making you anxious to be there to help
 God's love, peace, hope and joy to you for the year ahead.

CHURCH NEWS AND EVENTS

PRAYER CORNER

Have you ever visited a church whilst on holiday and discovered they had a prayer corner? I have many times and added my wishes on the cards provided. One of the nicest things I find is the anonymity of this act, if that's what you want. We have decided it would be good to set aside a place in St. Peter's Church for such a corner, or in our case it's more a hexagon, I think. By the time you read this it should be up and running, and will be found in our bell tower area. Your prayers will be gathered up every 2/3 weeks and placed on the altar to be included in a Sunday service, with your anonymity assured. We really want this to be available to anyone, not just our congregation.

Mary Curtis

WELL DONE EVERYONE

Thank you to everyone who came to our Christmas Fair or supported it in any way. We have had a fantastic result raising nearly £1400.00. Phew! This will help tremendously towards the running and maintenance of St Peter's Church.

Once again we need to give a special 'thank you' to Dot Booley and Helen Knevet who organise and direct it all, and not forgetting all our stall-holders for providing so many things for us all to look at and buy.

POP IN PARLOUR

Our first Pop-In Parlour for 2018 will be on Friday 5th January at 12 noon in St Peter's Room. We will be serving home-made soup, bread, cheese, pickle/chutney, tea or coffee, and as it is the day before Twelfth Night there may be one or two extra treats to help us remember the visit of the Three Kings to the infant Jesus and the gifts that they gave him.

DOT'S PRE-CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

On the 14th December there was a very happy buzz of conversation at number 7 Park Walk as friends and neighbours enjoyed coffee, cake, scones and other various goodies. Raffle tickets were bought and donations made and in the process around £300.00 was raised for the Halesworth Community Care Nursing Fund. So 'thank you' and well done to Dot yet again.

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM ALL AT ST PETER'S CHURCH

USEFUL INFORMATION AND CONTACTS



HOLTON POST

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DEADLINE DATE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS:
FRIDAY 23 FEBRUARY



REGULAR ACTIVITIES AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Weekly	
Badminton Club	Tuesdays 7.30 - 9.30pm
U3A	3rd Tuesday 2-4pm
Art Group	2nd and 4th Tuesday, 2-5pm (except July, August and December)
Fear Naught Boot Camp	Monday, Wednesday 7-8pm
Bingo	Fortnightly on Thursdays at 7.30pm
Pop-Up Pub	Last Friday each month (except Jan) 7.30pm
<p><i>The Village Hall is also available for private functions during the day and evening and is licensed for the sale of alcohol.</i></p> <p><i>To make a booking call 07756 916577 or email</i> holtonandblyfordvillagehall@hotmail.com</p>	

HOLTON B&Bs	
Gavelcroft	01986 873117 gavelcroft@gmail.com
The Lord Nelson Inn	01986 835734 info@thelordnelsonholton.co.uk
Valley Farm	01986 874521 mail@valleyfarmholton.co.uk

PLEASE NOTE OUR WEBSITE ADDRESS IS
holton.onesuffolk.net/holton-post

LOCAL SERVICES	
Holton Animal Feeds	01986 873045
Foot Care Practitioner -Jane Parker, TCFPC dip.	07732 048837
Market Fields Farm Shop Holton Road Garden Centre Holton Road Cafe	01986 872134 01986 872761 01986 873772
Newspapers – Patrick’s	01986 875229
Private Hire – DRF Transport	01986 872829
The Hot Meal Service	01986 835895
Taxi – Ginge	01986 874028
Cundy’s Dairy	01986 892428

OTHER USEFUL LOCAL NUMBERS	
Doctor’s Surgery	01986 874618
NHS (non-emergency)	111
Police (non-emergency)	101
Waveney District Council	01502 562111

Suffolk Libraries

MOBILE LIBRARY TIMETABLE

Greenbank	1245-1300
Lower Park Walk	1405-1420
Valley Close	1425-1445

Calling on 5 Jan, 2 Feb

CASUALTIES & MINOR INJURIES

Cutlers Hill Surgery, Bungay Road, Halesworth
Tel: 01986 874618

Monday to Friday (not Bank Holidays)

If possible, please report to the Minor Injuries at the Surgery between 8.30 am and 6 pm Mondays to Fridays where we have facilities to treat you. A qualified nurse is always available to see you as soon as you arrive and a doctor will be called to see you when the nurse considers it to be appropriate. Please note there are no X-Ray facilities at surgery so if think you might have fractured or broken something you will have to attend A & E.

Outside these times you should report to James Paget Hospital at Gorleston – the NHS 111 service will always offer advice if in doubt.