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MAGAZINE

HOLMER GREEN TODAY

EST 1989

AUTUMN 2025

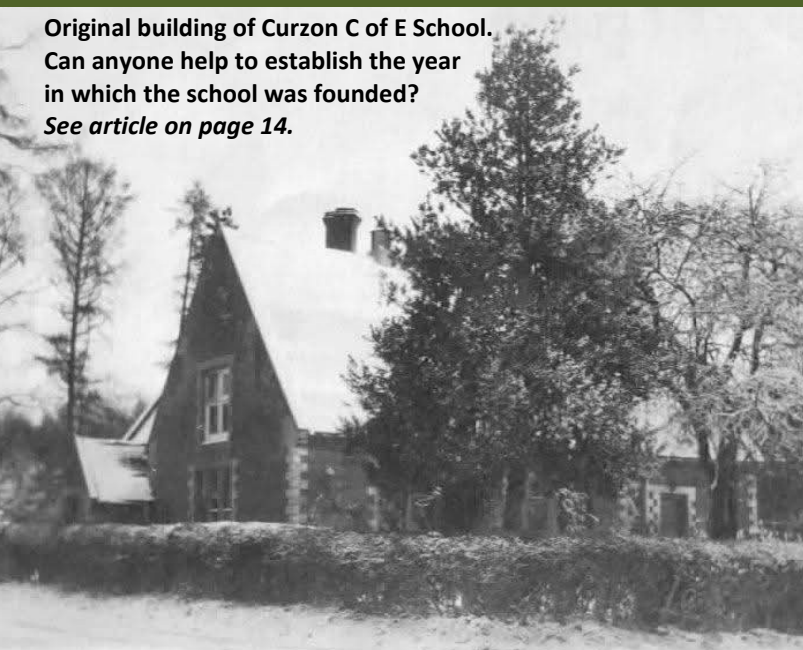


Congratulations HG HAIR on celebrating 50 years in business.

Come and join all the staff at a party to celebrate! Everyone is invited.

See their article on page 11 for full details.

Original building of Curzon C of E School.
Can anyone help to establish the year
in which the school was founded?
See article on page 14.



- **NEWS**

UPDATES, EVENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **VIEWS**

OPINIONS, INSIGHTS, PERSPECTIVES

- **REPORTS**

REVIEWS, ANALYSIS, SUMMARIES

- **HISTORY**

STORIES, HERITAGE, MILESTONES



Editorial

By Ann Miller

Let us start with some "well done's".

In spite of some intense hot weather, Music on the Common was a great success for the village. I thank the inventors of the gazebo as without it my day would have ended at 10 o'clock! I just do not have the stamina anymore. Well done to all the organisers, contributors, attendees, and those who helped some elderly folk erect and carry their possessions on and off the common.

Well done to the Kindness Ambassadors from the First School. What a lovely initiative involving the children, and going forward, long may the kindness last.

Well done and congratulations to HG HAIR celebrating their 50th anniversary this year.

Congratulations to Curzon School, celebrating 175 years of their establishment.

I hope that the Holmer Green Village Society is successful in its initiative to buy the Bat and Ball. It would be a lovely asset to the village as it has been such a well-known landmark. It would be lovely for it to return as a social asset and meeting place.

More power to the elbows of the Buckinghamshire Waste Busters. This sounds like a very sound enterprise.

What a lovely idea to bring back Holmer Green Village Awards. I hope that villagers get involved with nominations for the different categories. Make sure you read the article regarding the reinstatement of these awards.

There are many other interesting and informative articles in the magazine this quarter.

Enjoy the last gasps of our summer, and if you are going to write an article for the next issue, please make sure it is in Word format and sent to me (the Editor) by the next deadline of 7th November. Thank you.

The Holmer Green Today Committee

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➤ Articles	Vacant – any volunteers?		
Magazine Distribution	Linda Meatyard	As above	
Treasurer	Ann Sollars	15 Watchet Lane	Tel : 713420
Typesetting and Layout Design	Jo Kettle	As above	

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 advert and copy deadline for the last edition of 2025 is 7th November.

Advertising Rates Per Quarter

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Donations Last Quarter

All profits made from the sale of this magazine go to good causes within the village. We are delighted that we were able to give a donation to the charity listed below last quarter.

- Chiltern Samaritans

Thank you to everyone who supports and purchases the magazine to make it possible to help such worthwhile causes.

Regular Events and Activities

Event / Activity	Location	When / Additional Information
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Beavers, Cubs and Scouts		
Holmer Green Beaver Scouts	Scout Hut, Parish Piece	Mondays, 5.30pm – 6.30pm.
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 in Holmer Green		
Christ Church (C of E)	Christ Church, Holmer Green	Services every Sunday at 10.00am, except the 2nd Sunday of every month when our 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 most Sundays at 10.30am. We share the occasional service with Tylers Green Methodist Church. When we visit Tylers Green, Holmer Green Methodist Church is closed. All are welcome.

Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers		
1st Holmer Green Rainbows	Village Centre	Tuesdays, 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.

Art and Craft Group	Methodist Church	Every 3 rd Saturday, 10.00am – 12.30pm.
Coffee Morning	Methodist Church	Every 1 st Tuesday, 10.00am – 12 noon. With book and puzzle swap.
Community Café	Christ Church Centre	Every 4th Saturday, 10.00am – 12 noon. Tea, coffee and a chat.
871 (Penn) Squadron ATC	871 Sqn HQ, Sir William Ramsay School, Hazlemere	Tuesdays, 7.30pm – 9.30pm. Fridays, 7.30pm – 10.00pm.
Holmer Green Stroke Club	Christ Church Centre	Tuesdays, weekly, 10.00am – 12 noon. For persons affected by communication problems.
Holmer Green Women's Institute	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, 11.15am – 1.30pm, 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	1 st and 3 rd Friday of each month, 2.00pm – 4.00pm. Please note that this event is very popular, so you must telephone first, limited availability.
Sensory Garden Volunteers	Sensory Garden	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. • Inside (Oct – Mar), 7.00pm – 10.00pm. • Outside (Apr – Sept), 6.00pm – dusk (weather permitting with the option to revert to inside at 7.00pm).
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 Afternoon 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, 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 would recommend that 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 on 07890-135170, E : jokettle13@gmail.com.

We offer our sincerest condolences to the Family and Friends of:

Alan Pitcher : 14th February 1930 – 20th May 2025

Susan Bowles : 29th July 1943 – 4th June 2025

Marilyn Hill : 7th August 1949 – 17th June 2025

Anne Bolam : 15th June 1938 – 19th June 2025

Charlie King : 23rd February 1962 – 30th June 2025

Christine Kirby : 16th October 1939 – 9th July 2025

William Stripling : Died 22nd July 2025

Stella Bridges : 26th June 1930 – 23rd July 2025

Margaret Weddell : Died 25th July 2025

Bryan Allsop : Died 2nd August 2025

Village Contacts

All the telephone numbers relate to the High Wycombe STD number – 01494 – unless specifically stated, eg, a mobile number.

Churches	
Christ Church (C of E)	Vicar : Rev Daf Meirion-Jones (likes to be called Daf) Parish Office : Featherbed Lane – 715195, E : office@pshg.org, www.pshg.org
Holmer Green Baptist Church	Secretary : David Sawyer, 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

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 in Holmer Green	
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 in Holmer Green	
1st HG Rainbows (Mondays)	E : firstholmergreenrainbows@gmail.com
1st HG Brownies (Wednesdays)	E : firsthgbrownies@hotmail.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 Carol Hornsby – 07980-265485, E : office@pshg.org
Holmer Green Methodist Church	Mrs Kathleen Wiltshire – 713964
Rossetti Hall (Bookings)	Parish Clerk – 715429, E : bookings@littlemissendenparish.gov.uk
Royal British Legion (Hall Bookings)	Miss Freya Abear – 711144, E : club@holmergreenbritishlegion.com
Village Centre (Hall Bookings)	Mr Paul Fleming – 0870-765 6450, E : bookings@holmergreenvillagehall.org.uk www.holmergreenvillagehall.org.uk/book-a-hall/

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 : plascottl@holmer.org.uk

Art and Craft Group	Mrs Kathleen Wiltshire – 713964
Beamond End Residents Association	Secretary : Mr Tom Robertson – 712040, E : jtroberson55@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
Community Café – Tea, Coffee and a Chat, Christ Church Centre	Mrs Carol Hornsby – 714075

871 (Penn) Squadron ATC	256141, E : 871@rafac.mod.gov.uk
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 : peterrbowman@aol.com
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@hgasa.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@littlemissendenparish.gov.uk, www.littlemissendenparish.gov.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 Richard Ransley – 712833, E : ransley.richard@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 Afternoon Fellowship	Mrs Mary Jay – 814767, E : maryajay691@gmail.com Mrs Coralie Reynolds – 714473, 07745-118120, E : coraliereynolds@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

General Data Protection Regulation 2018 (GDPR)

We believe the magazine complies with GDPR. However, should anyone wish their details removed from this list please advise Jo Kettle on 07890-135170, E : jokettle13@gmail.com. Equally, if you would like your organisation to be included, please contact Jo Kettle.

Chadwick Ladies

The club continues to thrive, with a variety of speakers. Louise Good sang a number of songs from the 40s and 50s and encouraged members to join in. Nikki Blagg gave a heartfelt talk on Horatio's Garden at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, which was set up by a young patient who felt it would be a beneficial idea to be able to get outside into a garden while receiving care for spinal injuries. Helen Currie, a senior stroke nurse, talked about the possibility of a stroke and how to avoid one. Our last meeting at the end of July was a short walk, followed by tea and cake. The club meets again in September.

Judy Gilligan

Please Do Shop Locally

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

“use ‘em or lose ‘em!”

All the telephone numbers relate to the High Wycombe STD number – 01494 – unless specifically stated, eg, a mobile number.

Service	Advertiser	Page	Telephone
Arts and Crafts Workshops and Classes	Where Inspiration Blooms	52	07710-474699
Chemists	Fox Pharmacy	39	713360
Computer Services	ASC Computing	17	07736-301999
Conversion Service for Older Audio	Convert Old Audio	21	713553
Firework Display	Holmer Green Village Society	13	N/A
Fitness Training	PureFitness Bucks Limited	16	07851-754167
Funeral Directors	Arnold Funeral Service	21	472572
Funeral Directors	Beacon Funeral Services Ltd	48	818181
Garage Doors Supplier, and Installation and Repairs	Home Improvement Garage Doors Ltd	17	714809
Garage Services and MOTs	Holmer Green Garage	33	713185
Garage Services and MOTs	Holmer Green Service Centre	25	715058
Garden Services	Mike's Garden Services	21	817441
Hall Hire	Rossetti Hall, Little Missenden Parish Council	27	715429
Hall Hire and Sports Facilities	Holmer Green Sports Association	32	711485
IT Support and Repairs	GX Computers	21	07474-059381
Newsagent	J Walsh	16	714466
Plumbers and Heating Engineers	S & R Select Plumbing and Heating Ltd	15	715254
Plumbing Repairs, Heating Engineers	BoilerGuard (UK) Ltd	20	07468-695025
Supermarket	SPAR	33	716549
Take Away Food	South Hill	25	711240
Unisex Hairdressers	HG HAIR	25	713580
Window, Door Repairs and New Installations	The Window Doctor	27	01865-891776

**Many congratulations to Sam Ramsay and Bruna Damin
on their marriage on 25th July 2025**

Some Useful Names and Telephone Numbers

British Gas – Emergencies	01753-571570
Bucks County Council (the old Chiltern District Council)	01494-729000
Carers Bucks	0300-777 2722
Chiltern Dial-a-Ride	01494-766123
Chiltern Railways	03456-005165
Crimestoppers	0800-555111
Doctors' Surgeries : Chiltern House Medical Centre, High Wycombe Highfield Surgery, Hazlemere Roberts Ride, Hazlemere	01494-439149 01494-813396 01494-711954
Hazlemere Library	01296-382415
Holmer Green Dental Practice	01494-718318
Hospitals : Minor Injuries and Illness Unit (at Wycombe General Hospital) Stoke Mandeville Hospital Wycombe General Hospital	111 or 01494-526161 01296-315000 01494-526161
Men in Sheds – an Age UK project	01844-348831
MP for Chesham and Amersham – Ms Sarah Green, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA. E : sarah.green.mp@parliament.uk	0207-219 3000 01494-721864
Police – Thames Valley	999 or 101
Police – Thames Valley Community Support Officer	101
Red Cross	01494-552664
Refuse Collection	01494-586550
Thames Water – Emergencies	08459-200800
The Silver Line Helpline (advice to older people)	0800-470 8090
Tourist Information – High Wycombe Library	01494-421892
Traveline	0871-200 2233
UK Power Network (for loss of electrical supply)	105

Parish Councillors Serving Holmer Green

Colin Thirsk	E : cthirsk@littlemissendenparish.gov.uk
Megann McKinnon	E : mmckinnon@littlemissendenparish.gov.uk
Rosy Bowser	E : rbowser@littlemissendenparish.gov.uk
Kate Jones	E : kjones@littlemissendenparish.gov.uk
Julia Brown	E : jbrown@littlemissendenparish.gov.uk

Vacancy

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 on 715429.**

Clerk/RFO	Dianne Camier	E : clerk@littlemissendenparish.gov.uk
Assistant Clerk	Jo Weber	E : assistant.clerk@littlemissendenparish.gov.uk
Open Spaces and Compliance Officer	Paul Isom	E : open.spaces@littlemissendenparish.gov.uk

Buckinghamshire Councillors Serving Holmer Green

Matthew Hind	E : Matthew.Hind@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
Peter Martin	E : Peter.Martin@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
Heather Wallace	E : Heather.Wallace@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Local Village Services

The Holmer Green Village Society's website – www.holmergreenvillagesociety.co.uk – contains some recent electronic editions of Holmer Green Today.

What's On – And Where

Date	Event	Time	Where
6 th September	VPA Annual Show	2.00 pm	Village Centre
9 th September	Public Meeting Re Bat and Ball	8.00 pm	Village Centre
10 th September	VPA Outing to RHS Garden Hyde Hall. Please call Linda Meatyard on 07832-990311 for more information.		
17 th September	Holmer Green WI : Recycling in Bucks by Emily Breen	2.00 pm	Village Centre
27 th September	Macmillan Coffee Morning (combined with the Community Café)	10.00 am	Church Centre
4 th October	Decorating and filling Christmas shoeboxes for “Love in a Box”	10.00 am	Methodist Church
15 th October	Holmer Green WI : Return visit by broadcaster and journalist, Bill Hamilton	2.00 pm	Village Centre
30 th Oct – 1 st Nov	The Knocky by Holmer Green Players	7.45 pm	Village Centre
2 nd November	Linkup Bereavement and Friendship Group's Annual Service of Memories and Thanksgiving	3.00 pm	Christ Church
8 th November	Holmer Green Community Fireworks (see advert on page 13)	TBA	HG Sports Association
19 th November	Holmer Green WI : Magic, Mind Reading and Mentalism by Steve Wilkinson	2.00 pm	Village Centre
22 nd November	HG HAIR's 50 th Anniversary Party	4.00 pm	HG HAIR
4 th – 5 th Dec	Elf the Musical by Holmer Green Players Juniors	7.00 pm	Village Centre
6 th December	Elf the Musical by Holmer Green Players Juniors	12 noon + 6.00 pm	Village Centre
7 th December	Christmas by the Common	4.00 pm	Village Centre
12 th December	Christmas Nativity Crib Festival	3.00 pm	Methodist Church
13 th December	Christmas Nativity Crib Festival	10.30 am	Methodist Church

VPA, The Holmer Green Gardening Association

As has now become something of a tradition, the VPA took a stand at Music on the Common on 12th July and we held a sale of plants kindly donated by our members. Tony Harper, Linda Meatyard and Terry Owen operated the stand all day and Brian Fisher dispensed invaluable gardening advice to visitors. We took £190 on the day, and we will announce in due course what we plan to do with the money. Thanks go to our volunteers, to those who donated plants and, of course, to the people who bought them.

The next VPA event of note is our Annual Show on Saturday 6th September. This will feature the usual mixture of vegetables, flowers, domestic offerings and photography and I do urge any members to enter; after all, you “have to be in it to win it”. But even if you do not want to enter, why not come along to view the exhibits and support the event? As usual, refreshments will be available to purchase. The show opens to the public at 2.00 pm, with the prize-giving at 3.30 pm.

Finally, we are now into the last two months of our Trading Store's operation for 2025. It will close at the end of business on Sunday 28th September and will re-open for the 2026 season on Sunday 4th January.

James Cadle
Chairman

Celebrating 50 Years of Family Traditions in Hair Care

We are thrilled to be celebrating 50 years of our iconic hair salon.

What an achievement!

We would be honoured if you could join us on our special day -

Saturday 22nd November 2025, from 4.00 pm.

Mark the date in your calendars!

Beccy, Cassy and the HG HAIR Team 

Holmer Green HAIR : Where family meets style

For five decades, our family-owned salon has been the go-to destination for exceptional hair care in Holmer Green. From classic cuts to trendy colours, our team of expert stylists are dedicated to providing personalised service and stunning results.

Experience the difference

- Expert colourists with a passion for creativity.
- Skilled stylists with years of experience.
- Family-friendly atmosphere with a warm welcome.
- Commitment to sustainability and eco-friendliness.

Join the family

Book your appointment today and discover why Holmer Green HAIR has been a beloved fixture in the community for 50 years. Call us on : 01494-713580, or visit us at 1 Lynford Parade, Pond Approach, Holmer Green, HP15 6RW.

Happy 50th Anniversary to Us!

We look forward to serving you for many years to come.

Beccy, Cassy and the HG HAIR Team



Holmer Green Village Society

We are now past the mid-point of 2025 so there is more activity completed since last time. Here is an update of what has been happening and what is being planned for next.

Events completed this year

- 25th February – **HGVS AGM** – Forty HGVS members joined us for the AGM where we outlined our plans and voted for the committee. We now have a better liaison with the Parish Council with Rosy Bowser joining us at our regular meetings.
- 27th April – **Holmer Green Community Showcase** – Over forty clubs and organisations packed the Village Centre to network with each other and show what a vibrant, active village we are. It was such a great way to show what the village has to offer that we are planning to make this an annual event. Lots of visitors joined us from 2.00 pm until 4.00 pm and it was great to see new residents dropping by to see what is going on in the village.
- 18th May – **Cake Sale at the Jubilee Sensory Gardens** – A really great way to support and enjoy the gardens with a tea or coffee and a piece of cake.
- 16th June to mid-September – **Village Awards Programme** – A new initiative to reward service to the village and the community by individuals and organisations (*see separate article on page 35*).
- 12th July – **Music on the Common** – Another community spectacular, opened by our very own celebrity and sensory gardens volunteer, Lesley Shayler. Lesley (named honorary, Lady Shayler for the cutting of the ribbon) made a brilliant opening speech and opened a wonderful event. Sadly, because of the heat, we had to cancel the dog events, but many people turned up with their own gazebos and stayed for the whole day to enjoy the music from local choirs and the spectacular Hornets. We always appreciate our sponsors, but special thanks this year to **Holmer Green Service Centre** who not only sponsored the bigger and better stage, but also sponsor many of the projects in the Jubilee Gardens. Many thanks to Cindy and Shane and all the team.

Events for your diary

- 9th September – **Bat and Ball Community Pub** – Public meeting at the Village Centre (*see separate article on page 22*).
- 8th November – **Community Fireworks** – the fireworks extravaganza at the Holmer Green Sports Association (*see advert opposite*).
- 7th December – **Christmas by the Common** – Choirs and Santa and the lighting of the Village Centre Christmas tree.

The Jubilee Sensory Gardens – The viewing platform is well on the way to completion. The gardens are being used by more and more people and significant numbers of groups of all ages. It is a particularly good time to visit with all the plants and trees in full leaf.

The Planning Team met with the NHS (Bucks Integrated Care Board), together with our local doctors, our councillors and Sarah Green. We wanted to know why they had not got the plans they referred to in their planning objections defined for the additional space at Roberts Ride and Highfield. Their performance during the meeting was very defensive and not very inspiring. We are therefore turning up the pressure on the NHS and we are being supported 100% by our local councillors and Sarah Green.

Our **Parking Project** will be signed off over the summer holidays so that the first implementations of the shared parking initiative will be in action in the new school year when pupils return to school.

A request for volunteers

We could always do with more people to get involved, at any level, from joining the committee, to helping at one of the many events, and we are always interested to hear from any member or resident of the village with ideas or suggestions about what is important to them. So if you have the time and would like to get involved, please contact us via our website.

Our next event will be the public meeting on 9th September followed by the fireworks on 8th November.

Simon Jones

Chair – Holmer Green Village Society

Holmer Green

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Celebrating 175 Years of Curzon School

This summer term, we marked 175 years of Curzon C of E School. The children enjoyed a “birthday party” day in school, and staff and alumni were treated to a wonderful celebration at Penn House. Central to the festivities was the opening-up of the school’s archive and a dive into what we know – and still do not know – about our history.

We believe the original school was built in 1849–1850, about the same time as Penn Street’s Holy Trinity Church. This comes from anecdotal accounts though, and we cannot locate formal records, so our actual foundation date remains a mystery! Until the early 1990s, the daily running of the school was recorded in logbooks, but some have gone missing. Crucially, they date back to December 1874, but we are sure the school existed before then. We would love to hear if anyone has information that sheds more light on when the school was founded.

Returning to what we do know, the original building was far smaller than modern Curzon and stood in the corner of the current playground, close to the junction of School Lane and Penn Street. It was originally called Earl Howe’s School. The name evolved (possibly due to confusion with other schools founded by Earl Howe) and by 1892, it was known as Penn Street School. In 1969, this changed to Curzon C of E School.

By the late 1950s, the Victorian building was much past its prime and new building work was undertaken. The current hall, three classrooms and indoor toilets were built. The previous toilets had been outside and were emptied daily after school with a bucket. The timing of the build was fortunate, as a gale in November 1957 damaged the old building severely. The new building opened in 1961. In the early 2000s, the two 1970s’ portable “terrapi” classrooms were replaced with brick classrooms. Further additions were finished in 2010 and 2012.

The logbooks capture both daily details like supply orders, and occasions where wider world events impacted the school. A 1902 entry records that the children lined the road when Edward VII passed by from Penn House in a motorcar, to great excitement. In World War II, the school hosted evacuated pupils, teachers and even classroom furniture. There were live air raids during school-time, but although bombs fell nearby, the building was not damaged. The school got its first wireless radio in 1938 and its first BBC Schools computer in 1983.

Alongside the cakes and reconnecting with past faces, this anniversary has been a great opportunity to learn how much history sits behind our school, and we are hugely grateful for everyone who has shared memories, artefacts and photos. We would love to receive any more. And if you can help us pin down that vital foundation date, we would be thrilled – even if it means we will not be 175 anymore!

Becky Cooper
Governor



Approx 1900s



Drone shot of school site, circa 2019



Aerial shot of school, 1988

Holmer Green Methodist Church

In June we thoroughly enjoyed the “Toe Tapping Tea” provided by the Lamp House ladies’ choir. The singing was music from the 40s and 50s. The Heatherton Singers entertained us in July with music by Rutter, Chilcott, Whitacre and ABBA, so that too was a lovely mix of music.

On Saturday 4th October at 10.00 am – 12 noon, please come and join us to help cover and fill Christmas shoeboxes for children and young people in Eastern Europe. If you would like to donate items for the boxes, or make a monetary gift, please ring Jane Haddock on : 01494–713721 for more information.

Christmas Nativity Crib Festival

Friday 12th December at 3.00 pm – 6.00 pm and Saturday 13th December at 10.30 am – 3.30 pm.

We will be celebrating the birth of Christ through a visual display of nativity crib scenes. There will be a variety of crib scenes, different shapes, sizes and materials, and all with a story to tell. A family heirloom, a traditional gift from overseas, quirky, handcrafted, life-sized, miniature, even edible! The possibilities are endless. We hope the local community will be involved and will have the opportunity to display their own nativity scenes.

Refreshments will be available on both days. Further information will be made available and advertised, including how to become involved, with the opportunity of contributing to the display of cribs.

Everyone is always welcome to our monthly coffee morning held on the first Tuesday at 10.00 am – 12.00 noon, where there is also a book and puzzle swap.

Our monthly craft morning continues to flourish. Do join us every third Saturday at 10.00 am – 12.30 pm. Painters bring their masterpieces to finish, some bring knitting, sewing, lace making, or there is always the opportunity to make some cards for a small fee.

We look forward to seeing you. For further information, please contact Lesley on : 01494–712072.

Lesley Orange



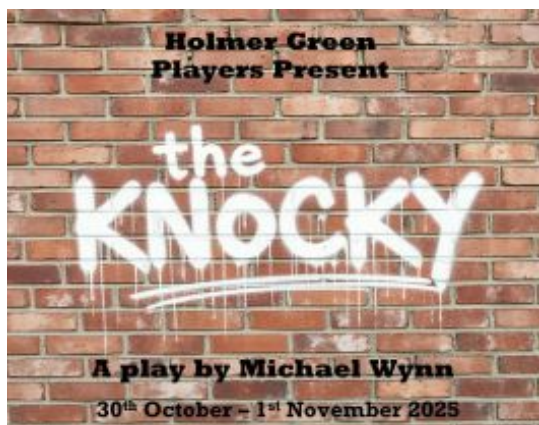
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What's Coming Up with the Holmer Green Players

This October half term, the Holmer Green Players will perform their version of Michael Wynne's, "*The Knocky*".



Michael Wynne wrote *The Knocky* in his final year at university. It was produced by The Royal Court Theatre, taken on tour, and subsequently won the 1996 Meyer Whitworth award for best new talent in the Liverpool Echo Arts awards. He was nominated as Best New Writer of the Year by The Writer's Guild.

The play is set in a Birkenhead council estate in the mid-1990s and follows a family who are doing their best to survive the various challenges they individually face.

The play is both dramatic and hilarious by turns. Our talented cast are working extremely hard to provide our audiences with an absolutely cracking evening's entertainment. We would love to see you there!

Performance dates are Thursday 30th October, Friday 31st October and Saturday 1st November.

Tickets will be available from the Holmer Green Players website at : www.holmergreenplayers.co.uk from Saturday 13th September.

Following *The Knocky*, the Holmer Green Players Junior group will be spreading some festive cheer for all to hear this December, with their version of "*Elf the Musical!*"

If you have heard Christmas music coming out of the Village Centre during the heatwave now you know why! The group are already busy rehearsing and loving every minute!

The modern holiday classic, *Elf the Musical* tells the story of a young orphan who mistakenly crawls into Santa's bag of gifts and is transported to the North Pole. Buddy, the would-be-elf, eventually finds out he is human, *gasp*, and heads to New York to find his family and discover his inner (s)elf.

More details including ticket information will be available on the Holmer Green Players website soon.

For more information on the Holmer Green Players, visit their website at : www.holmergreenplayer.co.uk, or follow them on Facebook and Instagram – [holmer_green_players](#).

Sam Eden

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PERSONAL  **LOCAL**  **TRUSTWORTHY**

Jack Purvis

Jack Purvis and I came to Holmer Green in 1970, when we bought Beechen Heath, 68 Beech Tree Road. Sadly, Jack died in January this year, aged ninety. We had been married nearly sixty-five years.

There are a few folk still in Holmer Green who will remember him from some of the many social events he was involved in, as he fully joined in the various activities in the village.

We moved here when Jack got a teaching post at Cressex School, High Wycombe, having previously taught in Wakefield.

We personally had never been near High Wycombe, although my sister had been stationed at Hughenden Manor during the war and Jack's father had worked at Bletchley Park translating German weather forecasts. We also knew of Harefield Hospital as Jack's mother had been there for major surgery and strangely enough, had once been a governess to a family living in Chalfont St Giles.



Before I knew him, Jack had had an interesting life. He was born in Glasgow and evacuated during the war staying with various relations in Bristol, Lossiemouth and Kent while his father was on active service. His schooling, after the war, was cut short, although he had passed the Scottish Higher Leaving Certificate. The family had needed money for the hospital treatment for his mother. He began work straight from school at J&P Coats before joining the Highland Light Infantry on National Service when he was eighteen.

This proved to be life changing, as it was for many young men. It was the first time he had come across young men from the less fortunate parts of Glasgow and Edinburgh. An eye-opener with many new words and phrases to be learned. Teeth cleaning and washing in a stone trough. Somehow, he survived initial training long enough to be spotted as having a talent for languages and was chosen to take part in a Russian course, based in Cambridge. Here he learned to speak Russian and found life there quite different from Fort George on the east coast of Scotland.

By 1958, when we met at the Spa Ballroom in Scarborough, Jack was working for M&S but really wanted to be a teacher. He achieved this after we were married, but only after many years of study. There was no Open University in those days, and his Scottish Highers were not accepted as A levels, so he began at the bottom and worked his way through. He passed three A levels in Russian, Economics and Geography and then took a degree by Correspondence Course. Finally, a two year Teacher Training Certificate was added, and he became a secondary school teacher in Heckmondwick. It had been some studying for his first job in teaching.

We moved here after he took up a position as Head of Social Science at Cressex School and stayed when he later went to teach in Reading.

Coming to Holmer Green and taking our son to the Junior School for the first time with our Yorkshire accents was quite something. What a beautiful old village we had found. We loved it straight away.

The house we had found, at a very high price, was painted pink and had a beautiful garden with a Prestwood Black cherry tree. We hoped we had not made a mistake as it was above our budget, but there was help from the council to bring in teachers at that time. We were lucky. We bought it for £7,700, and we had been hoping to pay about £6,000.

Our neighbours were Holmer Green people and made us welcome. We soon got to know some of them very well.

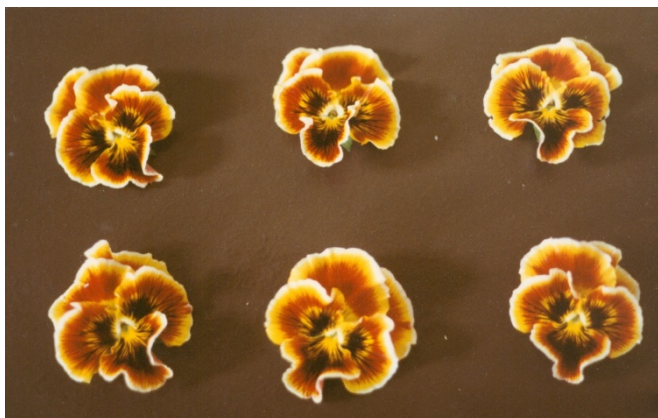


Fred and Pam Parsons were one of the first to turn up at the door and Pam encouraged me to join the WI. We found they produced a village panto every couple of years, and we soon were involved in that. I became friends with Madelaine Want who was the producer, and Jack acted as the Dame for some productions. The first pantos were in the Village Centre, but became so popular we later used the Secondary School. Every performance was a sell-out. Eileen Hodgson always played piano for us with some help from a local drummer.

At that time there was no Holmer Green Society, and the Village Hall committee members were the people who organised village events, such as fetes. This was mainly because the hall was in need of money to pay for much-needed improvements, and we somehow found ourselves involved with that. Jack became Chairman for a time and therefore there were fetes to organise too.

The first really important one was the Silver Jubilee Fete in 1977. This was a huge undertaking with a torchlit procession, a bonfire and fireworks. The village was covered in Union Jacks, and we had a proper procession of floats round the village. Howland's tractor was changed into a Sputnik, the Flower Club made a crown out of flowers and all the village joined in, some in fancy dress, making it a wonderful day. Jack dressed as a Coronation mug made from school hoops. Duncan Bull took a video with a commentary and many people in Fox Road were involved in it too. This set a trend and a few more village fetes followed the Jubilee one as the hall needed double glazed windows and the Chadwick Hall extension was built. The one fete he always remembered was the one completely washed out with only a few stalls able to move indoors. As he packed up and walked home, there were two ducks waddling over the common in the pools of water.

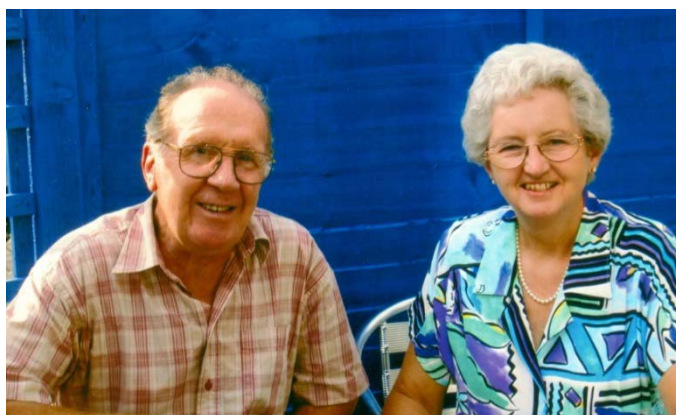
He joined the VPA fairly quickly after we moved here, encouraged by neighbours Gordon Pierce and of course, Roy Mason. This involved entering the two produce shows each year. He became good at pleasing the judges, eventually finding the nine perfect runner beans, three matching onions and a number of perfect pansies. He even won two prizes for wine, entering his parsnip wine in both categories, dry and sweet and winning both. My baking exhibits against Pam Barnet were not always so successful!



Jack was also involved with the scouts serving on the committee and they had barn dances in Weddle's field.

In coming to live here he did not know what to expect of life in Holmer Green, but he found a lot to enjoy in those fifty five years of life here.

Julie Purvis



Jack and Julie

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Holmer Green Village Society Supports Project to Turn Bat and Ball into a Community Asset

At Music on the Common on Saturday 12th July, the village society made an announcement and handed out leaflets about a new project which had just come into us.

The Bat and Ball pub, that iconic building that has stood at the crossroads of the village by our common, is for sale. There are various things that could happen to it if it is sold, many of which would not benefit the community, or have community involvement in its development.

As a result of an offer from a generous member of the community, there is the potential for the residents of the village to take over and run the Bat and Ball as a community asset for future generations.



This is a great opportunity for the village to define what the Bat and Ball could be for the future and prevent unfavourable development if there is no interest in keeping it as a public building.

Following our committee meeting on Tuesday 29th July, we agreed to support the project to create a community organisation (most likely a Community Benefit Society) to run and manage the Bat and Ball when it is purchased by the new local owner.

The project is still in its very early days, but we are pleased to announce that we will sponsor a public meeting on Tuesday 9th September for all interested residents, particularly those who would like to invest, manage or volunteer in the new enterprise. The meeting will start at 8.00 pm and you can register your interest in attending by signing up for a FREE ticket here - <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/holmergreenvillagesociety/1802159>. Hall numbers are limited to 80, so please make sure you have reserved your ticket if you wish to attend.

The objective of the meeting will be to share the proposition with interested parties and start to form a list of potential shareholders and a steering team which would result in a management committee to run the operation.

The new village organisation will need local expertise in many areas, so if you think you have something to offer and want to be involved, please look out for the updates which will be posted on various platforms.

We know from our communication at Music on the Common and our email to members that there is a lot of interest in making the Bat and Ball a better place to visit.

Updates will also be posted on the Holmer Green Village Society website here :

<https://holmergreenvillagesociety.org.uk/bat-and-ball-project/>

Simon Jones

Chair – Holmer Green Village Society

1st Holmer Green Scout Group

The summer term is always very busy with many outdoor activities.

Beavers

Beavers have had an exciting term. They visited the woods where they aged some trees, did a spring scavenger hunt and looked for things you would find in the countryside. They gained the safety activity badge, where they had to learn the Green Cross Code, water safety code, stranger danger, what to do if there was a fire, how to call emergency services and point out dangers around the house and garden.

If that was not enough fun they also squeezed in a sleepover. This started with a hike to Penn Street followed by activities based on the theme, Native Indians, including making Indian headdresses. Then there was the usual campfire with songs and toasting marshmallows. Interestingly some of the Beavers had to be woken the next morning. Clearly a fun time was had by all.

The summer term ended with the Chief Scout Bronze award being presented to Lewis, Lacey and Matthew. They worked hard to gain the necessary badges and deserve our congratulations.

Cubs

The following article was written by Max, one of our Cubs.

My name is Max and I became a Cub this year after finishing Beavers. When I was a Beaver, I earned my Chief Scout Bronze award which I was very proud of. Being in Cubs is a really good way to learn new skills, try new activities and do things to help people. My favourite activity this year was raft building. We built a raft which we then had to sit on in a lake. Luckily, it did not sink but we got to jump off it into the lake at the end. Poor Baloo's raft did sink!! This activity helped me to earn my adventure badge.

In Cubs you get lots of opportunities including going on camps. My favourite was county camp at Paccar as you get to do lots of fun activities like tomahawk throwing, air rifle shooting and laser tag. We even had a disco in the field. This year I even went on the zip line which was really fun too.

We have been to the woods a lot of times this year to build a den. I have also become a seconder which means you take responsibility for your six. I was very proud to become this. I am looking forward to more activities and earning more badges next year. Our motto is "be prepared".

Scouts

The highlight of the term was a weekend camp at Braidwood where the Scouts worked to gain the geocaching activity badge. They also had to construct a shelter of natural salvaged materials and then spend the night in it. The leaders had their fingers crossed the shelters would survive the night.

Another interesting activity included gaining the global issues badge. The Scouts had to identify where their clothing had been made, investigate a recent natural disaster, find out about an international sporting event, learn about an international health issue and think about the rights we have in the UK. On a practical side they also made nettle tea and nettle biscuits, constructed a mud oven and cooked in it, and were also given a whole fish and potatoes to prepare and cooked fish and chips on an open fire.

The Group

Regrettably, there is always a downside. Unfortunately owing to our continuing failure to find any adult volunteers and despite having some keen teenagers willing to help, we have been unable to reopen our Wednesday Beaver colony, thus depriving a number of youngsters of scouting activities. Hopefully someone will step forward soon.

Also, for the first time in almost sixty years of existence, the group does not have a committee, so leaders have had to add to their already heavy load by tackling jobs around the hut. We would welcome support in this area and as I write, I hope that people will step forward to help clear the weeds around the hut and the old fire station during the holidays.

We look forward to another successful year providing scouting activities for Holmer Green children.

Neil Spencer CBE
Group Scout Leader



Holmer Green First School and Pre-School

At the start of the school year, each class was given the opportunity to vote for two pupils who they felt best represented kindness, empathy and thoughtfulness — and so our **Kindness Ambassadors** were chosen. These wonderful children have embraced their roles with enthusiasm, warmth and a genuine desire to make a difference in the lives of others.

Throughout the year, our Kindness Ambassadors have supported and led a number of heart-warming initiatives. They helped organise a donation drive for “*Kindness in Bucks*”, a charity supporting new mothers by providing baby essentials. With the generosity of our school families, several Moses baskets were lovingly filled with essential items and our Ambassadors proudly presented them during a special assembly.

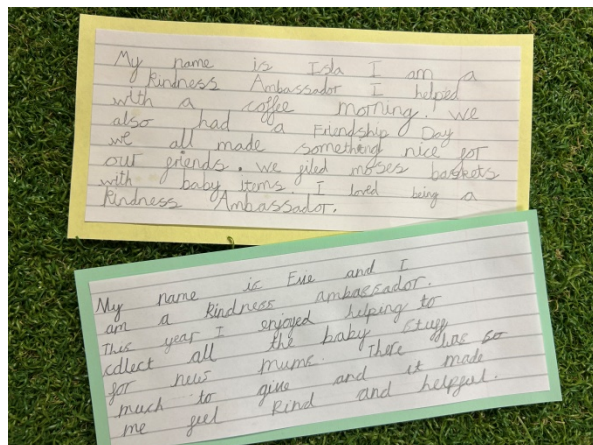


They also took part in an inspirational assembly and workshops run by “*52 Lives*”, a charity that aims to change someone’s life every week through acts of kindness. The children across the school were inspired to think of ways they could spread kindness in their everyday lives — and they certainly put those ideas into action.

One of the most memorable events was a delightful coffee morning for parents and toddlers. Planned and hosted by the Ambassadors themselves, it was a joyful morning full of smiles, conversation and community spirit.



As part of their mission to spread kindness further afield, our Ambassadors also took part in Random Acts of Kindness, delivering flowers to people around the village and handing out handmade Christmas cards to our neighbours. These small but meaningful gestures brought real joy to others and were a true reflection of the caring spirit our children have nurtured.



Our Kindness Ambassadors have been magnificent role models and a shining example of what can be achieved when young people lead with compassion. We are incredibly proud of them and all they have done to spread kindness within our school and community.

Jayne Richardson

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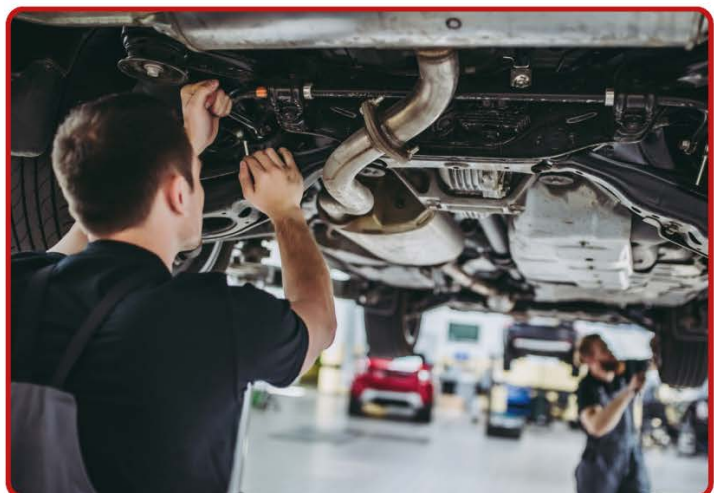
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Planting Joy : Denis Jull brings life to Cherry Garth's garden

When Denis Jull moved into Cherry Garth earlier this year, it did not take long for the team and fellow residents to discover something special about him, his green fingers and a lifelong love for gardening.

From the very beginning, Denis showed a keen interest in transforming the outdoor space into something colourful and full of life. What started as planting a few pots of flowers quickly blossomed into a much larger project. Denis began nurturing plants from seeds and carefully tending to them each day, bringing not just beauty to the garden, but a real sense of purpose and joy to those around him.

Recognising his passion and dedication, the staff at Cherry Garth supported Denis by providing a small greenhouse, giving him the opportunity to continue his hobby in a more structured space. Denis's enthusiasm soon became infectious. His son joined in, spending time with his father in the garden, helping him pot plants and carry bags of soil, turning it into a lovely family activity.

The Cherry Garth team has also been proudly involved, watering, lifting, and even learning a few things from Denis himself! Thanks to his care and knowledge, the main garden now boasts vibrant pots filled with flowers and thriving greenery that residents, staff, and visitors alike enjoy daily.

Denis's gardening has not only transformed the physical space, but it has also lifted spirits and created meaningful connections between people. It is a beautiful reminder of how personal passions, when shared and supported, can flourish in any setting.

Kayleigh Jones



Past Copies of Holmer Green Today

Did you know that you can read past copies of Holmer Green Today on Holmer Green Village Society's website?

Follow the link below if you have missed a previous issue.

<https://holmergreenvillagesociety.org.uk/holmer-green-today/>

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Saving our Spaces :

A constant battle to save our spaces and paths

The Open Spaces Society is Britain's oldest national conservation body, which celebrated its 160th birthday on 19th July this year. Founded in 1865, when open spaces were under increased threat from development, its early successes included the saving of Hampstead Heath, Epping Forest, and Wimbledon Common for all to enjoy.

In the following year Lord Brownlow illegally enclosed part of Berkhamsted Common in Hertfordshire with iron railings. The society, acting for one of the common rightholders, organised a trainload of tough men to march from Tring Station to Berkhamsted Common, at dead of night, to fell the fencing. The common has remained unenclosed, and later was acquired by the National Trust.

Indeed, in 1895 the society was instrumental in the creation of the National Trust. Two of the founding members of the society, Robert Hunter and Octavia Hill, decided that, to protect land it was necessary to own it. They set up the National Trust and the society then raised money to purchase threatened land and pass it to the Trust.

Common land

In the early years the society focused on protecting common land. All commons are owned, but other people have rights there, to collect wood and bracken, dig peat, or graze livestock, for their own holdings. Commons have existed since mediaeval times and were once far more extensive; many were lost during the enclosure movement and taken for intensive agricultural use. Today there are about 1.5 million acres of commons remaining in England and Wales.

The society was instrumental in achieving the 1965 Commons Registration Act, which required all commons, the rights, and the owners to be registered, although only three years were allowed for this, and if the land was not registered it ceased to be common. The Commons Act 2006 allowed the limited reopening of the registers in a few counties, such as Hertfordshire. Funded by a generous legacy, the society has a project to re-register lost commons, which it is doing with some success.

The consent of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is required for any works on common land, and the society is notified of all applications. It objects unless the works are clearly to the public's benefit and will not be intrusive. The public may take court action against unlawful works and the society is currently testing this. Also, the commoners may themselves remove an encroachment, as they did in 1866 on Berkhamsted Common.

The society champions public paths for all users, and its local correspondents object to proposed changes which do not benefit the public. It assists its members with resolving problems on paths, and claiming those which are unrecorded.

Town and village greens

It advises its members on the protection of their local open spaces, where these are subject to rights or customary access. It has expertise in the registration of land as town or village green, where local people have enjoyed informal recreation over a site, not just on paths, for at least twenty years, without being stopped or asking permission. Once registered the land is protected by Victorian legislation from encroachment and development, and local people have rights of recreation there. Landowners may voluntarily register land as a green to provide these rights and secure the land. It is worth pressing friendly landowners or parish councils to carry out such dedication, or proposing such registration as mitigation in developments.

Grange Farm victory

There is now a village green at Grange Farm, Widmer End, Hazlemere. The Grange Area Trust's application to register the fields as a green, based on twenty years' use, was confirmed by Buckinghamshire County Council in 2000, but was reversed in the High Court following an appeal by the developers, Woodrow Taylor Wimpey. Subsequently the Trust saved the land from development, bought it from the developers, and then, in 2018, voluntarily registered it as a green. It is a vital community asset, and the Trust won the society's Open Space Award in 2013 for its magnificent campaign.



Village green at Widmer End

Today, as the society celebrates its 160th birthday, it is campaigning harder than ever to save our precious commons, greens, open spaces, and paths, going to court where necessary—as it has done throughout its history. It relies on subscriptions, donations, and legacies for its continuing existence. Please consider joining the society — www.oss.org.uk — and supporting this vital cause.

Kate Ashbrook

General Secretary of the Open Spaces Society



Land at Berkhamsted Common in Hertfordshire (0.17 hectares), which the society succeeded in re-registering in 2020



Wycombe Rye, which the society helped to save in 1965

Swedish Whitebeam on the Common

Photo courtesy of Brian Fisher



Sport on Holmer Green Common

I have been asked when cricket and other sports were first played on the “Green”, later to become in 1854 the “recreation ground”, now called the Common. Look no further than the adjacent pub, the Bat and Ball, said to have been built in 1827. Although the pub has never served food to the public, cricket teas were an exception. Changing facilities were also provided. Early references to local sport are scarce with one of a cricket match dating 1852 being a rare exception.



Wycombe Heath Cricket Club

Just prior to WW1, Thomas Winter, who was residing at Wycombe Heath Farm (Holmer Green) at the time, wrote, *“The Wycombe Heath Cricket Club, as it became known and of which I had the honour to be Captain, enjoyed a fair measure of success. There were at first just twelve of us, a very satisfactory state of affairs when it came to selecting a team for a Saturday game. The meadow in which we played was not ideal, but it served our purpose well enough, especially as most of the matches were away games. The reason for this was that my father (Samuel) was able to provide transport to neighbouring villages in a light van, as far away, indeed, as Princes Risborough”*. We can safely say that the Common has been the centre of village outdoor entertainment for at least 200 years. Tennis was also very popular, but that is another story.

Stuart King



Holmer Green football team, 1912/13



Early graffiti, Bat and Ball



The Common, a much cherished village asset



Late twenties



Ladies' cricket team, 1950s



Holmer Green football team, 1923/24

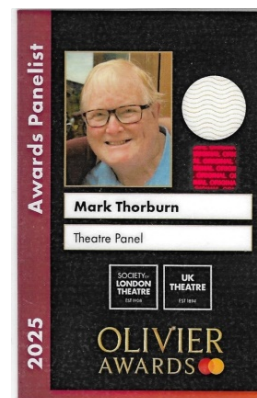
Mark Thorburn – The person behind HGT's guide to local theatre



Back in 2017, villager Mark Thorburn became an Olivier *BE INSPIRED CHAMPION* Award Winner – a new award for those not in the theatrical profession who had inspired others to enjoy the theatre, which Mark has done all his life. The award was only presented in 2017 and 2018 and so Mark is one of only seven proud amateurs in the country with an Olivier Award. It is not a statuette, but a special plaque, presented at the Royal Albert Hall by TV personality, Anita Rani.

In 2024, Mark returned to the Olivier Award fold when he was appointed to the Theatre Panel for the 2024–2025 West End season.

Ten enthusiastic London theatre-goers are appointed annually by the Society of London Theatre, charged with seeing every new production in the West End. As guests, they are entitled to two house seats and a programme for over one hundred productions during their year. They are there to assist the Members of SOLT with voting rights for the Olivier Awards, who are unable to see every production. Their recommendations at the end of the year help the 150 plus voting Members to focus on award worthy shows and performances.



While travel and refreshment costs are not included, at today's theatre seat prices in the best in the house, the reward for the commitment to the task and opinions shared is well over five figures. During his season, Mark saw 110 new shows and revivals, some more than once if a leading player was not on at his first visit. For a man whose hobby, since his first pantomime in 1959, has always been a surfeit of many different aspects of theatre-going, it was akin to winning Willie Wonka's Golden Ticket.

Famous faces, amazing and varied plays and musicals, some less exciting evenings which were difficult to sit through, but an experience not to be missed for an enthusiast like Mark. Although he did miss the icing on the cake. The Awards Night was held at the Royal Albert Hall on 6th April, but unfortunately he was in the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford awaiting an operation, so was represented by his wife, Sandy.

And the Awards went to? Happily, many of Mark's choices came away with a statuette but not all, as you might expect, however the year provided him with amazing memories of some truly superb theatre.

And the bonus? One of his theatre-buddy friends who accompanied him to quite a few shows during his year is now a member of this year's Theatre Panel. And she is returning the favour by taking Mark along as one of her theatre-buddies during her special year. Those house seats give you a very comfortable view of so many top notch shows. Lucky Mark, before back to the cheap seats in 2026!

See page 49 for Mark's guide to local theatre over the next three months.

A green promotional poster for HGSA (Holmer Green Sports Association). The top left features the HGSA logo. The text 'WHAT GOES ON AT HGSA?' is at the top. Activities listed include: Model Engineering & Public Train Rides, Holmer Green Football Club, Sky Sports, Fully stocked bar, Competitive priced hall hire, BT Sport, Dustys Live Music Club, Squash & Racketball, Holmer Green Cricket Club, Pigeon Fanciers, Short Mat Bowls, and Padel Tennis. A central box says 'For clubhouse opening hours and information on all our sections please look at our website ALL WELCOME'. The bottom contains contact information: 'CALL NOW 01494 711485', '87 Watchet Lane Holmer Green Buckinghamshire', 'VISIT US www.hgsa.co.uk', and 'EMAIL admin@hgsa.co.uk'.

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The Sensory Garden

It has been a while since there was an update from us at The Sensory Garden. We have lots of exciting things to share with you!

We will start with Music on the Common. So many of you came out to support our stall that day in the blistering heat. We are incredibly grateful to each and everyone. Our very own volunteer, “Lady” Lesley Shayler, did the honours of opening the event with our Village Society Chairman, Simon Jones.



We raised a whopping £130! Thank you to all of the volunteers involved on the day, with a special mention to Barbara Radmore, for all of her hard work. The winner of the treasure hunt game received a wonderful hamper of sweets and chocolate.

Later in July, the garden received a visit from the judges from Britain in Bloom. We are delighted to say that they were very impressed with the changes we have made since their last visit in 2023.



Our “Southern Lookout” project in the far corner of the garden is going really well thanks to our fantastic volunteers. It will be an accessible viewing platform with seating, accessed by a shallow ramp. Built entirely from wood with non-slip decking planks on the platform and ramp. There will be a guard rail around the structure (like a banister) to prevent anyone falling off the platform.

The purpose of the structure is to provide visitors with an opportunity to sit or stand and look over the neighbouring fields. Visitors will be able to see and enjoy the changing view through the seasons, different crops being grown, and a variety of wildlife.



To help us with this project, we have secured a grant from the East Chilterns Community Board to cover half the cost of the entire project which we estimate to be around £5,400! A big thank you to the Missenden Community Board for their help with this.

Finally, we would love to mention The Princes Centre, which is a wonderful community day centre based in Princes Risborough. It gave us a really fantastic shout out on Facebook recently, telling us that it has become a really special place for their clients, a calm and welcoming space for them to explore. It gave a special mention to the sensory features of the garden – which is really what started it all.

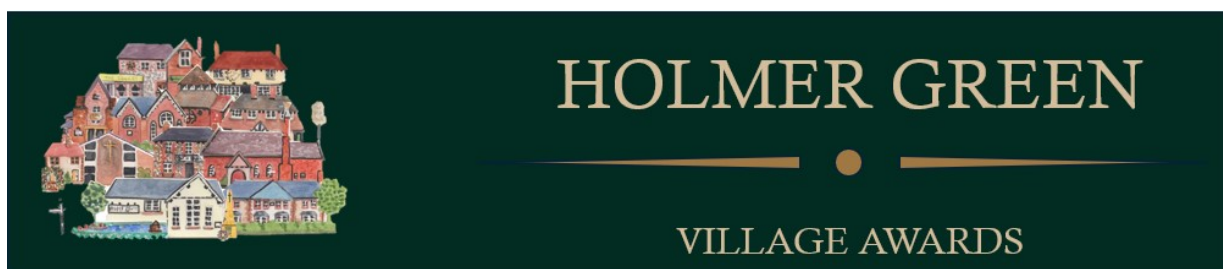
Just a reminder that we are located on Earl Howe Road (opposite Holmer Green Service Centre). We are open every day, all day, and it is free to enter.

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 would 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



Whilst clearing out an area of Holmer Green Village Centre, we discovered a plaque for the “Wilfred Stevens Award” set up in c.1993 by Elsie Stevens in memory of her husband Wilfred who set up Stevens Garage, later run by the Patch brothers, and now Holmer Green Garage.

It was awarded just two times – in 1993 to Holmer Green Guides and in 1994 to Holmer Green Players Juniors, leaving nine engravable plaques empty.

In 2025, the Holmer Green Village Society will present a number of annual awards, including the Wilfred Stevens Award, to outstanding groups or individuals in Holmer Green. This can also include local businesses.

The awards will be presented from 2025 and continue annually.

- The Wilfred Stevens Award for groups catering for under 16-year-olds. As well as the shield, they will receive a cash donation of £100 towards their funds.
- An award for the village-based group which has made the most difference to our village in the last twelve months. This will be a physical award and a £100 donation. The winners and runners-up would also receive a certificate.
- An award for the individual who has made the largest contribution to, or in, our village over the last twelve months. The winners and runners-up would also receive a certificate.

Please use the link below to nominate the person or group that you feel has made a significant contribution to the village.

<https://holmergreenvillagesociety.org.uk/holmer-green-awards/>

The closing date for entries is 15th September 2025. The results will be announced at Christmas by the Common in December.

Simon Jones
Chair – Holmer Green Village Society

First Holmer Green Rainbows

First Holmer Green Rainbows are part of Kingswood Division, Anglia region. The unit started over thirty five years ago and apart from lockdown, has been a weekly feature for many girls in the village and surrounding villages.

I am the main leader, and I run the unit with a second leader and parent volunteers. I have a DBS check, have completed safeguarding training, and I have also completed first aid with Girlguiding. I am a volunteer with a passion to make the Rainbows unit as enjoyable as possible for the girls. The unit also has two young leaders.

We meet every Tuesday from 5.00 pm – 6.00 pm, term time only, at the Village Centre.



As well as completing activities and badge work in the Village Centre, we undertake activities outside of our meeting place, such as walks around the village, theatre trips and visits to Mop End. This year, the unit took part in a division event at Paccar. All the activities are chosen to enhance the enjoyment of being part of Girlguiding and provide experiences and memories.

At age 7, the Rainbows join Brownies. We are fortunate to have two Brownie units in the village that meet on Wednesdays and Thursdays. For those aged ten or over, we have Guides and Rangers that meet on Fridays.

<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/parent-and-carers-guide-to-go/>

<https://go.girlguiding.org.uk/join-us/join-as-member/>

Rosy Bowser
Unit Leader
First Holmer Green Rainbows
Email : firstholmergreenrainbows@gmail.com
Tel : 07780-997352

Little Missenden Parish Council

Watchet Lane/Parish Piece Footpath Update

LMPC have received a copy of a letter sent by the office of the Secretary of State asking for a formal response from Buckinghamshire Council regarding the Schedule 14 application for footpath status. Buckinghamshire Council must respond by 28th August.

Speeding Around the Villages

Following our full Council meeting on 21st July, LMPC will be setting up a Speeding Working Group to formulate a policy regarding speeding and also to look at prioritising the most affected roads within the Parish. The Working Group will also look at gaining more information via more MVAS cameras in key locations. If you feel your road is suffering from vehicles travelling at excess speed, please contact the LMPC Office by emailing : clerk@littlemissendenparish.gov.uk.

Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at Mop End Lane

The Missendens Unitary Councillors are aware of the concern that this has caused among the residents. LMPC have tried to contact Voltis on several occasions without any response. The Voltis website gives no indications of any proposed development at Mop End. LMPC will continue to pursue Voltis for a definitive answer as to whether they are continuing with this application.

Play Areas and Equipment

The inclusive swing has now been replaced in the Holmer Green play area following the irreparable damage caused to the old one. LMPC has also authorised repairs to the children's roundabout at Little Kingshill play area following the deliberate damage caused to this equipment. We would like to respectfully remind residents that all play equipment is only suitable for young people under 14 years of age.

Skimmers Field, Taylor Wimpey Development

At the planning meeting on 14th July, LMPC raised various objections/concerns about the Environmental Impact Assessment document put forward by Taylor Wimpey. These will be forwarded to Buckinghamshire Council for their consideration.

An update to this is that Buckinghamshire Council have decided that Taylor Wimpey do not need an EIA. Obviously this is disappointing. Details of the ruling can be found on the planning portal, reference number PL/25/1851/EIASR.

Healthcare in the Area

Concerns regarding healthcare in the area is a growing issue. Developments at Bellway, Tralee and now Skimmers Field will increase the already overloaded doctors' surgeries at Roberts Ride and Highfield. Holmer Green Village Society has picked up the baton on this and has the full support of Sarah Green, our local MP. HGVS, together with Sarah Green, have had a meeting with the ICB (Integrated Care Board) to discuss the situation. The result of this meeting was inconclusive. Other meetings are planned and Sarah Green is prepared to raise this issue in Parliament to get a resolution to the problem. LMPC fully supports HGVS in its initiative and will assist in any way it can.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Government has decided to withdraw financial support for Neighbourhood Plans. This means that the costs of getting Neighbourhood Plans drawn up and implemented will have to be met by Parish Councils. We are fortunate that the LMPC Neighbourhood Plan is a long way towards being fully developed. However, there is still some way to go which will require further investment. LMPC is fully committed to seeing our Neighbourhood Plan to completion for the future development and protection of the area. The consultation period is now over and the committee is reviewing and responding to all your comments. The next stage is to present the completed plan to Buckinghamshire Council for approval. However, we are being told that it could be up to nine months before it is approved and a referendum held.

Financial Information

There have been reports in the local press recently about financial irregularities found at an audit at a Parish Council in our area. These included breaches of financial regulations, not following Council rules and potentially putting public funds at risk. LMPC would like to assure residents that we have very robust and secure systems in place to ensure that the Council's finances are fully compliant with laid down procedures and regulations. At a recent financial audit, no issues were found with our accounting systems and they were fully transparent. This is due to our Clerk who is the RFO (Responsible Financial Officer) and keeps a tight control of our finances.

School Time Parking Issues, Holmer Green

The parking issues at school pick up time continue to give cause for concern. There have been various studies into the problem around the village, but they have found that there is no single answer to the problem. Last year, Parish Councillors carried out a survey of the "hot spots" and dangerous parking at pick up times. To this end, LMPC has put forward to Buckinghamshire Council various corners in the village where drivers park and highlighted these for double yellow lines. It is appreciated that this is not a cure, but more a hope that it will deter drivers from parking in dangerous places.

New Parish Councillors

LMPC is pleased to welcome two new Councillors. Jane Hewitt who will represent the ward of Little Kingshill and Little Missenden, and Julia Brown will represent the ward of Holmer Green. We still have vacancies for two Councillors in Holmer Green, two in Hyde Heath and one in Little Kingshill/Little Missenden. If you are interested and would like to find out more, please contact Dianne Camier, email : clerk@littlemissendenparish.gov.uk.

Further information can found on the LMPC website at : <https://www.littlemissendenparish.gov.uk/>.

Colin Thirsk

A Personal Journey

It was in May 2014 that I was asked if I fancied getting involved with Holmer Green Football Club. My life spent working for various major construction companies was winding down and there was space for a new interest. My youngest son had played for HGFC, and it seemed like an opportunity to give something back to the Club to repay all those that similarly had given up their time to supporting both my sons' football careers. I went to the first meeting offering to operate the admission gate on match days and came away as Chairman.

HGFC is largely a voluntary organisation, and things happen because people freely give up their time. During my time the Football Club has grown, and we now have over seventy people that volunteer each week to enable the junior and senior teams to train and play matches each week. We are all part of an organisation that has existed since 1908.

One of my mantras is that no matter how much we do for the Club, we are simply continuing the work done by many others over the years. Our job is essentially to ensure we lay down sustainable roots that enable the Club to go on for many more years to come. We have a selection of historical photographs in the Clubhouse going back to the First World War. I find it appealing to look at those players and wonder what they experienced when they played for HGFC. In those days gone by, matches were played on The Common. The Club did not move to Watchet Lane until the 70s.

Why did they move? Well, the newly created Holmer Green Sports Association had space for a football club and a new permanent home was created. It was, at the time, primarily a senior team and it was not initially structured with junior and senior teams as we have had in recent years. All that came later.

It is worth dwelling on the role of HGSA. It was awarded a sixty year lease over the land in 1986. Following a protracted negotiation with Buckinghamshire Council, a new lease with a twenty-five year extension was agreed last year. So the land occupied can only be used for sport and recreation until 2071, thus safeguarding the land for the community use it has been accustomed to for the foreseeable future.

So apart from holding the lease, what else does HGSA do? Well, it has overall responsibility for the facility including the Clubhouse and all its buildings. All the sports and activities that take place at Watchet Lane are done so under the terms of section agreements with HGSA. So, for example, HGFC agree to maintain the land they occupy and contribute a fee to assist in the running of the Clubhouse. Some of us have dual roles which probably adds to some of the perceived confusion. In addition to being Chair of HGFC, I am also Co-Chair of HGSA, a role I have held since 2019, shared with Bob Asprey from Holmer Green Cricket Club.

HGSA, like Football, Cricket, Bowls, Model Engineering and Squash operate on a "not for profit" basis, which means that every penny of "profit" that is generated gets reinvested into the facility. As can be seen by the problems faced by the hospitality sector, running any form of club has its challenges, but thanks to a lot of hard work by our committed teams of people, we are currently in better shape than we have been for many years.

The artificial grass pitch, otherwise known as the 3G, is proving to be the success we always anticipated, and we are seeing large numbers enjoying the new facility all year round. The football stadium is also seeing a refresh and for the first time you can now watch from all four sides of the pitch.

So, what does the future hold? The big challenge we wrestle with is the car park. We know it needs improvement and possible enlargement, but that all costs big sums of money. It is regularly used by the local schools, and it is likely that charging will have to be introduced if we are to generate the necessary funds to enable the improvement needed.

Of course, there will come a time when I have to step aside and allow fresh blood to take over. Thereby lies the challenge of creating sustainable organisations, knowing when it is time to go and having the volunteers who want to step up to continue the challenge. As long as I continue to get satisfaction and even enjoyment from my roles, I hope I will be allowed to continue. As I sat in the Clubhouse on Saturday evening after our first game of the season and saw the players, management and supporters enjoying themselves after a good win, the thought came to me that whilst I had not kicked a ball, I had helped create the environment that allows people to enjoy playing a game they love. Please bear that in mind if you are considering volunteering. You too can help create such a great sense of wellbeing!

Rob Shed



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Amersham Museum – Your friendly local museum for Amersham and the villages



You have probably all seen Amersham Museum's mobile museum at events like Music on the Common (2025 attendance pictured) and Christmas by the Common – last year it was Santa's Grotto!

But have you visited it recently and seen all of its great features, including a lovely herb garden which features more than one hundred medicinal and seasoning herbs?

The award-winning museum is situated at 49 High Street, Amersham, HP7 0DP (almost opposite the Kings Arms). It charts the history of Amersham and the surrounding villages with displays on Tudor, Georgian, Victorian and 20th century events. It has a dedicated exhibition area, which in September will have an exhibition titled, "*Landmarks: Celebrating Chilterns Creativity*". This exhibition explores historical artworks next to newly-created pieces all inspired by the Chilterns countryside.

"But isn't Holmer Green a Wycombe-oriented village?" I hear you say. I would argue that it is not. Holmer Green is what the museum terms a "Howe" village where, together with Winchmore Hill and Penn Street, the Penn Estate used to own significant amounts of land. Indeed Holmer Green common was owned by the Howe's until it was gifted to Little Missenden Parish Council at the end of the 19th century. So Amersham Museum is the natural place to go for local history.

Entry to the museum is from £6.50 for adults with under sixteen's free. It is open from midday to 4.30 pm from Wednesday to Sunday for ten months of the year. If you want a flavour of what the museum offers, visit the website at : www.amershammuseum.org, or take a virtual tour by downloading the Bloomberg Connects app for iPhone or Android phone (you can scan on the QR code on the right) where you will find Amersham Museum by searching for local museums.



Peter Healy

Buckinghamshire Waste Busters

We were running a stall on behalf of Buckinghamshire Waste Busters, which is a project run by Buckinghamshire Council in partnership with Garden Organic, to encourage people to reduce their black bin waste by reuse, recycling and composting.

We had over forty excellent conversations where people mostly already knew what could be recycled in the blue bin, but were particularly interested in a printed list of items that can now be taken back to the supermarket, such as pet food pouches. Using the information on this list, we personally have recently HALVED our black bin waste.

People were also interested in Freegle (www.ilovefreegle.org) where you sign up (for free), post items that you no longer want, and other Freeglers will come and collect so that your item gets reused. They were challenged to calculate their CARBON FOOTPRINT (search Google for "Carbon Footprint Calculators") to see whether their impact on the environment is above or below the national average, and where their impact is greatest.

If we all do not reuse, recycle and compost, then the black bin waste gets sent to the Greatmoor incinerator which generates electricity, but discharges nearly 300,000 tonnes of CO₂ into the atmosphere every year – that is four times per unit as much as a modern gas-fired power station and is equivalent to running 180,000 petrol-engined cars.

Why should we care for the environment? Because “the earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it” (Psalm 24.1) and we should respect the environment because it is His.

Chris and Bron Gregory

The Parish of Penn Street with Holmer Green

It is August already and our ever-popular cream teas will finish on 31st August. If you want to sample the delicious home-made scones and cakes, you have not much time left. The teas are served in Holy Trinity Church, Penn Street, HP7 0PX, both inside and out in the churchyard. If it is raining, everything happens inside.

Our **Community Café** continues each month on the fourth Saturday morning from 10.00 am – 12 midday in the Church Centre. There is a date to look forward to in September when a special Community Café, combined with a Macmillan fundraiser, will link to the national Macmillan Coffee Morning. This is a long-held tradition to have special cakes and raise money for Macmillan and will be held on Saturday 27th September. We will continue to hold the café on 25th October and 22nd November. We do not hold the café in December, but will return in 2026 on Saturday 24th January. We look forward to seeing you for a coffee, biscuits and good company.

Tiddlywinks’ summer term ended with a bouncy castle which was enjoyed by all the children. We hope you all have a lovely summer holiday. We look forward to seeing you in September though some of our older children will be starting school. We wish them well in their new environment.

The autumn term begins on Monday 8th September. We meet on Mondays at 1.30 pm – 3.00 pm, term time only, in the Church Centre. No pre-booking is required. All babies, toddlers, under school age children and their carers will be warmly welcomed. For more information, please go to one of the contacts given below.

The **Linkup Bereavement and Friendship Group** continues to meet in the Church Centre monthly on the third Friday morning from 11.15 am for coffee, followed by a sharing lunch at 12 midday – 1.30 pm for those who wish to stay on. All who have been bereaved either recently or longer ago will be warmly welcomed.

Our Annual Service of Memories and Thanksgiving will be held in Christ Church on Sunday 2nd November at 3.00 pm, followed by refreshments in the Church Centre. For more information, please ring Joan Toye on : 01494–718466, or go to one of the contacts given below.

The Churches Together Afternoon Fellowship do not meet during August, but will start again on 18th September with Holy Communion at Christ Church led by Rev Daf Meirion-Jones, followed by refreshments. On 2nd October, we have a Harvest Lunch followed by a service with Mary Spooner in the Baptist Church (HP15 6TD). The programme continues with a talk – “10 Years’ Inside”, Nature Through the Year - photographs of the local area, a Games Afternoon, Christmas Lunch and a Carol Service and Christmas Tea. We usually meet at 2.00 pm on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays in the month, alternating between the Church Centre and the Baptist Church. More details can be found via our contacts listed below.

Many of our activities take place in the Church Centre, Featherbed Lane, Holmer Green, HP15 6XQ. For more information, contact the Parish Office in the Church Centre, telephone : 01494–715195, email : office@pshg.org, or go to the website at : www.pshg.org.

The Baptist Church website is : www.holmergreenbaptist.org.uk.

Hilary Hide

Manures and Manuring

I love reading the articles in Holmer Green Today that reflect on life in the community from the 1940s and beyond. During and following World War II, there was a drive for people to produce their own vegetables, hence the focus on manure and manuring. I recently discovered this article from the Berkshire County Newsletter that was written in 1947.

“To the gardener the word “manure” has a magical sound. He feels that if given the stuff he can do the job, but that without it he has every excuse for failing to produce a bumper crop. “Manure”, however, is a very wide term, covering many different types of substances which have varying uses to the plant.

Manures are applied for two reasons: to improve the condition of the soil, and to supply necessary plant food. When a new piece of land is taken over the first consideration is the nature of the soil. The soil is the medium in which the plant grows. It is a living community, and the life in the soil can be made use of and encouraged to help the gardener to get the results he wants. Soil texture must be thought of before the matter of plant food. The land may be a heavy, sticky clay, wet and pasty in winter and baked hard on the surface in summer. Such a soil will be hard to work, sticky and lumpy, and badly drained. The remedies lie in good cultivation, liming, and manuring. The addition of long strawy manure during the winter digging, will open up the soil, making it warmer and better drained. At the other extreme, the soil may be a light, blowing sand, easy to work, but which dries out quickly and gives poor crops. In this case one would apply well-decayed manure to help bind and enrich the soil. Soil texture, therefore, is improved by the addition of some form of bulky manure, and under this heading will come farmyard manure, compost and leaf mould, which are all broken down by micro-organisms to form humus, an essential part of the soil.

Farmyard manure, commonly known as “muck”, is perhaps more highly prized by gardeners than any other commodity. What exactly is this magic stuff?

The first thing we shall discover if we start to look into the matter is that there are many different types of farmyard manure. In all cases, of course, the manure is formed from the excreta, both solid and liquid of animals, together with the straw or other material which is used as litter. It varies according to the type of animal, nature of the litter, and the way in which it is “made”.

Stable or horse manure is a “hot, dry manure”. It usually contains a large quantity of straw. When fresh it is in a rapid state of fermentation and is used for making hot beds, etc. As it decays it becomes “shorter” and darker in colour. It is very valuable for use on heavy wet soils.

Cow manure, on the other hand, tends to be cold and wet, and is useful on a light sandy soil. Here again there are wide variations. Manure obtained from fattening cattle is much richer than that from dairy cows. Pig manure is another cold, wet manure, and usually contains less straw than those previously mentioned. Poultry manure is a very valuable substance. It is rich in nitrogen, and if properly made is easy to deal with. It is very often mixed with an equal quantity of dry soil, to make it easier to apply.

The storage of manure is important. A manure heap is a living community and rapid physical and chemical changes are going on during the processes of decay and fermentation. It will be realised, of course, that the excreta consist mainly of undigested food, which is largely of plant origin. The micro-organisms get to work on the straw and other vegetable substances and break them down into humus. Heat is given off during the process. The liquid manure is rich in nitrogen and potash. Some of the nitrogen in fresh manure is rapidly given off in the form of ammonia on exposure to air. It is best, therefore, to store in a compact heap in a sheltered spot. A sump should be dug in which the liquid manure will collect. Some sort of covering is desirable in wet weather. Exposure to air results in much valuable ammonia being lost by evaporation, while heavy rain will wash out the soluble nitrogen and potash salts.

Manure is best applied at the time of digging. Early digging is the wisest plan when manure is to be added. On heavy soils this allows time for the beneficial effect of weathering, and for the manure to become well incorporated with the soil. On light soils digging and manuring are often left till the spring, the reason being that heavy winter rains would wash out much of the nitrogen from the manure. However, against this must be set the fact that as light soils are inclined to be loose and open, early digging and manuring give a chance for the ground to become more compacted before the time comes for sowing and planting. It will then hold moisture better.

Farmyard manure is normally applied in the trench when digging. Where double digging is practised, of course, a grand opportunity is given for getting the manure down deep. On other occasions it is useful to put it on the surface in the form of a mulch to such crops as blackcurrants, raspberries, wall fruit trees and tomatoes. In such cases well-decayed manure must be used. In the garden or allotment, a good plan is to apply manure to a third of the garden each year, working it into the rotation. The crops which benefit most from newly manured land are potatoes, peas and beans, celery and leeks.

Besides improving the texture of the soil, manures are a means of providing plant food. Plants take in their food in solution through the root hairs. Various organisms help to convert the soil matter into a form available for use. The main plant foods needed are nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium, which are generally supplied in the form of organic manures such as farmyard manure, compost, etc, or by so-called "artificial fertilisers", eg, sulphate of ammonia, superphosphate, and sulphate-of-potash."



Courgettes on manure heap

I would like to make a few comments about this article and add a few thoughts of my own. The main point I would like to emphasise is that there appears to be some confusion about the use of the term "soil texture". You can only alter soil texture by changing the amounts of sand, clay or silt that are present in the soil which would be very expensive to do. "Soil structure" is the term that should have been used. This can be defined as the way that these individual particles of sand, silt and clay are held together. The addition of farmyard manure will bind these components together, thus improving the soil structure.

Nowadays, quite often, FYM (dung) is stored in fields for some considerable time and can be penetrated by such weeds as nettles, bindweed and invasive grasses. So be careful to avoid introducing these weeds into your garden when adding farmyard manure. When I started off my gardening career it was the normal practice to spread the FYM over the plot before digging and this was often done on very cold days. Nowadays, "The No Dig Method" is popular and this involves spreading the FYM over the garden in early winter and letting the worms take it down into the soil, thus creating drainage channels for water and air. The term "hot beds" is referred to in this article and a brief explanation of this would be helpful for readers. This was once a very popular method of producing early crops under frames or in glasshouses. FYM and other organic materials such as grass cuttings formed a base and then the soil was placed on top. The heat produced in the decaying process of these substances would warm the soil which was very important where early season vegetables were required.

Finally, a few quotations for you

"Where there's muck, there's brass"

"Rolling in the muck is not the best way of getting clean"

"Knowledge, like money and muck, serves us best when spread evenly"

"If there's muck in the water of your life, you probably had a hand in hauling it there"

"One must be a lotus lily to emerge from mucky waters clean"

Enjoy the autumn colours.

Happy gardening.

Brian Fisher

Holmer Green WI



Everyone was keen to learn the secrets of preparing tabbouleh, a refreshing and tasty salad which we always enjoy at our parties and lunches. It is made by member, Salma Michael, from a traditional recipe passed on through her family, so at our May meeting, Salma demonstrated to us how she makes it using a food processor (see recipe opposite) and she also made some traditional hummus. Salma spoke to us about her background and how she came to live in England. There was plenty of tabbouleh and hummus for us all to sample, accompanied by home-made bread and salad.

Salma Michael demonstrating her recipes

We always hold our birthday party in June. This year we enjoyed a lunch of cold meats, salads and new potatoes. We had fruit jellies for dessert, which were very refreshing at the time of a heatwave! We were entertained by James Rafferty who played his guitar and sang folk songs from the British Isles and Ireland, and encouraged us to join in.

In July, we welcomed back wildlife photographer, Tom Way. Tom has spoken to us before and we always enjoy the wonderful selection of photographs of wild animals, particularly this time of tigers in India.

Christine Kirby

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of our dear friend and member, Christine Kirby. Christine joined Holmer Green WI in 1972. At that time, as a much younger group, there were many activities going on, such as a drama group, singing and craftwork. Christine, with all her talents, was an eager member since she could tap dance and act, especially in the Christmas pantos such as Aladdin. She was also a keen singer in the WI Emeralds choir. She was expert at handicrafts, especially patchwork and quilting. She will be fondly remembered by us all for her friendly, unique sense of humour.

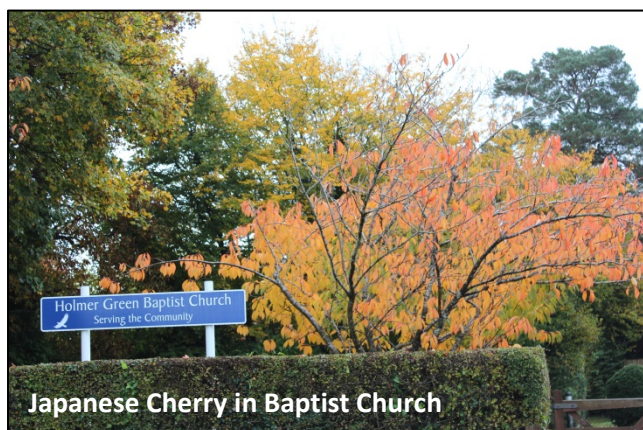
Details of our programme for the coming year can be viewed on our website at : holmergreenwi.weebly.com.

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

Annie Greateorex

Dates for the Diary

- 17th September : Recycling in Bucks by Emily Breen.
- 15th October : Return visit by broadcaster and journalist, Bill Hamilton.
- 19th November : Magic, Mind Reading and Mentalism by Steve Wilkinson.



Photos courtesy of Brian Fisher

Traditional Recipe for Tabbouleh

by Salma Michael

Approx 4 servings

- 25g / 1oz bulgur wheat
- 2-3 tbsp freshly squeezed lemon juice
- Half a diced cucumber
- 4 roughly chopped tomatoes
- 1 large bunch flatleaf parsley
- 1 small bunch fresh mint
- 1 bunch spring onions
- 2-3 tbsp olive oil

- 1 Place bulgur wheat in the serving bowl and add lemon juice.
- 2 Put the cucumber and tomatoes into a food processor and pulse until finely chopped. Add to the serving bowl, allowing the juices to soak into the wheat.
- 3 Put the parsley, mint and spring onions into the food processor and once again, pulse until finely chopped.
- 4 Add to the serving bowl, then add the oil and mix the salad.
- 5 When about to serve, add salt to taste.

Royal British Legion Women's Section

As we approach autumn, the Women's Section will hold the annual Harvest Festival in the British Legion Hall on 9th September when members and friends donate produce for auction. In October it will be our annual general meeting. Members are asked to come and vote for their committee.

For one of our previous events, a couple came and played tunes for us. Brian played various banjos and a ukulele, tied to his foot was a tambourine. Barbara played an accordion. She told us she had played this since her younger days. I was fascinated how this instrument was played. In my younger days, my friend's aunt came along and played to us.

Members of the committee prepared a variety of refreshments for our tea party that was enjoyed by all.

Following the celebration of Audrey Banham's 65th wedding anniversary, Audrey was presented with a large bouquet and a card signed by all members of our section.

Sadly, our July meeting was cancelled as a mark of respect to our secretary who passed away. Her wish for her funeral was for persons attending to wear blue, this being her favourite colour. Her coffin was also blue and her favourite group, the Beatles, had their photo displayed on her coffin. As the hearse approached the gates, her coffin was placed onto a horse drawn carriage. The horses also had blue plumes on their heads. Marilyn will be greatly missed. Condolences go to her family. Service not self.

I am your new poppy organiser. If you would like to purchase a wreath, please contact me on : 01494-713789.

Wendy Tomlin

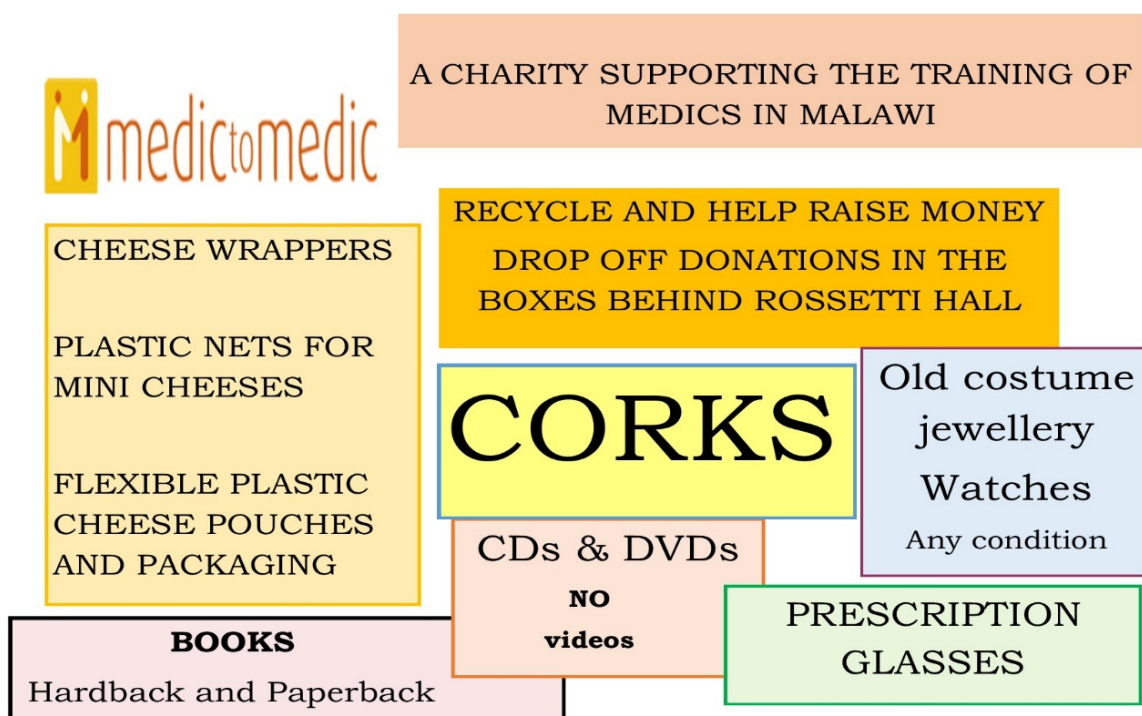
Medic to Medic

Medic to Medic was founded in 2007 to address the problems of training and retaining medical students in some of the world's poorest countries.

For our first country, we chose Malawi. Like so many sub-Saharan countries, Malawi is desperately short of doctors. It has just two doctors per 100 000 people. The UK has over 230 per 100 000.

Medic to Medic helps by supporting poor but bright students through medical school, who might otherwise drop out. We cover their tuition fees and give them allowances for equipment and books. We can link students to mentors, who provide holistic support.

Our scheme to support medical students has been so successful that we now also support physiotherapists, pharmacists, nurses, mental health workers, clinical officers, optometrists & audiologists in Malawi.



Every so often the items we can recycle do change. Currently at Holmer Green we collect :

- Cheese wrappers, including the nets that hold mini cheeses.
 - Inkjet printer cartridges, not laser/toner units.
 - Books – not magazines or brochures.
 - CDs and DVDs, but please **not** videos.
- Prescription glasses, and cases when possible.
 - Bottle corks, not the plastic ones please.
- Costume jewellery and watches, even if broken.

Thank you to everyone who supports this charity.

Jane Fallon

St John Ambulance



When I was 12 and living in Wycombe Marsh, I was thinking of joining the Scouts, but there was not a troop near me, so somewhat reluctantly, I went along to Harlow Road in High Wycombe with my friend Peter and joined the St John Ambulance cadets in 1959.

Peter's father had been a member pre-war, but I did not really know what I was signing up to! Little did I think then, that in fifty years' time, I would become the County Commissioner for Buckinghamshire!

St John Ambulance gave me a basic training in first aid of course, but so much more as well. It developed my leadership and social skills and offered so many opportunities to develop my personality and help me deal with the world of the 1960s. Since then, I was fortunate enough to go on to many other roles, gaining in experience and management, which in turn allowed me to gain promotion to become the Commissioner.

During those years, I have made lifelong friends, not just locally, but across the UK. In addition, I met my wife Jean, who was an officer in London, through the organisation. We married in 1978 and moved into our current house in Holmer Green in 1985. Along the way, I ran a team operating a summer camp of three hundred cadets and adults for eighteen years and attended many public duties at large scale events, such as concerts at the MK Bowl where we provided full medical cover. Remind me to tell you my Ozzy Osbourne story sometime, but I am not sharing it here!

I have been privileged to attend three royal garden parties, met the late Queen and the late Duke of Edinburgh, and hosted the Princess Royal when she inspected our camp down in Dorset.

In the interim years, St John Ambulance has had to adapt to the modern world and financial and competitive issues, but has pulled through and now is entering a new chapter of public service to the community. The traditional black and white uniform recognisable at events everywhere gave way to a more practical green service delivery uniform, but not to be confused with the professional ambulance service.

St John Ambulance has always been, and still remains, a charity with no financial aid from the NHS or government. It does offer excellent commercial training courses to industry and the general public and money from these supports the voluntary side of the organisation.

During the COVID pandemic, St John Ambulance was key in delivery of the vaccine to the public and you may have been inoculated by one of our volunteers.

I would urge everyone reading this to undergo some basic life-saving skills training at the very least, with an organisation such as St John Ambulance, whatever your age, and who knows, like me, you might also enjoy it so much that you too might join and become a regular volunteer!

The local group is still based in Harlow Road if you want to contact them.

Vincent Smith

Liquidambar styraciflua

Photo courtesy of Brian Fisher



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www.beaconfuneralservices.co.uk

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Our striking Edwardian style Hearse takes pride of place within our fleet of Funeral cars and was named after the late grandmother of Gary Arnold, the proprietor.

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High Wycombe, Bucks, HP11 2TE
01494 53 11 11

Wycombe@beaconfuneralservices.co.uk

Beacon Funeral Services Ltd

The Old Forge
2 Wethered Road
Marlow, Bucks SL7 3AH
01628 47 60 00

marlow@beaconfuneralservices.co.uk

Local Theatre-Goer's Diary : September to November 2025

For your entertainment, close to home, are many great nights out locally during the next three months. There are big names, One Night Events, Tribute Acts, As Live Screenings, so do check out all the websites for full details. And remember, Christmas 2025 is going to be a *JACK AND THE BEANSTALK* Panto Fest, showing at Wycombe Swan, Aylesbury Waterside, Chesham Elgiva AND Watford Palace!?!

Compiled since 2010 by villager, Mark Thorburn.

High Wycombe WYCOMBE SWAN (4 miles from HG)

St Mary Street, High Wycombe HP11 2XE : 01494 512000 : www.wycombeswan.co.uk

Concerts **DARA O BRIAIN (10 Sept SOLD OUT); JASON MANFORD (13 Sept); DEAD RINGERS (24 Sept); JACK DEE (28 Sept SOLD OUT); TIM PEAKE (7 Oct); OMID DJALILI (8 Oct); JOSH WIDDICOMBE (9 Oct limited); RHOD GILBERT (13 Nov SOLD OUT)** and many other One Night visits. Please check website for full details.

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF (16 to 20 September) The 2024 Olivier Award Winning Best Musical Revival, direct from the Barbican.

CIRQUE ELOIZE – ID RELOADED (26 & 27 September) An intoxicating blend of urban dance, daring stunts and dazzling acrobatics.

BLUEY'S BIG PLAY (25 & 26 October) Based on the award-winning children's t.v. show, packed with music, laughter and fun for the whole family.

FAWLTY TOWERS The Play (28 October to 1 November) The Sold Out Smash Hit Comedy, based on the classic t.v. series, direct from its second West End run.

SIX The Musical (25 to 29 November SOLD OUT) The West End, Broadway, Touring Musical phenomenon back in Wycombe and Sold Out again.

Please check the website for full details of many one-night stands and filmed specials.

Chesham ELGIVA (8 miles from HG)

St Mary's Way, Chesham HP5 1LL : 01494 582900 : www.elgiva.com

BOLLYWOOD TIME MACHINE (13 Sept); An Evening with IAN BOTHAM (18 Sept); MARK STEEL The Leopard in my house (19 Sept); ENGLISH SINFONIA Dances, Dreams, Diversions (21 Sept); COUNTRY SUPERSTARS (26 Sept); KNIGHTS OF HARMONY (4 Oct); RAVE ON (9 Oct); The Best In Comedy (10 Oct); ALFIE MOORE Apocalypse Now (11 Oct); TOP SECRET The Magic of Science (12 Oct); SPOT'S BIRTHDAY PARTY (18 & 19 Oct); ANDY PARSONS Please #@\$ Off to Mars (7 Nov); THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR (13 & 14 Nov); A NIGHT AT THE MOVIES Poledance Edition (15 & 16 Nov); Elgiva ARTISAN & CHILTERN MADE CRAFT FAIR (23 Nov).

In addition, there are Live Streams, Cinema Screenings, Comedy Nights, Music Evenings and local Dance Academy Presentations. For full details, please check the website.

Aylesbury WATERSIDE THEATRE (13 miles from HG)

Exchange Street, Aylesbury, Bucks HP20 1UG : 0844 871 7614 : www.ambassadortickets.com/Aylesbury-Waterside-Theatre

Concerts **NIGEL MANCELL (9 Sept); DARA O BRIAIN (11 Sept); HARRY HILL (17 Sept); JACK DEE (1 Oct); TIM PEAKE (5 Oct); RICK WAKEMAN (12 Oct); GRAYSON PERRY (24 Oct); ANTON DU BEKE (4 Nov); TONY STOCKWELL (11 Nov); HENNING WEHN (14 Nov)** and many other One Night visits. Please check the website for full details.

THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE (7 to 11 October) Hugely successful West End and Touring production of the classic story.

PEPPA PIG'S BIG FAMILY SHOW (21 & 22 October) Latest interactive stage show from Peppa and her family and friends.

Carlos Acosta's NUTCRACKER IN HAVANA (31 October & 1 November) Return visit of the hugely entertaining Cuban version of the classic ballet.

RIVERDANCE 30 The New Generation (10 to 12 November) It all began as the Interval Entertainment at the Eurovision Song Contest in 1995 and is still entertaining worldwide.

FRIENDS The Musical Parody (18 to 22 November) A very affectionate send up of the classic television series, featuring many well-loved moments from all ten series.

INSPECTOR MORSE House of Ghosts with Tom Chambers (25 to 29 November) An original murder mystery written especially for the stage featuring the iconic ITV Police Inspector.

Watford PALACE THEATRE (18 miles from HG)

20 Clarendon Road, Watford, Herts WD17 1JZ : 01923 25671 : www.watfordtheatre.co.uk

THE VOID (3 & 4 October) A chilling sci-fi horror created for the stage – a decaying future of desperate humans and all-seeing AI. Combining powerful illusions, atmospheric projections and a creeping sense of dread.

SURINDERELLA (22 to 26 October) Into the Bolly-Woods! A unique evening of laughter, romance, and larger-than-life entertainment! Meet Surinder – sweet, strong, and stuck in a never-ending chore list thanks to her two selfie-obsessed, insta-vlogging stepsisters, Lovely & Bubbly. With a dazzling Bollywood Ball, a mystical slipper, and a lot of bakwas, Surinder's destiny is about to get a serious glow-up!

CRAZY FOR YOU (4 to 8 November) (Amateur) Cassio's latest production, the fabulous Gershwin all singing, all dancing Musical Comedy.

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK (29 November to 4 January) The first of no less than four JACKs in the area this Christmas. All guaranteed to be full of festive beans.

One Night visits by a wide variety of entertainers. Please check the website, or apply for a brochure by post, for full details of all activities.

Windsor THEATRE ROYAL (19 miles from HG)

Thames Street, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 1PS : 01753 853 888 : www.theatreroyalwindsor.co.uk

THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION (3 to 6 September) Fear will hold you prisoner. Hope can set you free. This thrilling stage production, based on Stephen King's novella, examines friendship and hope behind the claustrophobic bars of a maximum-security facility.

THE SIGNALMAN (23 to 27 September) A new extended adaptation of the highly successful Middle Ground Theatre Co. production of Charles Dickens' nerve-tingling masterpiece.

THE VOID (30 September to 2 October) A chilling sci-fi horror created for the stage – a decaying future of desperate humans and all-seeing AI. Combining powerful illusions, atmospheric projections and a creeping sense of dread.

LOCOMOTIVE FOR MURDER (3 & 4 October) Using audience stories and suggestions, watch Pinch Punch create a unique, one-of-a-kind, never-to-be-repeated whodunnit. If you love comedy or murder mysteries, then this is for you!

SURINDERELLA (7 to 11 October) Into the Bolly-Woods! A unique evening of laughter, romance, and larger-than-life entertainment! Meet Surinder – sweet, strong, and stuck in a never-ending chore list thanks to her two selfie-obsessed, insta-vlogging stepsisters, Lovely & Bubbly. With a dazzling Bollywood Ball, a mystical slipper, and a lot of bakwas, Surinder's destiny is about to get a serious glow-up!

BUDDY – The Buddy Holly Musical (21 to 25 October) This sensational multi award-winning show premiered in 1989 and has been thrilling audiences around the world ever since. A multi-talented cast of actor-musicians tell Buddy Holly's story, from his Texas rockabilly beginnings to international stardom and his tragic death at the age of just twenty-two.

SHERLOCK HOLMES - THE HUNT FOR MORIARTY (28 October to 1 November) World Premiere of a thrilling adventure based on the work of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, combining powerful performances, a haunting soundscape and innovative design for an exhilarating theatrical experience.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL BALLET (4 to 8 November) Ballet Theatre UK present Charles Dickens' festive classic beautifully retold with the magic of Classical Ballet.

CINDERELLA (21 November to 11 January) Step into a world of magic and dreams with Windsor's spellbinding 2025 Pantomime, (NOT *Jack and the Beanstalk*) but *CINDERELLA*! Don't wait until the clock strikes midnight - grab your tickets and let the magic begin!

Please check the website for full details of Concerts and Tribute Nights.

Sonning THE MILL AT SONNING (20 miles from HG)

Sonning Eye, Reading RG4 6TY : 0118 969 8000 : www.millatsonning.com
(Dinner Theatre : Ticket, Pre-Show Two-Course Meal, Programme & Parking included).

[After 43 years, from February 2025, The Mill's dinner service style transitioned from the familiar buffet to modern British à la carte. Restaurant serving lunch from 12.00pm to 1.15pm; Matinee Performances start 2.15pm. Evening Performances start 8.15pm. Restaurant serving dinner from 6.00pm to 7.15pm.]

DON'T ROCK THE BOAT (until 6 September) A Robin Hawdon (remember the hilarious "Don't Dress for Dinner"?) recipe for hilarity in the quirky setting of a converted riverside barge!

LAST Show Only Matinee (No Food) for "Don't Rock the Boat," 4 September. Bar open 12pm, Show 2pm.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST (9 to 13 September) A one-hour immersive production with afternoon Tea in the restaurant from the creators of previous immersive shows, "Still Life" and "Twelfth Night". With a cup of tea, cucumber sandwich and a slice of Victorian wit and decadence, immerse yourself in the world of Oscar Wilde's greatest romantic comedy of manners. The talented company will spin this joyous and witty play around you, with all the music played and sung live, whilst you enjoy your afternoon or high tea.

Two shows a day at 2:15pm and 6:15pm. Afternoon Tea served from 1pm. High Tea served from 5pm.

THE SHADOW IN THE MIRROR (18 September to 8 November) A Stage Adaptation of Gerald Durrell's haunting short story, "The Entrance". An unsettling tale of a bookseller who uncovers an ancient, hidden doorway in the shadowy corridors of a crumbling old country house and the ghostly terror that lurks behind it. As the boundaries blur, secrets long buried come to light, leading to a chilling confrontation with a force beyond human understanding. Prepare for a night with a creeping sense of dread.

Evening shows: Wednesday to Saturday; Saturday Matinee Every Week; Sunday Matinee from 28 September.

NEW Show Only Matinees (No Food) Bar open from 12pm, show begins at 2pm on Wednesdays 1 & 8, Thursdays 16, 23 & 30 October.

MY FAIR LADY (20 November to 17 January) Based on Bernard Shaw's "Pygmalion", with an unforgettable score, and has been a phenomenal success worldwide. Following the popularity of previous musicals, director Joseph Pitcher revives his highly successful production from 2017. Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe's *MY FAIR LADY* promises to be a glorious revival of a Mill favourite and a theatrical festive event not to be missed.

Evening Shows: Wednesday to Saturday; Tuesday Evenings 9, 16, 23 December; Sunday Evenings 14, 21 & 28 December; Saturday Matinees Every Week; Sunday Matinees 30 November to 11 January.

NEW Show Only Matinees (No Food); Thursday 27 November; Thursday 4 December; Friday 2 January; Thursday 8 January; Thursday 15 January.

Please check the website for details of innumerable Sunday Concerts and Backstage Tours with a luscious Cream Tea.

Arts & Crafts Workshops In Holmer Green

The Studio, Church Centre,
Featherbed Lane, Holmer Green



Art Classes | Craft Workshops | Short Courses
Pottery Wheel & Kilns | Family Activities | Wellness Events

www.whereinspirationblooms.co.uk