

WINTER'24

Established 1989

£1.00

HOLMER GREEN TODAY

A Quarterly Publication containing News, Views & Reports together with some History of the Village and Locality, produced by Villagers for Villagers. All profits go to good causes within the Village.



See Stuart King's article about our pond on page 30



Memories from the Community Fireworks display with thanks to Michael King

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and much more....!



Editorial

by Ann Miller



Where do I begin?

That is the first thought that I had for this issue. Happily, it was a good thought because I was inundated with so many articles and pictures from you all. We are back to our usual number of contributions from all of our clubs, associations and individual articles. Thankfully, the weather has been so dreary that I was quite content to read and edit the many offerings. (As an

aside why have I got to that time in my life when mentioning of the weather is one of my first go to lines).

We have had a wide range of articles and interesting stories covering many different subjects from mining to land army girls, the pond to the trees and hedges in our village. Also, we see the near completion of the grand project of an Artificial Grass Pitch at Holmer Green Sport's ground.

Periodically we like to review the information pages of the magazine, if you notice that some of the contents are out of date or need changing, please do let us know.

Three of the donations from the magazine this year were, a generous one to Rennie Grove Peace, Social Link and Wycombe Homeless Connection.

Sadly, we have to say goodbye to another one of our team. Peter has worked on the layout and typesetting of the magazine for many years and will be missed for his hard work in putting together *Holmer Green Today*. Thank you, Peter.

We are now a smaller team so if there is anyone out there who feels that they might be interested in joining us, please let me know.

Editor: Ann Miller 57, Winters Way ☎ 715483
E: ennaliz@hotmail.com

Coordinators:
Advertising etc.: Jo Kettle 27, Earl Howe Road ☎ 07890-135170
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Articles etc.: Linda Meatyard 24, The Rosary ☎ 07832 990311
E: linda.meatyard@hotmail.co.uk

Magazine Distribution: Linda Meatyard As above.

Treasurer: Ann Sollars 15, Watchet Lane ☎ 713420

Typesetting & Layout design: Peter Rawbone 1, Hollyberry Grove

Seasons Greetings, we hope our Readers and Advertisers have a Healthy, Happy and Prosperous New Year

The publishers cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions nor can they be held accountable for the accuracy of advertisements nor for the editorial information sent to them and reserve the right to reject or amend it.

Please note the copy deadlines for the 2025 edition are:

31st January; 9th May; 8th August & 6th November with advertisements two weeks in advance of this please.

Advertising Rates

Full Page: Black & White - £52.50; Colour - £70.00, Half Page: Black & White - £31.50; Colour - £40.00,
Quarter Page: Black & White - £18.00; Colour - £22.00, Eighth Page: Black & White - £10.50; Colour - £12.50



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Regular Events and Activities



Beavers, Cubs and Scouts

Holmer Green Beaver Scouts	Scout Hut, Parish Piece	Mondays, 5.30pm – 6.30pm. Wednesdays, 5.45pm – 6.45pm.
Holmer Green Cub Scouts	Scout Hut, Parish Piece	Mondays, 6.45pm – 8.15pm. Thursdays, 6.45pm – 8.15pm.
Holmer Green Scouts	Scout Hut, Parish Piece	Wednesdays, 7.00pm – 8.30pm.

Church Services

Christ Church (C of E)	Christ Church, Holmer Green	Services every Sunday at 10.00am, except the 2nd Sunday of every month when the service is held at Holy Trinity Church, Penn Street, at 10.00am.
Holmer Green Baptist Church	Baptist Church	Wednesday service : every Wednesday afternoon: 1.30pm – 2.15pm. Sunday service : every Sunday morning, 9.45am – 11.00am.
Holmer Green Methodist Church	Methodist Church	Services every Sunday at 10.30am. All are welcome.

Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers

1st Holmer Green Rainbows	Village Centre	Mondays, weekly, 5.00pm – 6.00pm.
1st Holmer Green Brownies	Village Centre	Wednesdays, weekly, 5.30pm – 7.00pm.
4th Holmer Green Brownies	Christ Church Centre	Thursdays, weekly, 5.30pm – 7.00pm.
1st Holmer Green Guides	Village Centre	Fridays, weekly, 6.30pm – 8.00pm.
Kingfisher Rangers	Village Centre	Mondays, fortnightly, 7.00pm – 9.00pm.

871 (Penn) Squadron ATC	871 Sqn HQ, Sir William Ramsay School, Hazlemere	Tuesdays, 7.30pm – 9.30pm. Fridays, 7.30pm – 10.00pm.
Art and Craft Group	Methodist Church	Every Saturday, 10.00am – 12.00pm.
Coffee Morning	Methodist Church	Every 1st Tuesday, 10.00am – 12 noon. (puzzles and book swap).
Community Café	Christ Church Centre	Every 4th Saturday, 10.00am – 12 noon. Tea, coffee and a chat.
Holmer Green Stroke Club	Christ Church Centre	Tuesdays, weekly, 10.00am – 12 noon. For persons affected by communication problems.
Holmer Green WI	Village Centre	Every 3rd Wednesday, 2.00pm.
Holmer Green Youth Club	Youth Club, 18 Parish Piece	Open for Y6 – Y11. Please refer to the website for full details: www.holmergreenyouthclub.org.uk
Link-Up Bereavement and Friendship Group	Christ Church Centre	3rd Friday of each month, 11.00am – 12 noon, followed by a shared lunch.
Oasis Kids	Baptist Church	Every Sunday morning, 9.45am – 11.00am.
Oasis Toddlers	Baptist Church	Every Tuesday morning (term time only – pre-booked admission), 9.30am – 11.00am.
Rummikub	Rossetti Hall	1st & 3rd Friday of each month, 2.00pm – 4.00pm
Sensory Garden Volunteers	Sensory Garden, Earl Howe Road	2nd Wednesday of each month. We hold a volunteer “roll up” between 9.15am and 12 noon at which we welcome any potential volunteers to join us for a taster session.
Short Mat Bowls	Holmer Green Sports Association	Tuesdays, 7.00pm – 10.30pm.
Souper Lunch	Christ Church Centre	2nd and 4th Thursdays, 12.30pm – 2.00pm, for a light lunch and a chat.
The Holmer Green Churches Together Women's Fellowship	Christ Church Centre or Baptist Church	1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month from 2.00pm.
Tiddlywinks Baby, Toddler and Under School Age Group and Their Carers	Christ Church Centre	Mondays, term time only, 1.30pm – 3.00pm.
Wednesday Pop-In	Baptist Church	1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month, 12.30pm – 1.30pm.
Whist Club	Rossetti Hall	Thursdays, weekly, 1.30pm – 3.30pm.
Who Let The Dads Out	Baptist Church	2nd Saturday morning of the month, 9.30am – 11.00am.
Wycombe Centre National Trust Support Group	Hazlemere Community Centre	4th Friday of the month at 2.15pm, except December (please enquire). Weekly talks, regular outings, holidays.
Youth Club	Baptist Church	Every Sunday, term time only. Years 6 to 8: 6.45pm – 8.00pm. Years 9+: 8.00pm – 9.30pm.

Please refer to the Village Contacts list for the contact details for each event/activity

We recommend you contact the relevant person to check that the event, location and times are correct before you go along for the first time.
Equally, if you would like your event/activity to be included here, please contact Jo Kettle, whose information is on page 2.



Village Contacts



All telephone numbers relate to the High Wycombe STD number - 01494 - unless specifically stated e.g. a mobile number.

Churches		
Christ Church (C of E)	Vicar: Rev Daf Meirion-Jones (he likes to be called Daf). Parish Office: Featherbed Lane – 715195. E: office@pshg.org, www.pshg.org	
Holmer Green Baptist Church	Pastor: Anthony Smith, Office – 712479. E: secretary@holmergreenbaptist.org.uk	
Holmer Green Methodist Church	Minister: Rev Rachael Prince – 562491. E: revrprince@gmail.com Steward: Mr Richard Dorme – 716897. HG Prayer Link: Mrs Barbara Illingworth – 712236. E: barbarailingworth@yahoo.co.uk	
Day Nurseries and Pre-Schools		
Blue Willow Day Nursery	Mrs Keeley Cox – 490230.	E: managerholmergreen@bluewillow.co.uk
Holmer Green Village Centre Pre-School	07709-657399	
Poppies Day Nursery and Preschool	Miss Stacey Montgomery – 716789.	E: holmergreen@poppiesdaynursery.com
Football		
Holmer Green Football Club	Mr Rob Shed – 716318, 07539-267948.	E: shedcan@me.com
Holmer Green Girls Football	Mrs Samantha Lewin – 07919-095792.	E: sam.c.lewin@gmail.com
Holmer Green Juniors Football	Mr Matt Brades – 07927-484324.	E: matt@badgerway.plus.com
Girlguiding Contacts for Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers		
1st HG Rainbows (Mondays)		E: firstholmergreenrainbows@gmail.com
1st HG Brownies (Wednesdays)		E: firsthgbrownies@gmail.com
4th HG Brownies (Thursdays)		E: diana.burman@btinternet.com
1st HG Guides (Fridays), and general GG enquiries	Mrs Vicki Fleming – 07823-478200.	E: firsthgg@hotmail.com
Kingfisher Rangers (Mondays)		E: kingfisherrangers@gmail.com
To register your daughter to join, or to volunteer, please go to :	www.girlguiding.org.uk	
Hall Bookings		
Church Centre	Mrs Sue Kinnon – 715195, Mrs Carol Hornsby – 07980-265485	E: office@pshg.org
Methodist Church	Mrs Kathleen Wiltshire – 713964	
Rossetti Hall (Bookings)	Parish Clerk – 715429,	E: bookings@littlemissendenpc.co.uk
Royal British Legion (Hall Bookings)	Miss Freya Abear – 711144,	E: club@holmergreenbritishlegion.com
Village Centre (Hall Bookings)	Mr Paul Fleming – 0870-765 6450, www.holmergreenvillagehall.org.uk/book-a-hall/	E: bookings@holmergreenvillagehall.org.uk
Schools		
Holmer Green First School and Pre-School	712050.	E: office@holmergreenfirst.bucks.sch.uk
Holmer Green Junior School	713000.	E: office@hgjs.co.uk
Holmer Green Senior School	712219.	E: plascotti@holmer.org.uk
871 (Penn) Squadron ATC	256141.	E: 871@rafac.mod.gov.uk
Art and Craft Group	Mrs Kathleen Wiltshire – 713964	
Beamond End Residents Association	Secretary: Mr Tom Robertson – 712040.	E: jtrobertson55@gmail.com
Chadwick Ladies Club	Mrs Gaynor Spiller – 713739	
Cherry Garth Care Home	Mr Francisco Paes – 711681	
Coffee Morning, Methodist Church	Mrs Lesley Orange – 712072 Mrs Kathleen Wiltshire – 713964	
Community Café – Tea, Coffee and a Chat, Christ Church Centre	Mrs Carol Hornsby – 714075	
Hazlemere and Widmer End Good Neighbours Including Holmer Green	Mr Peter Pearman – 711570,	E: peter.pearman@btinternet.com
High Wycombe Model Engineering Club	Mr Peter Bowman – 712031,	E: peterbowman@aol.com

A POEM FOR CHRISTMAS

Holly red and mistletoe white
The stars are shining with golden light
Burning like candles this Holy night
Holly red and mistletoe white.

Mistletoe white and holly red
The doors are shut and the children a-bed
Fairies at foot and angels at head
Mistletoe white and holly red.

Alison Uttley



Village Contacts - continued



Holmer Green Beavers, Cubs and Scouts	Mrs Jenny Sorenson – 713877	
Holmer Green Cricket Club	Mr David Stockings	E: holmergreencricketclub@gmail.com
Holmer Green Players	Mrs Laura Chapman	E: secretary@holmergreenplayers.co.uk
Holmer Green Sports Association	Ms Laura Ripley – 711485,	E: admin@hgsc.co.uk
Holmer Green Stroke Club	Mrs Mary Coker – 812162	
Holmer Green Village Society	Secretary: Mrs Penny Thickett – 07976-230371.	E: membership@holmergreenvillagesociety.co.uk
Holmer Green Women's Institute	Mrs June Lynch – 07967-548545.	E: holmer.green.wi@gmail.com www.holmergreenwi.weebly.com
Holmer Green Youth Club	Mr Michael Turner – 07907-343110.	E: holmergreenyc@gmail.com www.holmergreenyouthclub.org.uk
Link-Up Bereavement and Friendship Group	Mrs Joan Toye – 718466.	E: joanrtoye@gmail.com
Little Missenden Parish Council	Parish Clerk – 715429.	E: clerk@littlemissendenpc.co.uk
Royal British Legion – Women's Section	Mrs Wendy Tomlin – 713789.	
Rummikub	713372.	
Sensory Garden Volunteers	Mr Martin Little – 07384-633259.	
Short Mat Bowls at HGSA	Chair: Mr Bob Day – 712284.	E: bobday954@gmail.com
Simply Walk	Ms Fiona Broadbent – 475367.	
Souper Lunch for a Light Lunch and Chat, Christ Church Centre	Mrs Joan Wainman – 716726. Mrs Carol Hornsby – 714075.	
Squash	Mr Dave Clyne – 07866-738338.	E: membership@hgsrc.co.uk: www.hgsrc.co.uk
The Holmer Green Churches Together Women's Fellowship	Mrs Mary Jay – 814767. Mrs Coralie Reynolds – 714473, 07745-118120.	E: maryajay691@gmail.com E: coralierelynds@btinternet.com
Tiddlywinks Baby, Toddler and Under School Age Group and Their Carers	Mrs Joan Toye – 718466.	E: joanrtoye@gmail.com
VPA – The Holmer Green Gardening Association	Terry and Val Owen – 256678.	E: secretary@hgvpa.club, www.hgvpa.club
Whist Club	713372.	
Wycombe Centre National Trust Support Group	Mrs Janet Saul.	E: janetsaul29@gmail.com

DATA PROTECTION REGULATION 2018 (GDPR)

We believe the magazine complies with GDPR. However, should anyone wish their details to be removed from this list please advise a member of the Team, their information is on page 2.

Equally, if you would like your organisation to be included, please contact Jo Kettle, whose information is also on page 2.

SHOP LOCALLY - PLEASE

Please support the below advertisers (and local shops!) and tell them that you are responding to **their** advertisement in **Holmer Green Today**

“ use ‘em or lose ‘em!”

Unless specifically stated e.g. a mobile number, all telephone numbers relate to the High Wycombe STD number - 01494

SERVICE	ADVERTISER	Page	Telephone
Chemists	Fox Pharmacy	29	713360
Conversion Service for ‘Older Audio’	Convert Old Audio	13	713553
Fitness Training etc.	PureFitness Bucks Ltd	28	07851 754167
Funeral Directors	Arnold Funeral Services	28	472572
Funeral Directors	Beacon Funeral Services	30	818181
Garage Doors - New and Repairs	Home Improvement Garage Doors	10	714809
Garage Services and MoTs	Holmer Green Garage	13	713185
Garage Services and MoTs	Holmer Green Service Centre	12	715058
Garden Services	Mike’s Garden Services	13	817441
Hall Hire and Sports Facilities	Holmer Green Sports Association	32	711485
IT Support and Repairs	GX Computers	32	07477 059381
Land and Seascape Oil Painting Artist	Jo Earl Art — joearlart@gmail.com	8	
Newsagent and Tobacconist	J Walsh	35	714466
Plumbers & Heating Engineers	S & R Select Plumbing & Heating Ltd	28	715254
Plumbing Repairs, Heating Engineers	Boilerguard (UK)Ltd	33	07468 695025
Reflexology, Head Massage etc	Clare Reflexology	35	07751 013698
Supermarket	SPAR	16	716549
Take Away Food	South Hill Fish & Chips	16	711240
Unisex Hairdressers	HG Hair	16	713580
Window, Door Repairs & New Installations	The Window Doctor	12	01865 891776

PLEASE HELP TO KEEP THE VILLAGE COMMUNITY INFORMED!



**AN ADMIN CO-ORDINATOR AND A LAYOUT DESIGNER / TYPESETTER
ARE URGENTLY REQUIRED TO JOIN THE MAGAZINE TEAM.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL

ANN ON 01494 715483

OUR SINCEREST CONDOLENCES GO TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF

Betty Whitlock 5th May 1928 - 30th June 2024,

Eddie King 25th January 1936 - 23rd August 2024,

Peter Rolt who passed away - 28th August 2024

David Hutton who passed away - 16th September 2024 &

Mavis Heaver 4th June 1944 - 1st October 2024

SOME USEFUL NAMES & TELEPHONE NUMBERS

British Gas - Emergencies	01753 – 571570
Bucks County Council (the old Chiltern District Council!)	01494 – 729000
Carers Bucks	0300 – 7772722
Chiltern Dial A Ride	01494 – 766123
Chiltern House Medical Centre, High Wycombe (formerly at Dragon Cottage, Holmer Green)	01494 – 439149
Chiltern Railways	03456 – 005 165
Crimestoppers	0800 – 555111
Hazlemere Library	01296 – 382415
Holmer Green Dental Practice	01494 – 718318
Highfield Surgery, Hazlemere	01494 – 813396
MP for Chesham and Amersham: – Ms Sarah Green, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA. E: sarah.green.mp@parliament.uk	0207 – 2193000 01494 – 721864
Men in Sheds—an Age Uk project	01844 – 348831
Police – Thames Valley	999 or 101
Police – Thames Valley/Community Support Officer	101
Red Cross	01494 – 552664
Refuse Collection	01494 – 586 550
Stoke Mandeville Hospital	01296 – 315 000
Thames Water - Emergencies	08459 – 200 800
The Silver Line helpline (advice to older people)	0800 – 470 8090
Traveline	0871 – 2002233
Tourist information - High Wycombe Library	01296 – 3824152
UK Power Network for loss of electrical supply	105
Wycombe General Hospital	01494 – 526161
Minor Injuries and Illness Unit (at Wycombe General Hospital)	111 or 526161

PARISH COUNCILLORS SERVING HOLMER GREEN

Mrs Rosy Bowser	E: rbowser@littlemissendenpc.co.uk
Mr Neil Darvill	E: ndarvill@littlemissendenpc.co.uk
Mrs Michaela Darvill	E: mdarvill@littlemissendenpc.co.uk
Mrs Jane Fallon	E: jfallon@littlemissendenpc.co.uk
Ms Megann McKinnon	E: mmckinnon@littlemissendenpc.co.uk
Mr Colin Thirsk	E: cthirsk@littlemissendenpc.co.uk
Vacancy	

Do you care for our Village and would like to serve your community? Why not consider becoming a Parish Councillor?
If so, please contact the Parish Office in Rossetti Hall for more information - 715429

Clerk –	Mrs Dianne Camier	E: clerk@littlemissendenpc.co.uk
Assistant Clerk –	Mrs Lynne Lusby	E: assistant.clerk@littlemissendenpc.co.uk
Open Spaces and Compliance Officer –	Mr Paul Isom	E: openspaces@littlemissendenpc.co.uk

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCILLORS SERVING HOLMER GREEN

Mr Mark Dormer	E: Mark.Dormer@buckinghamshire.gov.uk	
Mr Mark Flys	E: Mark.Flys@buckinghamshire.gov.uk	01494 431980
Mr Jonathan Waters	E: Jonathan.Waters@buckinghamshire.gov.uk	07966 037916

LOCAL VILLAGE SERVICES

The Holmer Green Village Society's web site - www.holmergreenvillagesociety.co.uk
contains some recent electronic editions of **Holmer Green Today**.

WHAT'S ON — AND WHERE

WHY NOT CUT OUT AND KEEP THE DATES AND THE ADVERTISERS PAGES SUMMARY. ONCE YOU HAVE READ YOUR MAGAZINE AND RE-CYCLE THE

1st December	The Village Society's Christmas by The Common	Village Centre - 4.00pm
5 th December	All Churches Together - Christmas Lunch	Spindle & Thread
7 th December	Christmas Tree Festival	Christ Church Centre
7 th December	The Heatherton Singers Christmas Concert	Baptist Church - 7.30pm
9 th December	Chadwick Ladies - <i>Christmas Dinner [Members only]</i>	Village Centre - 7.00pm
13 th December	Link-up - <i>Christmas Buffet Lunch</i>	Christ Church Centre - 12noon
14 th December	Carols by Lamplight concert	Methodist Church - 7pm
15 th December	Christingle & Carols by Candlelight	Christ Church Centre
18 th December	Holmer Green WI - Members only Christmas Party	Village Centre - 2.00pm
19 th December	A Christmas Carol	Methodist Church - 7pm
22 nd December	Carols by Candlelight	Holy Trinity, Penn St. 4.30pm
22 nd December	Carols by Candlelight	Methodist Church - 6pm
24 th December	Crib Service	Christ Church - 4.30pm
24 th December	Midnight Communion	Holy Trinity, Penn St. 11.15pm
25 th December	Christmas Morning Service	Christ Church - 10.00am
5 th Jan '25	The VPA Trading Store re-opens	Beech Tree Road
6 th Jan '25	Tiddlywinks recommences	Christ Church Centre - 1.30pm
9 th January	Souper Lunch recommences	Christ Church Centre - 12.30am
15 th Jan '25	Holmer Green WI - Show and Tell meeting	Village Centre - 2.00pm
5-8 February	Holmer Green Players present ' <i>Piece de Resistance</i> '	Village Centre

JO EARL ART

Looking for the perfect
Christmas present?

Browse local oil paintings online:
joearl.co.uk

To visit my Holmer Green studio,
book an appointment by email:
joearlart@gmail.com

Get 25% off with code

HG2023

offer ends 24th December 2023



Dunstable Downs



Princes Risborough



Aston Clinton



Aylesbury



HOLMER GREEN YOUTH CLUB

Summer of '24: Bucks New University [BNU]

I suppose my excuse was it was June/July when Charmain Clayton came up to meet me to offer fifty comic books to give away. Charmain knew myself and Holmer Green Youth Club through her son & daughter who both once attended. When I was asked about my summer break, I was probably not very enthusiastic as it's the time I try to do some maintenance or painting. Time and money for maintenance will always hold me back but I do what I can do. I try to take some of the wear and tear away, making the Youth Club a welcoming place to visit. These jobs over the summer often feel like covering over the cracks. The management committee at Holmer Green Youth Club is very small. People do not join in a hurry so we do what we can.

Charmain (who is Community Engagement Officer at BNU) then said she may be able to help, asked me to write a list of all that needed doing. Charmain then visited the Youth Club again and over the next few weeks put together a team who were going to help me do five years' worth of work in a few days. They managed to get everything donated, the paints, brushes and cleaning materials. All I could keep saying was 'thank you.' I have been blown away. I watched the Youth Club change face. The garden, the kitchen, the backrooms. The enthusiasm to help from all of the staff from Bucks New University was the biggest morale boost I could have hoped for. Alongside all the work inside and out, a new oven and tv to replace the ones that didn't work, a microwave, kettle, new lighting for all of the rooms (any electricians willing to help change the lights please contact me) and even a new garden shed was donated. We need to thank Wickes, Crown Paints, Tesco's, Morrisons, The Three Horseshoes in Hazlemere, Grundon, Energy Efficient Solutions (EES) and BNU, plus an anonymous giver for all of the donations.

There will be a Bucks New University phase 2. We had money donated to go towards new carpets in the back rooms. I think they were once dark green, but it's been so long, I can't remember, and the ceiling is also to be painted.

I have enjoyed working with all the members of the staff and would like to give a special mention to Laura Manners who sorted and helped with the practical DIY I cannot do and took charge taking down the old shed, which was in an awful state, and putting up the new last month. It is now my job to make use of what has been given, both time and donations. But I guess the biggest thing I have been given is a feeling that Holmer Green Youth Club is not on its own and help can be out there. Again, what can I say but thank you all of those who helped. Thank You Charmain and Laura.

I have also met with the head of BNU Health and Social Care School and we are looking into how we can work together to help our young people. I will keep you posted!

Mike Turner



Holmer Green First School and Pre-School
 Watchet Lane
 HP15 6UG
 01494 712050
 office@holmergreenfirst.bucks.sch.uk

Is your child due to start school in September 2025?

Wednesday 9th October 2024
 Tuesday 22nd October 2024
 Thursday 7th November 2024
 Thursday 21st November 2024
 Tuesday 3rd December 2024
 Wednesday 8th January 2025

Come and have a visit to our wonderful school!

Please contact the school office to book a place.

 @hgfs.learning.through.play
 Holmer Green First School and Pre-School Continuous Provision



Bounce & Rhyme

For under 5s

Hazlemere Library

Thursdays | 10.00am - 10.30am | Free

Bounce and Rhyme sessions are for babies and toddlers and their parents and carers. It's a fun way of sharing nursery rhymes, action songs and simple percussion music.

Buckinghamshire Libraries
 01296 382415 | To use Text Relay dial 18001 01296 382415
 www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/libraries



HOME IMPROVEMENT
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01494 714809

07436 795000

sales@higaragedoors.co.uk



HÖRMANN



MEMORIES FROM A SCRAP BOOK - 1994

I recently was looking through an old scrap book and realised this year in Holmer Green marks many anniversaries, thirty years ago Christ Church in Holmer Green celebrated 100 years since it was built. Nigel Stowe the vicar at the time organised a week of

celebrations re-enacting the original laying of the fountain stone by Lord Howe. His stone was a cardboard box but the idea was the same. The present Lady Elizabeth Howe was invited, she was driven from Penn Street in a pony and trap escorted by two livery men - John Parslow and Bob Dunning, other members of the church were represented and dressed in appropriate uniform were



Mr Alan Jones. Many villagers dressed in Victorian dress for the occasion. They were told the story of how the church was built. An extract from the South Bucks Standard newspaper in 1894 tells the story of an anonymous donation of £400.00 sent to Rev Lindeman which enabled him to indulge in a hope a church would be built in Holmer Green. Earl and Countess Howe promoted a Bazaar at Penn house and gave an acre of land at the top of the recreation ground as a site for a church and burial ground and also promised £100.00 towards the building fund. The erection of the building had been entrusted to Messrs Thos. Turner Ltd of Watford who won the contract at a price of £870.00. There had been a long tradition that Messrs Biggs of Kingshill built Christ church, Mr Harold Biggs, who died only a few years ago maintained that this grandfather built the church and that his father will have worked on its construction. This belief may not be in contradiction to the statement that Messrs Thom Turner won the contract as in those days they would have sub contracted to Messrs Biggs. There would not have been transport to bring workers from Watford every day. Part of the celebrations was a flower festival was held in the church. Including organ recitals during the day. The evening was complete with a Barn Dance held in the church centre.

The V P A, Holmer Green Gardening Club, also celebrated 50 years of existence. In the Bucks



Free Press, they used to have a column from all the local villagers each week, Jack Cox was the local correspondent. In September 1994, it reported that over 500 entries in the various classes were exhibited in the autumn show. It also said the giant pumpkin was won by Eric Maygers, 80lbs in contrast to Linda Meatyard's entry weighing 3½ half pounds. September saw the 50th Annual Harvest supper where traditionally produce was auctioned off at the end of the meal.

That year, like many others, an annual fete was held on the common. Many organisations entered a float, the surrounding roads were closed so a parade around village happened. Many groups had a stall to promote themselves.

The scout group provided entertainment for many children in the form of a greasy pole. Does anyone remember having a go?



The Royal British Legion in Holmer Green also celebrated the 50th Anniversary of "D" Day on the common in a service called Drumhead Service of Commemoration.



All the uniformed groups attended, including the scouts.

Do you have any memories of that year we would love to hear from you.

Linda Meatyard

(Continued on page 18)

Holmer Green Service Centre



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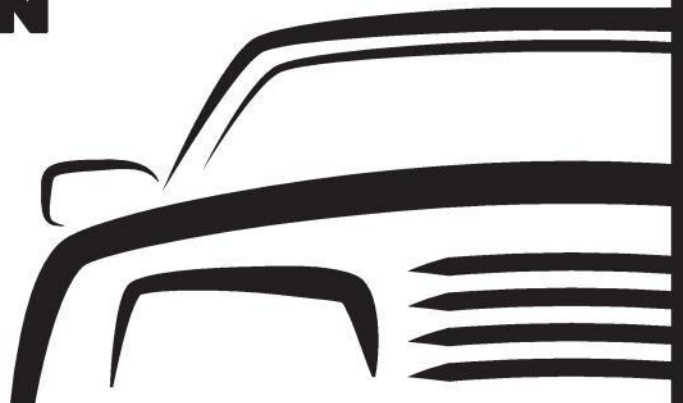
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HOLMER GREEN FC NEWS - OVER FOUR YEARS AND ALMOST THERE!

Which football club wouldn't want their own Artificial Grass Pitch? Generically known as an astro or a 3G or a 4G for the sake of this article, I'm going to call these highly sought after facilities an AGP.

Holmer Green FC (HGFC) has been based on the land leased by Holmer Green Sports Association (HGSA) at Watchet Lane since the late 70's. Founded in 1908 they moved from the Common and have been growing and developing their facilities ever since. I personally joined the Club and became chair in 2014 and have seen the numbers of boys, girls, men and women who form the Club move forward on an upward trajectory. But we never had enough money to solve the issue that challenged us every winter. Waterlogged pitches meant that for too many weekends, football had to be postponed.

It was 2019 when I responded to the survey being carried out by the FA into the availability of pitches and it was this survey that produced the Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) for the Chilterns. The objective was to improve the quality of facilities to play the game of football. And the good news was that it identified Holmer Green as a location for an AGP.

Now I know there will be those that decry digging up real grass and replacing it with plastic grass but whilst the former can be wonderful it does have limitations. As an example, I have estimated that whereas 350 people get the opportunity to use the area that is to be the AGP over the course of a week, the new facility could be used by around 2600 people in the same week. And there won't be muddy patches, waterlogged areas or fox poo to be removed!

So how did the LFFP recommendation end up with what we are currently watching being created at Watchet Lane? By June 2020 we were invited to attend a launch event. The benefits were explained but the challenges were also explained. Chief of these was that we would have to raise a significant contribution to the cost of the project and that we would have to underwrite some of the costs should the project not proceed. But we decided to agree as it was too good an opportunity to miss.

How much does an AGP cost? Well, it ended up costing a lot more than it was predicted to in 2020. The final cost is expected to be just over £1m which is probably around 25% more than we were first advised.

Progress was slow initially, blame coronavirus for that and it wasn't until July 2021 that things started to develop, although it wasn't until November that we were able to have a kick off meeting with the Football Foundation, the organisation charged with managing the huge investment being made by the Government, Sport England and the Premier League. A framework of six contractors was in place to bid for the project and in April 2022 they were invited to price our job. SIS Pitches were successful, it was their job to complete the design and submit the planning application.

Planning was a tortuous process. Documents were submitted in September 2022 and it took until January 2024 for consent to be given. A considerable length of time given we only had a single letter of complaint. This delay was so significant that the cost of the project rose and cost savings had to be found. This resulted in an amendment to the existing planning consent but this time the process was very quick.

While all this was going on we were focussing on our biggest challenge. How to raise our share of the projects cost, a mere £250,000. We were grateful that the Premier League stepped up and gave a grant of £150,000 from their Stadium Fund. It took almost three years to secure the other £100,000 but it was achieved by a combination of the Missenden's Community Board, Bucks Rural Fund, HS2, Heart of Bucks, the parents and supporters of HGFC plus a couple of local charitable funds, including *Holmer Green Today*. The funding plan wasn't actually complete until April 2024, just in time for the final submission to the Football Foundation.

We are grateful for the support the project received from local councillors. Initially we received great encouragement from Little Missenden Parish Council, but particular thanks go to Cllrs Jonathan Waters and Peter Martin. Their help in opening doors was very welcome.

Having spent four years to get all the various approvals, the final stages have been very quick. Approval to the project and the funding was achieved in July 2024. Documents were received and signed in August and work started on site in September. Construction has proceeded at pace and those of us close to the project have marvelled at seeing four years hard work turned into the reality of our all-weather pitch. Every day we are closer to being able to take possession of our pitch and that is really exciting.

(Continued on page 18)



Holmer Green First School and Pre-School

Do You Believe in Dragons? We Do at Holmer Green!

Here in Holmer Green, we wholeheartedly believe in dragons — especially our friendly mascot, NED! NED stands for Never give up, Encourage others, and Do your best, embodying the spirit of our school and inspiring everyone in our community.



Recently, we held a fantastic open day that brought together two hundred visitors, from families who have attended our school to those exploring future enrolment. We also welcomed fellow teachers eager to see all that our wonderful school has to offer.

The morning was filled with laughter and excitement, featuring a scavenger hunt around the school with clues provided by NED. Visitors enjoyed the chance to socialise with staff and each other in the hall while colouring, sipping tea, and indulging in delicious cake. It was a wonderful morning!

In keeping with the dragon theme, our children in Key Stage One have been embracing their exciting topic, Dungeons and Dragons. The Year One children are especially eager for their upcoming trip to Windsor Castle, where they'll experience the magic of a

real castle. Meanwhile, Year Two has been busy creating their own dragons, writing descriptions, and developing advice leaflets on how to care for them. Some of their dragons have been quite troublesome, leading to very entertaining reads! They've also crafted stunning clay dragon eyes, each one uniquely designed and painted—just like our incredible children and, of course, NED!

At Holmer Green, we truly believe in the power of community, creativity and, of course, a little bit of magic — like our beloved dragon, NED!

If you have a child starting school in September but missed our open day, don't worry! We have several new entrants sessions available where you can explore and learn more about our school. Please contact the school office to reserve your spot.



Never give up, Encourage others,
Do your best!





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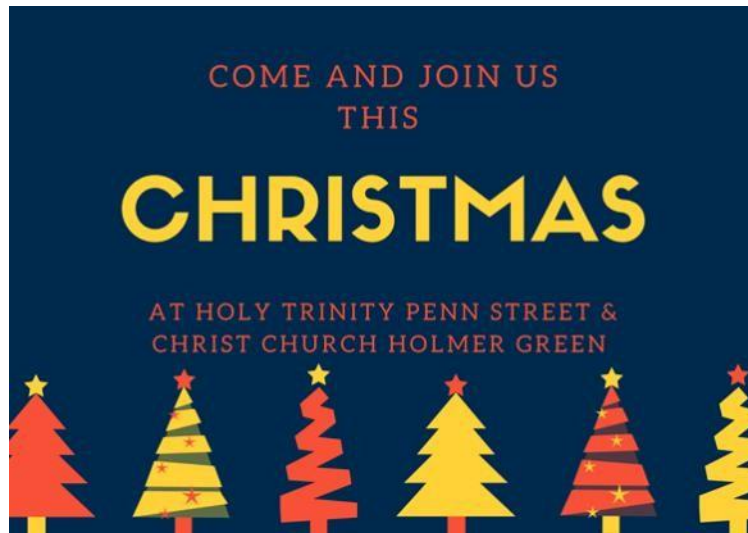
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NEWS FROM CHRIST CHURCH & HOLY TRINITY CHURCH



Where's 2024 gone!? It's time to get ready for Christmas again. To shop to you drop - well online anyway. Do you remember the days of trolling up and down the high street looking for that specific Lego set and Uncle Franks favourite Brandy?

One of the features of being a Vicar is having to eat loads of different Christmas dinners. Fortunately, not on the same day, as in the famous Vicar of Dibley Christmas Special. But nevertheless, there's no shortage of Turkey and all the trimmings on offer at a variety of special Christmas lunches long before December 25th!

If there's one thing that I have more of than Christmas dinners, it's Carol services. You'd think I'd get fed up with them. But I still love a festive sing song, in a decorated church, with over excited children and the proverbial mince pie. Most of all I love the opportunity to talk about why Jesus is such good news for all people, everywhere, all the time.

We have a veritable feast of festive fare for you this year. Just have a look at the lot below and take your pick!

December 7th 10-4pm Christmas Tree Festival Christ Church Centre

Come and see trees decorated by local groups and clubs to represent what they love about Christmas. Perhaps you might like to even enter one yourself! Enjoy some craft with the children and have your first mince pie of the year.

December 15th 4.30pm Christingle & Carols by Candlelight Christ Church Centre

Start with making your Christingle and then settle down to some of your favourite carols and a performance from the Holmer Green First School Choir. And yes, mince pies...

December 22nd 4.30pm Carols by Candlelight Holy Trinity, Penn Street

The traditional carol service at the church in the wood. The atmosphere only topped by the singing of the Curzon School Choir. Hear the Christmas message and enjoy more mince pies!

December 24th 4.30pm Crib Service Christ Church Holmer Green

The trees decorated, the wrappings done, so come for some Christmas fun. A short service aimed at the children. Come dressed up as a Christmas character and join in the scratch nativity (we'll have some spare costumes), as we re-enact the first Christmas (chaotically!) and sing the kid's favourites.

December 24th 11.15pm Midnight Communion Holy Trinity, Penn Street

See in Christmas Day by reflecting on the love of God in the Lord Jesus at a reflective Communion Service.

December 25th 10am Christmas Morning Service Christ Church Centre

A short service for all the family as we celebrate the wonder of God with us and the joy of Christmas.

Looking forward to seeing you over the Christmas season.

All the best,

Daf

(Continued from page 14 - Holmer Green FC News)

So, who is going to have use of the pitch? Well, the main tenant, HGFC will of course have first dibs but the conditions require us to make it available for the community generally with an emphasis on grassroots football, women and girls, seniors and those with disabilities. We already have trouble fitting in every group that has applied to have access.

I have to say that the last four years has been a roller coaster (for my wife as well as me!) but light can be seen at the end of the tunnel and it will soon be time to pull up a chair and watch HGFC and the local community have fun on what we think will be the best sports facility in Buckinghamshire!

Rob Shed - Nov 2024

[There are some images on the back page showing the excavation]

MORE MEMORIES FROM THE SCRAPBOOK!

(Continued from page 11)

V.P.A. JUBILEE YEAR 1944-1994

The Need for Food

To say that 1939 was a year of chaos is to say the least. We all had to come to terms with the fact of war. From life in London, my family and I settled in a farm at Holmer Green - then a true village. Roads were unmade; there was no street-lighting;

village-family names only appeared on the gravestones in the churchyard - and there were few of those. There was no main drainage but the rural walks were beautiful.

Farm living offered no facilities for growing food, so I contacted Mr Sid Waller who fixed me up with an allotment at the Beech Tree crossroads. Holmer Green Village Produce Association had not been born at this time. That came in 1944 when Sid Waller roped me in. I had cultivated the allotment now for several years. It had been poorly worked by its previous owner to produce crop after crop of potatoes and peas. The ground was peppered with old jam-jars let into the level ground to trap the mice that fed on the peas. The unfortunate mice fell into the jars and drowned. One day, removing one of these jars that had been broked by winter frosts, I made a dreadful mess of one of my hands, and walked back to the farm leaving a trail of blood behind me. Bill, the farmer, seeing my state, with a pitchfork removed a cobweb from the roof of the cowshed, draped my hand with the cobweb and lo! the blood was staunchd.

Living at the farm meant an unlimited supply of farmyard manure, from which the allotment benefited. Fertility improved in the soil and the allotment began to produce excellent crops. Water was a problem. When I went to the allotment my wheelbarrow was festooned with garden tools plus all kinds of utensils filled with water.

Onions were the most prized crop as they were almost unbuyable..

Onions generally prefer a rather better climate than we enjoy in England. I recall sales of goods at the conclusion of our Annual V.P. Harvest Suppers when onions received the most enthusiastic bidding - even a single onion! One year I had grown a splendid crop of onions on the allotment, so off I went with the wheelbarrow laded with sacks to collect the excellent crop, only to find the whole crop gone...stolen! Such was the lot of an allotmenteer.

In those far-away days, there was a compactness, a unity, about Holmer Green, typical of a true village. Cherries dominated the summer activities. The discharge of guns to frighten the birds rent the air from dawn to dusk. Land was cheap and easy to obtain. I was offered: the use of a small orchard on which the windmill stood for the peppercorn rent of a shilling a year! The V.P.A. was a great blessing to village life. Slide shows were unknown. However, meetings with speakers and so on added to the: social activities of the village. Mr Hill from, the Bucks Agricultural Farm at Stoke Mandeville was very popular. Sid Waller and I frequently went to Stoke Mandeville. We also went in groups. Sid had a car so we visited neighbouring associations, such as Jordans, Seer Green etc. Sid would collect me and the 'props' for the evening's entertainment. Often we found the hall where we were to speak with great difficulty as the lanes were so dark. Sid left it to me to 'set-the-going' for the evening's events. We had no rehearsal other than a short chat on the telephone beforehand.

An Annual Garden Party held in Sid's house or garden was also popular. Mrs Waller - a large and bounteous lady - made excellent refreshments and ran a band. When Mrs Waller died, life was never the same for Sid. Alas, now he has also gone. However, the V.P.A. goes on and flourishes, this fifty years on!

Lance Thornton

HOLMER GREEN METHODIST CHURCH

A huge thank you to those of you who came along to help us fill the "Love in a Box" shoeboxes in October. We enjoyed a busy, chatty morning together and at the last count there was approximately ninety beautifully wrapped boxes, all filled with the all-important hand knitted hats, scarves and gloves to keep the recipients warm. Along with sweet treats, toys and vital toiletries. These shoeboxes will be blessed before starting their journey to Eastern Europe for children and young people to open and enjoy at Christmas.

Our harvest festival in September was an excellent service taken by our minister, Rev Rachael Prince. Following the service, we enjoyed a lovely lunch together with (as always) far too many desserts and cakes.

Please join us for our annual "Carols by Candlelight service on Sunday 22nd December at 6.00pm.

After the success of the Lamphouse Singers earlier in the year, on Saturday 14th December at 7.00pm they return for a lovely evening. The concert is in aid of "The Eve Appeal" which is the leading UK national charity funding research and raising awareness into the five gynaecological cancers. Tickets are £5.00 and available at the door. Refreshments during the interval.

Ring Sharon on 01494 716897 for more information.

Finally, a reminder that on Thursday 19th December at 7.00pm there will be a production of "A Christmas Carol" followed by mince pies and hot drinks. This performance is excellent as given mainly by one person it may not be suitable for young children. However, this is at the discretion of parents. There is no admission charge, but any donations will be shared between:

One Can Trust - a food bank based in Wycombe serving the town and wider area of South Bucks providing weekly food parcels to those who need our help.

All We Can - rooted in Christian faith this is an international development and relief organisation started by a group of Methodists thirty years ago. It works globally to find solutions impacted by disasters, poverty and injustice.

For more information ring Sharon 01494 716897

If passing the church do pop into our monthly coffee morning every 1st Tuesday 10-12

Craft morning - bring your own painting, knitting colouring, sewing etc or enjoy a morning making cards for a small fee every 3rd Saturday 10.00-12.30.

For more information ring Lesley 01494 712072

Lesley Orange

KNOW ANY PENSIONERS NEEDING BUDGETING HELP?

So, the Government has calculated that 800,000 Pensioners are entitled to the Pension Credit addition to their State Pensions, but are not claiming it, when it could make so much difference to whether they can make ends meet, or not.

When I was a volunteer debt adviser for a debt advice charity some years ago, I would sometimes be helping a pensioner with unmanageable debts. All too often the online Benefits Checker would show they were entitled to Pension Credit. However, their response was often: "I'm not accepting charity."

And so, the following (abbreviated) conversation would follow...

(Me) "Do you have house and contents insurance?"

(Pensioner) "Yes, of course"

"Why?"

"In case something disastrous happens, I would have money to help me recover"

"But your family has been paying NATIONAL INSURANCE nearly all their lives, what's the difference, now that you find yourself in financial need?"

"OK, I see what you mean, please show me how to claim"

If you know a Pensioner who might be better off by claiming Pension Credit, try this conversation - it's normally a winner. Otherwise, you could encourage them to get help from CAP Money, which is a friendly and completely confidential community service run by the Churches Together in Holmer Green, contact capmoney@holmergreenbaptist.org.uk or ring 01494 712479.

Chris Gregory - CAP Money

WORKING IN A COAL MINE

Back in 1975, I found myself working as service engineer in the Northeast of England. Together with two Geordie engineers, we repaired and serviced CompAir pneumatic rock drills, air compressors, and drilling rigs. A lot of the equipment was being used underground by the National Coal Board (NCB).

The job entailed the dismantling of a special rock drilling rig called an "auto panto." We had to arrange the transport of the various bits underground. Our job was then to reassemble the rig where it had to operate.

The work had to be completed in two weeks, as this was during the annual summer holidays. The coal mine was Horden Colliery, situated roughly between Sunderland and Newcastle and close to the coast.

The colliery was sunk in 1900, closing in 1987, and became one of the biggest collieries in the country. Like other parts of the Durham Coast, colliery waste was tipped out to sea and on the beach at Horden.

Before we could go underground, together with my colleagues and our depot manager, we had to undergo safety training. Part of this involved going to the miners' welfare club and having to walk around their snooker table for about half-an-hour wearing the safety respirator. (I mention our manager, as he kept stopping to take off his mask and mop up sweat, which inevitably built up inside the mask. I hasten to say, in a real emergency, you can't do that!

It was a glorious summer day in August on our first day at the mine. After getting our safety gear and leaving our token behind (to say that we were underground), we were in a small cage with other maintenance workers, and down the shaft we went.

It was a fast descent. Levels flashed past. Eventually, our level was reached. Such was the depth, that my ears had popped several times and the cable had stretched. We passed our level, and "bobbed" up and down until the cage settled, and the cage safety door opened. Next, we had to fight against air pressure to open a safety air lock door.

Once opened, the draft of dust laden air rushed past us. We had to pass through several similar doors, until we arrived at what I can only describe as a sort of station platform. Although, instead of a train, there was a conveyor belt whizzing along. We were told to run alongside the belt, each carrying our toolboxes. Then hurl ourselves onto the moving belt, and to "keep your @&□*# heads down!"

The platform area was well lit, but suddenly we were in darkness. I raised my head just a fraction and felt the roof touch my helmet. After a short while, we were in bright lights again, at another platform. Men were shouting "jump off, jump off." I just managed to get off the belt in time. (If I hadn't made it, I would've have gone around again!)

We walked on, and on. The horizontal shaft (or drift) where we were working was quite a way out under the North Sea. I can tell you, it's a funny feeling to have all that rock above you and then the sea above that! Finally, we got to our workplace. We did this journey every day for two weeks. It meant a 7am start and after a shower, we usually left the mine about 7pm.

What struck me that first day was the mice! As it was during the miners' holidays, the mine was more or less deserted. There were so many mice as they were hungry and our shaft had men working in it. They survived on the miners' crusts and left over food. We were told to hang up our jackets and knot our Tupperware "bait" box (lunch box) inside the jacket sleeves. Even so, mice often got inside! They were everywhere. They had travelled down amongst pit props and had bred underground.

Another surprise (for me anyway) was that there are no toilets underground! I was told to go along to the end of the shaft and to cover it up with dust afterwards. (They don't provide toilet paper either by the way!)

We got the rig assembled and tested it. It is called an "auto panto" as the two rock drilling carriages automatically remain parallel as the operator manoeuvres the hydraulic booms. On each drill carriage was "a drifter" pneumatic rock drill. All the equipment is painted white for underground use. On the first day, we were reminded just how dangerous mining is. A young miner the week before, had accidentally stepped in the wrong place and a piece of machinery had taken his foot off at the ankle.

The two weeks underground made me reflect on the coal miner's life. The conditions were to me "grim." Imagine a lifetime of breathing air laden with dust. Strange that miners never wanted their sons to join them underground. Yet, as we all remember, they fought so hard to keep the mines open. I can say the miners' black humour was great though and I guess there was a "band of brothers mentality."

Robert Duerdoth

THE PARISH OF PENN STREET WITH HOLMER GREEN

After another successful Cream Teas season, it's time to look forward to all our Christmas activities. The first one will be the Christmas Tree Festival, on Saturday, 7th December from 10am-4pm in the Church Centre, Holmer Green. There will be trees decorated by local groups, refreshments and craft for children, but grown-ups can participate too. If anyone would like to book a space for a tree, please contact Robert Duerdoth, email duerdoth2@icloud.com or mobile 07859 411 708. There's no charge.

The details for the other Christmas activities and services are on the 'WHAT'S ON ... AND WHERE' page. Briefly they are Christingles and Carols by Candlelight on 15th December, Carols by Candlelight on 22nd December, Crib Service on 24th December, Midnight Communion on 24th December and Christmas Morning Service. More information is given in Rev Daf's article elsewhere in the magazine.

The alterations to dates over the Christmas period are given within the sections regarding our different groups. For instance, we will only have one Souper Lunch in December on Thursday the 12th and it will be our Christmas soup with mince pies and stollen. There will be a choice of other soup for those who do not want the Christmas soup. We will start again on the 9th of January followed by the 23rd.

We had a special Community Cafe shared with Macmillan Coffee Morning on September 28th and raised over £750 for this worthy charity. We will continue with our Cafe meeting on the fourth Saturday each month in the Church Centre, meeting again in November with a break in December as there are so many other events. We will start again on 25th January followed by another special fund-raising event for Rennie Grove Peace Hospice in February 2025. Come and join us for a hot drink and a biscuit and good company.

The Churches Together Women's Fellowship enjoyed a lovely Harvest Lunch at the beginning of October. Our meeting on 21st November will be a quiz at the Baptist Church at 2pm. On 5th December we shall have our Christmas Lunch at The Spindle and Thread in High Wycombe - booking required - and the 19th December will be our Carol Service at the Church Centre. We meet on the first and third Thursdays in the Christ Church Centre or the Baptist Church, usually at 2 pm, and all ladies are welcome.

Babies, toddlers, under school age children & their carers are welcome to join Tiddlywinks on Mondays 1.30pm- 3pm in the Church Centre. No booking is required and meetings are term time only.

This term ends on Monday 16th December, with a Puppet Nativity, and our Christmas Party, at the usual time and the new term begins Monday 6th January 2025.

For more information ring Joan Toye, 01494 718466, or the other contacts listed below.

Linkup Bereavement Friendship Group Meetings are usually held on the 3rd Friday morning at 11am for coffee & biscuits followed by an optional shared lunch from 12 noon to 1.30pm in the Christ Church Centre.

Our Christmas Buffet lunch is on Friday 13th December, 12 noon for 12.15pm for £10 per head. Booking is required so please contact Joan Toye as above or the Parish Office. Please note this is the 2nd Friday in December.

The New Year meeting will be on Friday 17th January 2025.

Earlier this year, a new and very comfortable bench was installed in the churchyard of Christ Church in memory of John Dalton. It has now been joined by another equally comfortable bench in memory of Rev Nigel Stowe. This was provided by a very generous donation from a member of our congregation - a thoughtful gesture that is much appreciated.

Many of our activities take place in the Church Centre, Featherbed Lane, HP15 6XQ, with services held in Christ Church, Holmer Green or Holy Trinity, Penn Street, HP7 OPX. For more information, please visit our website, www.pshg.org or contact the Parish Office, email office@pshg.org. The Office is in the Church Centre and is open on Tuesday and Friday mornings from 8.30am - 12.30pm.

Wishing our readers a joyful Christmas and a happy and peaceful New Year

Hilary Hide

1ST HOLMER GREEN SCOUT GROUP

The group had a varied autumn programme as usual. A number of new members have been invested in each section together with Nick Warner who became the Cub Scout leader of Thursday Cubs.

Among the Beaver activities were games on the common, den building in Penn woods, Halloween preparation and paper plane flying.

Cubs enjoyed a trip to Paccar where they enjoyed zip wire, archery and crate stacking. The highlight of the term has been when three teams of Cubs and leaders participated in the Big O event over 3.50 kilometres in Wendover woods where they developed their orienteering skills.

Following last term's successes one more cub, Rebecca Venn, achieved the highest award a cub can receive, the Chief Scout Silver.

Scouts had a number of outdoor activities particularly a pioneering construction at the old fire station. In preparation for Halloween pumpkins were carved containing lit candles

On 10th November Cubs and scouts attended the Remembrance Day parade

On 18th November we held our usual family evening where the sections demonstrate their skills and invited parents to participate, together with a short AGM where we seek to augment our committee.

From 30 November we will be commencing our Christmas card delivery service with boxes to collect cards in Walsh newsagent, Fox pharmacy and Holmer Green Hair at the usual price of 30p per card for delivery in Holmer Green village only (Royal Mail second class stamps cost 85p). Cards will be collected from the shops on 19th of December and delivered from 21st.

The Scout Father Christmas float will once again be going round the village from 16th to 19th December.

We look forward to another successful year in 2025.

Neil Spencer CBE - Group Scout Leader

4TH HOLMER GREEN BROWNIES

This year's production was "Snow White and the Eleven Dwarfs," performed at the Church Centre, Holmer Green on Saturday 9th November. This event not only raises funds to support our affiliation fee to Girl Guide Association (last year £1500.00), but also helps the Brownies to learn more about themselves and to have huge fun and excitement.

Each term we undertake activities connected with, and leading to, the awards of Brownie Guide badges, in a range of topics from Archaeology to Zero Waste. The aim is to equip girls with a range of skills to enable each to find their potential. They are guided in a relaxed and happy atmosphere towards being useful and resourceful members of society.

The Brownies are aged seven to ten years old, after which many move onto Guides.

We meet on Thursday evenings from 5.30-7.00pm at the Church Centre. Anyone interested in joining us should contact:

Dr Diana Burman 07973620551 diana.burman@btinternet.com

CHRISTMAS CONCERTS BY THE HEATHERTON SINGERS

The Heatherton Singers are once again bringing two Christmas concerts to local churches. The first is on Saturday 7th December at Holmer Green Baptist Church starting at 7.30pm and will include choir carols and readings as well as traditional carols for everyone to join in with - a great way to start the festive season. Refreshments will be available and proceeds from the concert will go to Wycombe Homeless Connection.

The second concert is on Monday 16th December at St Mary's Church in Amersham, again starting at 7.30pm. This will follow a similar format but includes special guests Quintessential Brass who are returning by popular demand. Proceeds from this concert will go to Lighthouse Great Missenden. Tickets for both concerts are £10 and are available by email from events@holmergreenbaptist.org.uk for the Holmer Green concert and from David Cook at david@cooks.me.uk for the Amersham concert.

David Cook

BRIAN HEALY'S D-DAY

To commemorate D-Day I gave a talk on my father Brian's WWII experience concentrating on him skippering a landing craft which landed on Sword Beach at 9am on D-Day - 6th June 1944. Here is his story.



Brian Healy was born in Egypt in 1913 as his father was then a telegrapher with Eastern Telegraph based in Port Said. After schooling he went out to work and by 1934 was working with his brother Dennis worked for the Gas Light & Coke Company which became the North Thames Gas Board on nationalisation. Dennis left in 1938 to join the RAF but Brian, whose job helping to run a gasworks, was a 'Reserved Occupation' had his application to join the Navy turned down. Frustratingly, he continued his admittedly important day time job whilst at night guarding gas holders during the 1940 Blitz & beyond. Then in early 1942, he got permission to sign up for the Navy as someone else would fill his role at the gasworks.

Brian entered basic Naval training in March 1942 at the shore establishment, HMS Dinosaur before being posted for training to the battleship HMS Howe which was then in Scapa Flow after a refit. I think it's quite appropriate that the ship was named after Admiral Howe, the man on the pub sign of our 'Earl Howe' who won a sea battle called 'The Glorious First of June' against the French in 1794. Also serving at that time on the 'Howe', which my dad termed a 'battle wagon' was a young Richard Curzon who later became Earl. It was on the Howe that my dad was told, by the captain in October 1942, that his brother Dennis, skipper of a Catalina flying boat, had been killed by a random shot from a German fighter over Murmansk in Russia and was buried there. I know the news hit him hard as they were very close.

By 1943, my father was 30 and was recommended for officer training which took place at HMS King Alfred along the seafront at Brighton. He had realised that he would have command of a boat if he chose a Landing Craft and particularly the smaller type called Landing Craft Infantry Small (LCIS). He trained on LCIS 518 based at HMS Tormentor (in Warsash on the River Hamble) before being created Acting Temporary Sub Lieutenant of LCIS 532.

Events move on to the preparations for D-Day. My dad's LCIS was given a roll in Flotilla 200/201. Flotilla 200 was to land the 1st Special Services Brigade (called the Lovat Scouts) led by Lord Lovat and complete with Bill Millan the bagpiper on the Queen red sector of Sword Beach. Flotilla 201 (including 532) was to land 30 minutes behind them and carried 45 Royal Marine Commando Regiment.



On D-Day, as the landing craft approached Sword, an artillery round passed through the bridge of 532 killing one commando and injuring an officer. Once all the troops were landed, Brian put the engines astern to pull off the beach and return to the UK. At that point, a shell attached to an underwater obstruction called a 'hedgehog' exploded, severely damaging 532's bow. Together with LCIS 535, Brian's 532 limped back across the channel to Warsash for repair.

After repairs and together with other LCISs, Brian's 532 did a ferry service across the channel spending 31 days in France and returning to Warsash twice. After the breakout from Normandy, Paris was quickly taken by the Allies and, with proper ports now available to supply ships, the war moved away from the Normandy beaches.



Back in Warsash, my father met my mother on Rising Sun Quay. Mum was a WREN recently transferred from Dartmouth and acted as 'Boats Crew' bringing the landing craft crew ashore from their boats moored offshore - "The best chance to meet new men", said my 23-year-old mum.

And the rest, as they say, is history!

Peter Healy

GARDENING MATTERS

As a horticulturalist and conservationist, I very much value the importance of well-established trees and hedges, whether they be native or introduced species. When I first moved to Holmer Green I walked around and recorded many of the significant woody plants growing in gardens and public places. One of my projects, which was inspired by Eric Thickett, was to identify all of the trees and shrubs growing on and in the vicinity of The Common and this information was passed on to Holmer Green Village Society. The sketch map that I produced showing the names and positions of these trees can be viewed on the HGVS website. Two very interesting trees here are an upright



narrow form of the Field Maple, *Acer campestre* 'William Caldwell,' [pictured here on the left] and a Japanese Crab Apple, *Malus tschonoskii*. Both of these trees will display fabulous autumn colour foliage when grown in a sunny situation.

I still frequently walk around the village and observe the flora, carrying a notebook and often a camera, so that I can record any notable changes as regards to trees and shrubs that have for some reason been removed and also to note any new plantings. I am always very saddened when I see that trees, shrubs and hedges have been removed, especially if the plants were the only specimens of that particular type to be found growing locally. On several occasions I have

knocked on doors to inform the residents of any unusual trees, shrubs or hedges growing in their gardens. The occupants often do not appreciate the role that these particular plants play in the diversity of woody plants growing in our village.

I know that several hedges have been removed because they had grown too large and been infiltrated with other species over the years. One even had Japanese Knotweed growing in it which had been impossible to eliminate. Many hedges have been replaced by various types of fencing and I can understand why this is the case. I am always pleased to see that plants and even borders of shrubs are planted on the garden side of the fence, and I love to see them establishing.

Stuart King has kindly pointed out to me the significance of two small sections of very old hedges in Holmer Green. One is a very old section of a Hornbeam hedge close to the Scout Hut in Parish Piece, and the other being a mixed hedge on one side of the alleyway that leads from New Pond Road, alongside the boundary of the Old Oak Pub into Polidoris Lane [pictured here on the right]. If you have room to plant even a small hedge in your garden it would add interest. Most importantly it would provide a vital link in the wildlife corridor creating a habitat that provides shelter for nesting and feeding, especially for birds, animals and beneficial insects.

Trees often have to be removed if they are very old, particularly if they have become diseased. Another reason for removal is that the tree has been planted in the wrong place. About a year ago, a beautiful specimen of the "Golden Honey Locust Tree" *Gleditsia triacanthos* 'Sunburst' was removed from a garden as it was in the way of a driveway extension. I showed my concern about this and was so pleased that another specimen of this beautiful tree was planted close by before the driveway extension was carried out. Another tree that was removed from a local garden was a "Golden Rain Tree" *Koelreuteria paniculata* which had to be removed because of a house extension. Many years ago, I planted a specimen of this tree in my daughter's garden in Hazlemere, and four years ago I was presented with a seedling from this tree which I have since been potting on. So, I am pleased to say that there will be at least one specimen of the Golden Rain Tree in Holmer Green as I am about to plant it in my front garden. It should be tall enough to view over the beech hedge surrounding my garden in a couple of years' time.

In my next article I will suggest and describe trees and hedges suitable for growing in small gardens.

Enjoy your gardening, and I wish you a very Joyous Christmas and Happy New Year.

A suggested gift for the person 'who has got everything' is an annual membership to the Holmer Green Village Produce Association, our local gardening club. Membership includes free garden advice from yours faithfully,

Brian Fisher



BAPTIST CHUR

CH UPDATE

As Pastor at the Baptist church, I am personally really excited about the initiative shared below. Please do think about whether you would like to help or indeed would find this opportunity helpful for a child you have or know. Please spread the word. Blessings

Anthony (Pastor Holmer Green Baptist Church)

=====

I am sitting here on a very damp and dreary Sunday afternoon wondering which words to use to spread the news about a very exciting project that will hopefully bring some light and joy to a group of hidden young people in our community.

Chapter 9, verses 1-3 in the book of John, tells the story of Jesus healing a man born blind. An interesting conversation takes place which resonates deeply with our family. 'As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" 3 Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.'

Just think about these words for a moment and reflect on how this represents current day society. We can label and judge those around us without stopping and thinking the effect this has. The naughty child having a 'tantrum'; the teenager lashing out; bad choices in language; insolence of the ones who won't respond; the shy one who doesn't speak up; the rude one who won't maintain eye contact; the queue jumper who pushes to the front of the toilet line...the list goes on. It was until very recently that 'naughty or 'dumb' children were made to sit in the corner of the classroom with a dunce's cap on their head or that left-handed people had their hands tied behind their back to learn to write with their 'right hand.' Thankfully, times have changed and continue to change but there is still so much more to do to show these individuals who don't fit society's 'normal' label that they should be embraced, nurtured, celebrated but most importantly supported to be the amazing individuals that they are.

We are blessed to be parents of a quick witted, sensitive, animal loving, performance and all things arts loving 10 year old. However, she finds life hard. She likes to learn in a different way to that advocated of our school system, and having to conform and fit in takes its toll on all. You see, she is also that 'naughty child' having a tantrum who thinks nothing of hurting those who are close to her or herself. She is that child who can't regulate her emotions and who's brain goes into fight mode when she hears the word 'no.' As a parent this is both frustrating and heart breaking. We love her with all our hearts, even though at times this can be tested to it's full.

After a diagnosis of ADHD and Autism as well as separation anxiety, her world suddenly made sense. To her, feeling normal is a snow globe full of glitter flying around with everyone telling her to

make it settle but it won't because it keeps being shaken up. For me, normal a few years ago was having a hidden colostomy bag and people swearing at me because I had a disabled toilet key. There is no 'normal' and trying to conform in itself is not 'normal.' We are all individuals on our own paths and what we have to do is find the right path for us that serves ourselves and our community in the best possible way that we know how.

We are fortunate in that our daughter is able to communicate with us on calm days how she's feeling. She asked me one day why her friends don't get her, how she knows she can be annoying or stubborn but that's just her brain refusing to let go of ideas or opinions. She asked how she could make friends like her and who would understand. So that's where we decided to pick ourselves up and do something proactive to bring her wish to life. We've searched for groups where we can go as a family; where she'd feel safe and able to be herself (and dare I say flourish); where we wouldn't be judged; where we wouldn't be lectured at, but mainly where we could just 'be.' Then it dawned on me, every Sunday we attend the most amazing safe space, where our daughter is happy to go off and share her love of play and learning. Where we're all accepted and where she has absolutely flourished. We approached our Pastor about the idea of starting a group for children with Hidden Disabilities (although I'd rather call it Hidden abilities) and he was onboard from the get go. The support and love that we have received from our church family as well as the wider community who are now starting to talk about their own experiences has been overwhelming. We are truly blessed.

So, I am beyond excited to announce that starting in January 2025, on the last Saturday of every month, between 10am and 12pm the doors of Holmer Green Baptist Church will be open for 7-14 year olds with hidden disabilities to come along and just be. There will be calm spaces, creative spaces, noisy spaces, whatever they want and need and for the parents a space to have a cuppa in a safe space, knowing that they can share and be reassured or just vent to others who understand - no therapists or workshops are involved.

Please spread the word and let's make this happen for this community and my promise to you all is that if the demand is out there to make this happen more often than monthly or further afield then I will help to drive it. There are thousands of our family out there and for at least the littlest member, her wish has been granted. God has answered her prayers and hopefully those of many more to come.

If you are interested in coming along, volunteering, or would like more information, please don't hesitate in contacting
anthony@holmergreenbaptist.org.uk.

Blessings to you all

Kerri Fabre (tired, exhausted but excited!)

Holmer Green Stroke Club

We have 20 - 25 members and a team of enthusiastic, dedicated volunteers.

Our aim: to create a relaxed, supportive environment allowing all members to take part in some way

Tuesday 10am - 12 noon Christ Church Centre The Common Holmer Green HP15 6XQ

Our mornings are usually divided into three sessions:

- interesting activity: in-house or outside speaker/activity
- refreshments/chat time
- choice of board or card games



stone painting

We offer a varied programme including ...

Regulars: seated physio, cooking, music, gardening & quizzes

Invited speakers/groups these recently included ukelele group, magician, Beaconsfield Town Crier & Hearing Dogs for Deaf People

Topical themes: pancake races, horse racing for Royal Ascot and seated tennis for Wimbledon followed by strawberries & cream!



Christmas table decoration

We are always trying out new ideas: pottery & handbells have proved popular this year.

We lunch together at least 4 times a year at Christmas/Easter/Harvest + a summer special.

We do not have our weekly meetings in August ... but there are tea parties organised in a lovely garden (weather permitting).

- If you, or a member of your family, has suffered a stroke and might benefit from becoming a member of our Club ... please phone for more information
- **WE ARE ALSO LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS** ... no qualification needed just the desire to help people and 2 hours to spare each week.

If you think you could help us ... please phone for more information

Mary 01494816162



hanging baskets



pizza making



pottery



horse racing

WOMEN'S SECTION ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The members of the Women's Section met in the Royal British Legion Hall for their Harvest Festival, which was held in September. This year we invited our Padre Mr Anthony Smith who kindly accepted our invitation to give a short service of Thanksgiving, he also told us about his life as a padre and about being a paramedic. He told us about his wife, his children and about his decision to adopt two young, orphaned children from Afghanistan. This was very emotional.

Afterwards a table with numerous items were then auctioned off. Thanks again to Tesco in Amersham and their employee, B.J. Taylor, who enjoys coming to join in.

October was our AGM when members voted for the Committee and gave suggestions for next year's programme of events. The programme will be available to members when we meet for our Christmas lunch in December.

As we approach Christmas, on behalf of the Women's Section, have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Condolences go to Peter Ronald George Rolt 20-6-33 - 28-8-24

With apologies, the following article was omitted from the last issue:

This year the Royal British Legion celebrated the 80th anniversary of D-Day. Veronica, a committee member, and I travelled to Normandy with Crusader Holiday coach in May for a guided tour of the war graves, Normandy American cemetery memorial and the British Normandy Memorial also the famous Pegasus Bridge and several other places. After an emotional tour of an R.A.F. officer's grave (a sergeant aged 21) I felt it appropriate to lay a poppy wreath after saying the Exhortation.

The full coach enjoyed a lovely weekend of sunshine.

In June Peter Healey gave a talk, with slides, in the Village Centre depicting his father's time during the war. This event brought back memories of the places we had visited in France. I asked the attendees if they would like to walk to the Memorial say the Exhortation and lay a wreath. We then went to the Common to see the beacon lit up. June was overcast the Women's Section had the tea party, which was donated by the committee members, prepared and a nice day was enjoyed by all.

July our Chelsea Pensioner was unable to visit us, but we were entertained by a Group Banjo Revival singing and playing instruments with the members joining in. Finishing with a well-earned cuppa.

Wendy Tomlin

HOLMER GREEN W.I.

Retired BBC journalist Bill Hamilton gave us a highly amusing, entertaining and interesting talk in July. We can recommend him to other groups and hope to have him back for another talk.

August is our Walk meeting, where we annually maintain a selected footpath. Some of the fitter members plus husbands took the usual footpath from Featherbed Lane through the Holmer Green woods, armed with secateurs to help clear the pathway. A few others did a shorter walk along the same route. Other members stayed behind at the Village Centre.

On the return of the walkers, cups of tea and tea-breads were served.

September was a hugely successful meeting. Sending out invites to local WIs, we had over fifty visitors to attend our Fashion Show. Clothes, accessories and a talk were provided by Jackie Allen, who spoke to us about her background, including shows and shops she had run.

The fashion show then commenced with members Pauline Ellis, Julie Purvis, Anne Corking, Salma Michael and Joy Moody modelling the clothes. Items were available to buy later.

Afterwards tea was served with Victoria Sponge cakes made by the members placed on each table.

October was a social meeting, with games of Bingo and a quiz, and the opportunity to have a good chat and catch up over tea.

Details of our programme for the coming year can be viewed on our website holmergreenwi.weebly.com

Our posters are also displayed each month on the Village noticeboard by the shops.

Annie Greateorex



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This offer expires on 28 February 2025.

For further information, please get in touch via www.purefitnessbucks.com.

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email: purefitnessbucksLtd@gmail.com, or text: 07851-754167.

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Tuesday	9am to 1pm	2pm to 6pm
Wednesday	9am to 1pm	2pm to 6pm
Thursday	9am to 1pm	2pm to 6pm
Friday	9am to 1pm	2pm to 6pm
Saturday	9am to 1pm	Closed
Sunday	Closed	Closed

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HOLMER GREEN GARDENING ASSOCIATION ANNUAL SHOW

The Village Gardening Association's Annual Show took place on 7th September, and horticultural entries were always going to be challenging, given the extreme weather conditions of the summer months. In the event we had a reasonable number of exhibits which made for good viewing, given that some of our big exhibitors were absent or reducing their entries and that other local organisations had their shows on the same day. Our overall entries were up on a year ago thanks to increases in entries in the photographic and junior sections. We also used the opportunity to sell the recently printed 2025 Village Society Calendar, which attracted good interest at the Show.

The judges were all as diligent as usual and Tony and Janice Harper kindly worked hard once again, providing refreshments for the many attendees. As ever I was grateful for the support of all those who helped with judging, stewarding, catering, certificate writing, setting up and clearing up. Without all their efforts we would not have a show and I give my huge thanks to them all.

Peter Williams is to be congratulated on his many wonderful horticultural successes. The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Medal went however, to Linda Meatyard as RHS rules prevent Peter from winning 2 years in a row.

Brian Fisher, our resident horticulturist, was the winner of The Best pot plant for one of his superb succulents. Other winners in the floral and vegetable classes included Tony Harper and Jo Weber (who won the 'much-desired' pumpkin trophy!).



The battle of the giant marrows and pumpkins was a highlight, and we had to source new scales to carry out the weigh-ins!

The Domestic Challenge Trophy (for most points in the domestic classes) was awarded to Linda Meatyard and Sue Edmunds won awards for her exhibits in the jam classes. Dave



McMillan won the award for most points in the Domestic classes across the two 2024 shows and the best domestic exhibit.

Annie Greatorex provided the best Apple Tart.



I was pleased to see successes for Rob Shed with two Photography Awards (Annual Show and 2024 overall) and Margaret James won the John Streeter Memorial Trophy (for the best overall photo).



The number of Children's class entrants was well up on last year and Ethan Meatyard won the Junior Classes overall award, plus he helped the Meatyard family win the Rippington Family Cup for overall successes.

The Spring Show is planned for 5th April 2024 so please put that date in your diary and pick-up a show schedule from the store when available in mid-January. Remember entries can be horticultural, domestic, photographic or art.

Michael King (Show Secretary)

[There's two more images on the back page]

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are the life blood of all charities.

Brian Fisher has been raising money this month by talks and a quiz given to the V.P.A. (gardening club) in aid of Rennie Grove Peace Hospice Care.

He has also contributed to Chiltern Stroke Club with his talk entitled "People who have had a positive influence on me throughout my career."

Linda Meatyard



The quarterly magazine is purchasable at J Walsh (Newsagents),

Would: any local Business or Organisation care to purchase space in ***Holmer Green Today*** to advertise their activities and at the same time support the Village?
The annual sales are approximately one thousand two hundred.

If so, please contact our Advertising Coordinator, whose details are on page 2.

And ... if anyone or local organisation would like to submit articles for future publication?

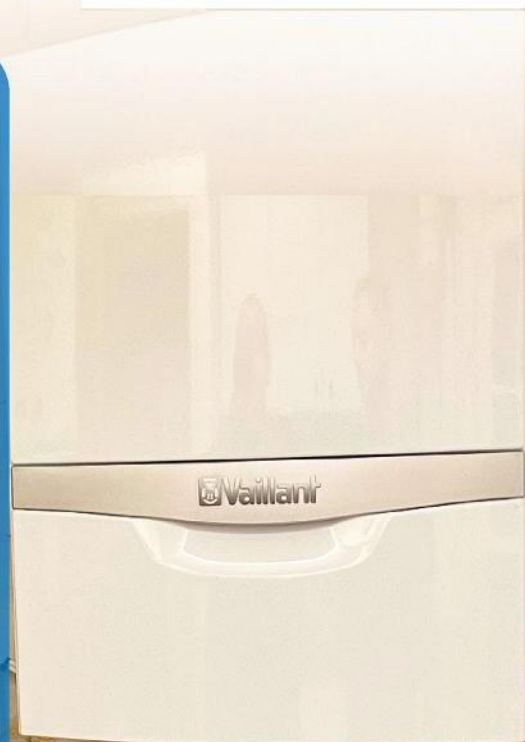
If so, please contact the Editor whose details are also on page 2, it's free!

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THE HOLMER GREEN PLAYERS

'ALLO' ALLO! TICKETS AVAILABLE SOON MON CHER

Back by popular demand, The Holmer Green Players are busy preparing for their next instalment of the ever so popular *Piece de Resistance*, written and directed by Terri Boyce.

Piece de Resistance was originally written following the huge success of 'Allo 'Allo on television, and to which it is surprisingly similar!

It is set in a small village in rural France, which has at its heart an equally small café, run by Henri and his wife, Odette. It takes place during the German occupation of France in World War II, where Resistance fighters, the Gestapo, German Army officers and British airmen and spies interact daily, ignorant of one another's true identity or presence.

Henri is a busy man. He runs his café treading a dangerous line between the French resistance and the occupying German forces, in order to keep his business afloat and his life intact, all the while trying to conceal from his wife the affairs he is having with Lili and Francoise.

This is the story of a ship temporarily docking nearby, which contains top secret documents relating to the Enigma Code. Herr Schmidt of the Gestapo is unaware of the true value of these documents, (which allow the English to break the code of German messages), but he believes that it could be of significance - little does he know! However, he is suspicious of a visitor in Henri's café, and orders his aide, Olga, to disguise herself as a waitress and apply for a job in the café, and report back. Unfortunately, Olga is unable to learn anything, so Herr Schmidt takes over as the waitress in disguise!

Meanwhile, Monique of the Resistance hatches a plot to blow up the ship containing the documents which, with the 'help' of the English airmen/spies, goes spectacularly wrong.

Further plans are made to ensure that the documents are destroyed before the Germans find out what they contain. The execution of the plans is also fraught with hazard, putting Henri in great danger (along with Odette, and Lili and Francoise), but in the end they manage to achieve Monique's objective and, at the last minute, and purely by luck the Germans are thwarted - much to Herr Schmidt's fury!

Tickets for this must-see comedy show will be available from The Holmer Green Players website on Sunday 1st December at 8am.

Performance dates are Wednesday 5th, Thursday 6th, Friday 7th and Saturday 8th February 2025. Chip-based suppers will be available for the Friday & Saturday night performances.

In March, the junior group will take to the stage for their performance of *Bugsy Malone*. More details can be found on the group's website, www.holmergreenplayers.info/shows.

Sam Eden

OUR POND, THE HEART OF THE VILLAGE

Ponds have been part of English village life forever. Sometimes a source of water for domestic purposes, commonly used to refresh horses or herds of animals being ushered long distances by drovers. Ducks and geese were also a common sight although often discouraged due to fouling the water.

Many village ponds have been lost due to housing development and such, but our village of Holmer Green is lucky, our pond is still at the heart of the community, and yes, we have plenty of ducks, we even have three duck houses!



The pond in the 1920's

Our pond is an ancient one and could tell a few tales but forget the urban myth that it is the resting place of an unfortunate horse and cart, half the ponds in England have similar tales talked about them. Ours is not a deep pond, about welly height at most. In the twenties a homeward bound wagon of village cricketers did get a soaking due to the tipsy driver overshooting the crossroad from New Pond Road at pace, but all lived to play another day.

By 1966 Holmer Pond was so choked with bull rushes that a village pond week was organised to restore it to what we have today. Let's cherish what we have and what many villages have lost.

Stuart King

OPPORTUNITEA CAFÉ CELEBRATES THE ARRIVAL OF PLACEMENT TRAINEES

OpportuniTEA Café has now been open for two months, and we have been so pleased with the support we have already received from the community. Our regular customers are helping to shape what we do in the café and have been happy to give feedback on our fresh bakes and home-made soups. The tomato and red pepper soup has been a particular hit!

New trainees

But our big news is that we have recently welcomed our first trainees and our Placement Coach, Emma. Emma has spent the past two weeks getting to know our trainees, Tracy and Felix, finding out about their capabilities and aspirations in order to formulate their personalised training plan. Our trainees are adults with learning disabilities and share an ambition to join the world of work and to gain future independence. Their time in OpportuniTEA Café will provide them with hands on experience in all areas of running the café but also building their portfolio of transferrable skills too.

Kitchen refit

The kitchen will be undergoing a refit at the end of November and as a result we will be temporarily closed. Exact dates are to be confirmed but we are very much looking forward to welcoming back our customers once it is complete. We would recommend keeping an eye on our Facebook page for updates on opening dates, just search: #OpportuniTEAcafe

Opening details

Days: Mondays and Tuesdays

Times: 9.00am until 3.30pm

Address: OpportuniTEA Café, Holmer Green Sports Association, 87 Watchet Lane, Holmer Green, HP15 6UF



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HOLMER GREEN'S WOMEN'S LAND ARMY IN WW2

The Women's Land Army was originally established by the government during the First World War to work on farms to boost food production, and in forestry. This national civilian organisation was reestablished once more in June 1939 to help replace farmers and foresters who were fighting for the freedom that we enjoy today.

The 'Land Girls' often wore a green tie and the WLA (Women's Land Army) badge, featuring a wheat sheaf symbolising their agricultural work.

Since the Women's Land Army was not a military organisation, wearing the uniform was not mandatory.

The clothing had to be made with minimal fabric while remaining warm, weatherproof, and durable to withstand the rigors of the job. The complete uniform issued included the following items:



Land Army Girls badge



Two pairs of brown corduroy breeches, Two pairs of dungarees

Two short sleeve shirts, One long sleeve shirt, One dark green pullover, Two overall coats, Six pairs of stockings, Two pairs of slipper socks

One pair brown leather shoes, One pair black leather boots.

One pair rubber gumboots, Oilskin or Macintosh, Overcoat and a Brown felt hat.

Land girls were paid directly by the farmers who employed them. The minimum wage was 28s per week and from this, 14s was deducted for board and lodging. The average wage for male agricultural workers was 38s per week. At its peak in 1944 there were more than 80,000 women in the WLA. Land girls could be directed to work anywhere in the country and at one point could be conscripted.

The basic working week for land girls was forty-eight hours in winter and fifty in summer. Initially there were no holidays - paid or unpaid, just a free travel pass after six months. However, conditions improved after 1943 with the introduction of the 'Land Girl's

Charter'. This introduced one week's holiday per year and raised the minimum wage.

Holmer Green had an enviable record in raising money for many WW2 projects whether funds for war planes or warships, and so it should not come as a surprise where the village womanhood is concerned. They joined the Women's Land Army in droves. They were centred in a tented camp on land at Copners.

A separate branch of the WLA was that of the 'Timber Jills' whose job it was to use the saw and the axe to fell timber in our local woodlands for the

war effort, much of it for raffle butts and pit props for the coal mines.



Land army girls at Copners camp,
driven by a German POW



John King with land girls working in Penn Woods

Stuart King

CHADWICK LADIES

Our first autumn speaker was Richard Anderson, a humorous antique dealer who quizzed the group on some very unusual antique items. The talk later in September was an intriguing look at Eccentric London, followed by the Controversial life of Princess Margaret.

A tea party was held in October to raise funds for the Macmillan Nurses. Members are looking forward to a talk on the history of the Pantomime Dame and the history of Bekonscot Model Village, before our celebratory Christmas dinner in December.

Judy Gilligan

HOLMER GREEN VILLAGE SOCIETY

The Holmer Green Village Society is busy preparing for the end of year event Christmas By the Common on Sunday December 1st. It's an event we all look forward to where we gather at the Village Centre to join the choirs from the local schools and share in the preparation for Christmas. Children can visit Santa whilst everyone can enjoy the food, drink and games from various local organisations. Following previous years, where we've been challenged by very wet weather we've invested in a fully protected stage and improved PA system so that the voices from the choirs can be heard more easily and the children won't get wet.

So, Step into the magic of Christmas at Santa's Grotto!

Bring the kids along for a festive experience filled with joy, laughter, and holiday cheer! Meet Santa himself and watch little faces light up with wonder - plus, every child receives a special gift for just £3! Don't miss out on making unforgettable memories this year at Christmas by the Common.

Christmas by the Common is the third big event we are running this year following Music on the Common in July and the recently completed Community Fireworks on November 2nd. It's thanks to Holmer Green Today that we can recognise the Event's team at the Society who are exceptional at delivering really professional events. We now fill the Common and put on a show for a full 6 hours in the Summer and have over 1700 people at the fireworks event in November. As they say, It Takes a Village to put these events on and Makes a Village when they are done so well.

We're fortunate enough to generate our funds at both the big events, and from the sale of our merchandise, which means we can afford to host the Christmas event, so we look forward to welcoming people on December 1st.

Elsewhere, Village Society teams are busy in the Jubilee Sensory Gardens and the flower beds around the pond, volunteers regularly complete the litter picks, and the planning team continue to pressure the ICB for plans to improve our local healthcare facilities, with some good publicity in the local paper. Look out for the regular Jubilee Sensory Gardens feature in Holmer Green Today from this month.

We've also been investigating other projects, most notably the "VEGAS" project, or Village Entrance Gates and Signs. We are currently looking into the costs and practicalities of installing entrance gates at the entrances to the village. The idea is to install the gates where the basic Holmer Green Village signs are located to create a sense of place when entering Holmer Green. Entrance signs have also been proved to reduce the speed of traffic as drivers realise, they are entering a village which means the signs would be more than just a visual benefit.

As an extension to the VEGAS project, we are also aware of other places that are important spaces in the village and, in conjunction with individuals working on the neighbourhood plan we are looking at other OPEN SPACE areas in the village that could be improved or enhanced.

If these or any other aspect of the village society's work is of interest to you, please contact us with your interest and we'd be delighted to include you in the activity.

Looking forward to seeing you on December 1st for Christmas by the Common.

Simon Jones – Chair, Holmer Green Village Society

LANGFORD COTTAGE - WATCHET LANE

I was recently able to chat to Margaret and Alec Weddell to hear about their family history. Margaret's mother Flora Langston was born 1904 in London. Later in her life she worked at Springfields in Great Kingshill. There she met Arthur who she got engaged to, his parents lived opposite Springfields. They married in 1923 at Cryer's Hill Baptist Church and had four children Eileen, Vera, John and Margaret. They rented a property in Watchet Lane.

During the war Flora and Arthur had a houseful of children, up to ten children, mostly families from London who had evacuated to the safety of Buckinghamshire. Arthur's work was to sell the vegetables that he had grown in the plot next door with extra vegetables bought from Aldridge's in Wycombe. He delivered to everyone in Holmer Green with his horse Nobby pulling the cart. Nobby was stabled down in the garden and his feed was supplemented by helping farmers at haymaking, to use during the winter months. The dung heap was added to the land to help grow the produce for sale. Arthur helped at the British Legion and Flora was a founder member who helped organise dances for the troops stationed nearby. The Legion, where Arthur played dominos, had a drama group this all entertained the troops stationed at Penn Street and Cosy Corner.

One Sunday morning, Margaret remembers her mum Flora being in the kitchen when there was a knock on the door. A service man was asking for a drink, which she provided, then the whole platoon drove up and parked in the field opposite and she provided drinks for them all. When they left, they gave her supplies from the canteen truck as a thank you.

A brother of Alec lived at the bottom of Howe Hill Lane and encouraged Margaret and Alec to get together. Alec lived in Southall, West London and regularly visited his brother. When he left school, he became a wood machinist at Beaver and Tapley, chair and furniture makers in Scotts Road where he worked all his life. Margaret worked as a copy typist. Many people at that time worked for Crown and Cork bottle makers. Many new people moved into the area for work. Margaret worked in the evenings at Scott's Emulsion Medical factory where they made white medicine. When Margaret's father, died in 1968, they moved to Holmer Green to look after Flora. Initially they wanted to build a home on the meadow, but it was green belt, so application was turned down, instead, they extended the cottage.

Alec travelled to Southall in his Austin 7 for thirty years. There was not much traffic in those days he would drive via Denham. He left at 5.45am each morning and every day he would visit a neighbour in Southall to check she was ok before starting his work.

We chatted about different buildings in Holmer Green. Going down Watchet Lane towards Hazlemere were four terrace cottages near, to now, Heath Close Margaret would leave her bike there each day before catching a bus to Wycombe to work at J Rivett. In another house, with the curved windows, lived Elsie and Wilf Stevens of Steven's Garage fame. Stan Pearce lived next to Langford Cottage where he kept exotic water birds.

Margaret says there was no electricity in Langford Cottage till she was eighteen. Water was from the well which was also used as a larder, rainwater was collected from the roof. When Flora was alive, she had chickens and kept a pig shared with the Palmers of the Beech Tree pub (now a care home on the mini roundabouts). This was divided between the two families.

Margaret has always been involved in the village and when I came to Holmer Green forty or so years ago I was involved in scouting she was always fund raising. She got involved in 1968 when Mrs Payne asked her to help. They went around knocking on doors to get people interested. She ran jumble sales at the hut in Parish Piece and dances in the village hall. But I remember well the summer barn dances held in the meadow next to their cottage for the scout group. It was great fun with the campfire and hay bales to sit on. They are also Members of the V.P.A. association and helped with the catering duties.

Overall, Margaret and Alec are typical members of old Holmer Green where everyone knew everyone and looked out for them. Not the same any more as many organisations are struggling to recruit new members.

In 1950 they married in Christ Church Holmer Green. So next March they celebrate seventy-five years of marriage. Many congratulations to them.

Linda Meatyard

THE SENSORY GARDEN

If you haven't visited lately then you have some great surprises in store at the garden.

Over the summer our volunteer team have been working really hard to add a number of new features, whilst maintaining the upkeep of the rest of the garden.

Thanks to the recruiting efforts of Simon Jones, the Chairman of the Village Society, we have welcomed a team of Duke of Edinburgh Senior School Students as volunteers, and they have really embraced the practical side of this challenge.

They have been hard working and creative and have made a big difference to the team.

The students have been working on many different projects such as:

- Refurbishing our bench
- Designing and building our water feature
- Creating the sundial feature and
- Designing and creating a new tactile board

However, it's not just the interesting stuff they've put a hand too, they've also embraced the more mundane tasks like clearing, weeding, leaf raking and dead heading.

These students come to us from Holmer Green Senior School and Wycombe High School and can be found giving their time most weekends.



They have been a breath of fresh air, and we are incredibly grateful for the work they have done here.

If you have a young person at home that might like to do some volunteering (whether that is via the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme or not), then we'd love to hear from you.



Looking forward into the next few months we are hoping to take part in Christmas by The Common, with a fund raising stall, so we hope to see you there.

Just a reminder that we are located on the Earl Howe Road (opposite Holmer Green Service Centre), we are open every day, all day and is free to enter.

Our garden is run and cared for by volunteers from our community and we are always on the lookout for new volunteers. If this is something you think you might enjoy, we'd love to hear from you.

Why not drop us a line at: info@holmergreenvillagesociety.co.uk or call our project leader - Martin Little - on 07384 633259.

You can stay up to date with our events and progress on social media, either on Facebook: @Holmer Green Jubilee Sensory Garden or Instagram at @hg_sensory_garden.

Sarah Crowner



MOTORISTS

Please don't forget that
**Pavements are for
Pedestrians!**



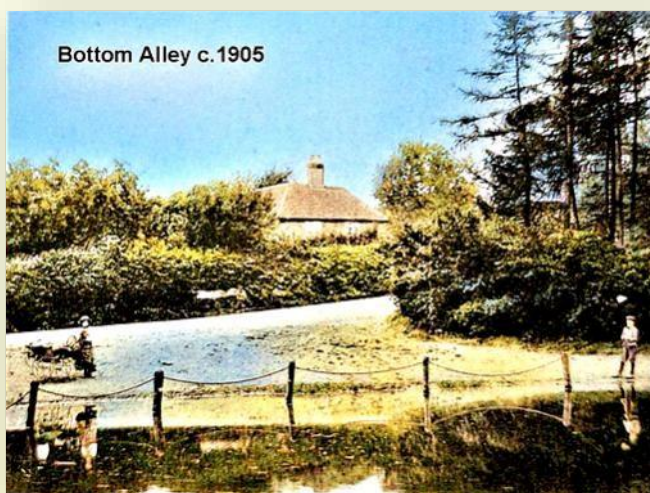
Two more images from the VPA Show, more on page 31



Display of Roses



Luna and her decorated pebble



Another of
Stuart King's
collections
of images of
The Pond



AGP on its way to Holmer Green! See the article on page 14

