



The Holton Post

January/February 2016

Issue No 86

YOUR VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

Where has 2015 gone? We might have had the warmest December for many years, but I'm sure we shall pay for it somehow with more winter months to come. When you see the terrible devastation the floods have caused in the north of England and Scotland it makes you realise that we're really lucky to live in a drier part of the country. Let's hope it remains so.

We like to include photos in articles where possible and you can view them in colour by going to our website: www.holtonpost.co.uk and clicking the Holton Post tab to view latest issue.

Happy New Year to everyone.

CHRISTMAS IN HOLTON

Once again Bill and Maxine Ellis have displayed a lovely Christmas tree in their garden in the centre of the village for the benefit of everyone. Its lights have provided a nice welcome to the village, especially in the long, dark evenings. Thank you.



At Holton School, pupils, staff and governors would like to thank Mr and Mrs Stephenson of Woodside Farm for kindly donating a magnificent tree which was in the school hall during the festive season, it is greatly appreciated by all.



RACE NIGHT

Holton Village Hall
Saturday 6th February
7pm for 7.30pm start



Bring own drinks and nibbles

Tickets £3.00

From Bookshop and 872350

In aid of H.C.N.C.F

THE FUTURE OF THE HOLTON POST

The Annual General Meeting of the Holton Post was held on Thursday 3rd December at the Triple Plea. In addition to the committee 5 others attended, 4 of them spouses of the Committee, plus one very welcome newcomer to the area, John Beckett.

We were told that the financial situation is good at present with a balance in the bank at the end of October of £704.81, due mainly to a generous grant from both Holton and Blyford Parish Councils. However it was pointed out that this grant is likely to be considerably reduced next year as Parish Councils are finding it more difficult to cover all their other needs.

As the Chairman and Treasurer Maritza Simpson had resigned due to moving out of the area and another member was retiring, there was much discussion about whether the Holton Post should continue. Would the lack of a newsletter be noticed it was wondered? John Beckett said that he felt it was worthwhile as he had found interesting articles and information in it having just moved into Blyford. So it was eventually decided to continue for another year.

A new committee was formed with Geoff Cackett becoming Chairman with a mission to generate more advertising and Anne Holland assuming the duties of Treasurer as well as remaining as Secretary. The other members of the committee are continuing as before and Jim and Jackie Watts agreed to remain in charge of deliveries, with enough helpers at present to cover the delivery of the newsletter around the village. John Beckett was welcomed onto the committee.

At the conclusion of the meeting, many of us stayed at the Triple Plea for a lovely roast from the Carvery which is available every Thursday evening and Sunday lunchtime. If you haven't yet been for a meal there, do try it - and give the pub some support.

WEIGHT WATCHERS WELCOMES YOU AT CHINNY'S, HALESWORTH

New Year, New You? Why not come along to my Weight Watchers meeting at Chinny's on **Saturday at 09:30 am** and start the year with a healthier lifestyle? Plus, if you lose 10lbs in your first 8 weeks you can get your money back! Having lost 9 stone with Weight Watchers, I have never felt better or had more confidence. It has worked for me and I would love to help anyone who wants to achieve their goals, too.

Contact Carrie, Weight Watchers Leader on 07411 416783 or email caskinner@weight-watchers.co.uk for more information.

LOCALS SEND SHIPPING CONTAINER OF AID TO SYRIA

On 2nd September the dreadful image of a young Syrian boy washed up on a Turkish beach brought the ongoing refugee crisis starkly into our focus. For myself and my partner Aleksis Zarins, a growing unease watching the unfolding crisis shifted into an overwhelming urge to do something to help. With jobs and two small children, volunteering on the ground was not really an option for us but we felt there must be something we can do. Aleksis runs both a building and self-storage company from a warehouse in Holton and decided to use this warehouse space to collect donations for refugees. He used Facebook to spread the word and within a week the project was up and running. We joined forces with an existing local group 'Homes for the Jungle', run by Lucie Rogers who had already begun collecting donations in Bungay. We arranged a series of 'donation drops' and put up posters to advertise times. Many local people came forward to volunteer their time to sort through and pack the donations. Boxes were very kindly donated by local companies Spectra and M & H Plastics.

The appeal had a huge response from the people of Holton, Halesworth and further a field with some people bringing a bag of clothes, others bringing 4 carloads of goods! We had donations ranging from a small bag of lovingly hand knitted baby hats and scarves through to a car load of brand new sleeping bags and kids fleeces bought with money fundraised by a 5 year old who wanted to 'help the children to stay warm'! It felt as though many people, like us, wanted to help but didn't know how and were very pleased for there to be a local collection point set up.



We initially thought we would collect enough to fill a truck or two for Calais but then found that contacts in Calais were asking for people to hold off on sending donations until they could clear the backlog in their limited storage space. We began to explore options for sending donations elsewhere but despite the obvious desperate need, it was frustratingly difficult to establish what was needed where and who was available on the ground to receive and distribute it. There has been no coordinated response from EU governments and relatively little support from the large NGO's to this humanitarian crisis and the majority of relief efforts have been provided by small grassroots organizations and volunteers.

A few weeks in and we were joined by Val McCurdy and her daughter Louise who had set up a similar group in Lowestoft. They brought over all their donations, which had been filling Val's house to the brim. A couple of weeks later we also connected with the group in Beccles who had organized a day of collections but had ended up storing these in a big poly tunnel while

like us, they tried to work out a plan for distribution. We all agreed it made sense to bring the donations to Holton to avoid it all becoming damp. This doubled the collection overnight and soon the warehouse was filling up!

At this time we were put in contact with the charity Syria Relief via a local consultant Dr. Abdullah Mawas who works at the West Suffolk Hospital. Syria Relief have been sending containers of aid to both Greece and Syria, carrying vital winter aid to help refugees in Europe and those internally displaced in Syria. Dr Mawas advised us that if we could collect enough then Syria Relief could send a container direct to our warehouse to be filled. We all agreed that to send it all to those in highest need inside Syria was a great outcome.

So, we set up a final week of 'donation drops' and after 3 months of collecting, sorting, boxing and labeling, these local efforts culminated in filling a 40ft shipping container on Sat 5th December. Many volunteers



came to down to help load the container with 696 boxes and bags which has started its journey to Syria via Turkey. The aid which includes much needed warm winter clothes, coats, shoes, boots, blankets, sleeping bags, toiletries and some toys will be distributed to Syria Relief's emergency centres and camps in Hama, Aleppo and Idlep.

With the help of Maui Wauai events, we also held a very successful Funday at the Rifle Hall, Halesworth in October to raise funds. This has paid for 27 boxes of aid to be sent to the Greek island of Tilos, paid for extra luggage filled with aid to go with 3 locals who have volunteered on Lesvos and paid towards a shelter building project in Calais.

We have been overwhelmed by the response of local people and what can be achieved when so many kind and caring people come together to give their time and effort.

In the absence of a sufficient response from governments, it is communities working together in this way all over the UK that is making a difference, however small, in this ongoing crisis.

To follow the ongoing work of this project, find the group on Facebook at **Homes for the Jungle and beyond – Suffolk/Norfolk drop off**. To find out more about the work of Syria Relief you can visit their website at syriarelief.org.uk.

Sara Bluffield



HOLTON SCHOOL NEWS

During the second half of the Christmas term, despite the excitement of the approaching festive season, pupils continued to work hard in lessons. With the support of all staff they have been able to challenge themselves and move forward with their learning. November saw the introduction of Big Maths which is a new initiative aimed at all pupils from Year 1 onwards. This is a weekly, small group Maths scheme which works by identifying any gaps or weaknesses pupils may have and enables staff to then target their teaching in these areas to ensure all pupils have a solid knowledge of all maths areas. Staff would like to thank parents for working with their children at home on this and also for all the support our pupils have at home with reading, spelling and other homework – it really does make a difference to their learning.

The two shows of the KS1 production which were held towards the end of term were very well attended by family and friends, many thanks to The Friends who organised a raffle at both of these.

The Friends also held a Jumble Sale in November, many thanks to everyone who supported this in any way – over £200 was raised.

At very short notice Mr Holt led a small choir in singing at the Lions Winter Fair in Halesworth and they were given the honour of accompanying Father Christmas down to his grotto, singing all the way – many thanks to Mr Holt and those pupils who represented the school so well.

Enrichment activities, including Lego, Strictly Comes to Holton, Football and gymnastics, have been very well attended and enjoyed by all. New opportunities for extracurricular activities will be offered for February.

On Wednesday 16th December Mrs Thompson produced a magnificent Christmas lunch for the whole school which was enjoyed by pupils, staff, Friends and Governors.

The following day Christmas parties for every class were held and the children were lucky enough to have a visit from Father Christmas, many thanks to the Holton Friends for contacting him and getting him to fit Holton School into his busy schedule. The party was followed by a disco in the school hall – thanks again to Friends for their organisation of this.



Year Six pupils have been to Bungay twice, firstly to participate in the annual Maths Challenge and secondly to attend the Big Conversation which gave them the chance to talk with adults about their jobs and careers.

During the last week of term I had the honour of being part of the judging panel for the inter-house competition. Each house had been given the opportunity to decorate a display board on a Christmas theme. All looked very festive which made it a tough job but in the end we awarded first place to Orwell whose display showed a view from a bedroom window with Father Christmas flying through the sky on his sledge.

For more information about the school please visit the website.

Alison Hyden

GARY ROBINSON MOTOR ENGINEERS

Unit 1, High Trees Farm, HOLTON, HALESWORTH

Telephone: Halesworth 875452

(mobile 0789 5337096)

Est. 1985

- Servicing • Repairs
- Timing Belts Fitted
- All makes - Petrol or Diesel
 - Pre MOT checks
- Preparation for and submission to MOT Tests
 - Welding Repairs
 - Clutches Fitted
 - Classic Cars
- Free collection & delivery in the Halesworth area

Holton Trading Post and J.A.K. Furniture Services

- ❖ We have a 1000ft² showroom of furniture,
- ❖ We buy and sell second-hand and country furniture,
 - ❖ Undertake house and shed clearances,
 - ❖ Strip furniture and doors,
 - ❖ Repair and polish furniture,
 - ❖ Paint furniture and doors,
- ❖ We can also make furniture from reclaim and much more!

Come and have a look!

Units 9&10, The Old Airfield Site,

Holton, Halesworth IP19 8NH

Telephone Justin on:

01986 874277

or 07767 861401

Opening Times

Monday-Friday: 9am - 5.30pm

Saturday: 9am - 2pm



ON MOVING TO BLYFORD

I am not very good at transitions. Even when going on holiday it takes me a few days to relax into a change of scenery and routine no matter how grand and beautiful the location and then, of course, it's time to come home and wish we'd had longer! So when I semi-retired last year (rebalanced I call it) and we then moved to North Suffolk this summer, after a lifetime of urban living, I feared a lengthy and traumatic transition period. But, no! The experience of living in Blyford and enjoying the local surroundings has diminished any issues in settling in to nothing. There are so many pleasures to witness. First, I can cycle in any direction and immediately enjoy the fresh air and countryside – King's Lane and Primes Lane becoming two of my favourite thoroughfares – to the extent that I have found myself shouting out for joy several times as I pedal forth no matter what the weather! Then there are the Suffolk big skies with beautiful dawns over Wenhaston and sunsets over Holton and clear star laden skies at night to wonder at. Even keeping a weather eye on the bird feeders has proved an education – I don't recall ever seeing so many tits and chaffinches in one place as well as enjoying the occasional feeding woodpecker and the startling kestrel visitation in our garden soon after we moved in. Beyond all this, whilst not being large villages, there are good facilities with the excellent Market Fields and the equally excellent Queen's Head pub, with most everything else one could want a few miles down the road in Halesworth. So, I think there's much to celebrate in where we live that we should not take for granted or become complacent about. I hope to explore and discover much more of what makes Blyford and Holton tick in the months to come.



John Beckett

FATALITIES ON THE RAILWAY

As we approach the anniversary of Halesworth station bombing, the Halesworth & District Museum is planning to place small plaques in the lobby to remember the victims, and those who have died in accidents on the railway locally.

The earliest was at Walberswick, when a young man who was in charge of the station was killed whilst trying to board a train in motion. Buried in Southwold Churchyard, his headstone reads: In Memory of Edward the dearly beloved son of Edward and Mary Ann Court who lost his life on the Southwold Railway, Nov. 14th, 1883. Aged 17 Years.

On 15 September 1892, Thomas Cleveland, aged 11 years, son of a farm labourer at Spexhall, was caught between the railway gates and the post at Halesworth station. Taken to Patrick Stead Hospital, he died that afternoon. The Halesworth Times, Southwold and General Advertiser reported that he died of, '...internal injuries and consequent shock. A verdict of "Accidental Death" was returned.'

On 24 December 1926, Harry B Girling, Station Master at Wenhaston, was seriously injured during shunting operations, and died the same evening.

And finally, the deaths of the Station Master, Herbert William Holland, his wife, Hannah Holland, and Joan Elizabeth Clarke, their servant, who died on 18 January 1941 at 1.55pm when the station was bombed. They were the only fatalities in Halesworth.

Jenny Janes
Administrator
Halesworth & District Museum

HALESWORTH MUSEUM OPENING HOURS

The Museum re-opens on 19th January and will then be open from:
Tuesday to Saturday 10 am to 12.30 pm.
Wednesday afternoon 2 pm to 4 pm

She looks after you. We look after her.

Prestige Nursing+Care are currently recruiting Home Care staff to work in and around the Halesworth area today.

WE OFFER:

- Competitive rates of pay
- Ongoing support
- Member Advantages
- Variety of work
- Award winning training
- Flexible hours

Contact Seva and the Halesworth team on 01986 899075 or email halesworth@prestige-nursing.co.uk

Prestige
Nursing+Care

www.prestige-nursing.co.uk

HALESWORTH STATIONERS
FOR ALL YOUR PERSONAL AND BUSINESS STATIONERY

INKJET CARTRIDGES (ORIGINAL & COMPATIBLES), COMPUTER ACCESSORIES - ART MATERIALS - GREETING CARDS AND QUALITY GIFTS - SCHOOL REQUISITES - RUBBER STAMPS, LABELS, BUSINESS CARDS, LETTERHEADS - OFFICE SUPPLIES, MACHINES & FURNITURE - ADDRESS BOOKS, ORGANISERS, DIARIES - ACCOUNTS BOOKS, DUPLICATE BOOKS, CALCULATORS - PHOTOCOPYING AND FAX SERVICES

OPEN 9-5 MON-SAT (Closed 1 pm Thur)
57 THOROUGHFARE HALESWORTH
TEL/FAX 01986 873742

1st Cut Tree Services

All aspects of treework

- ◆ Tree Surgery
- ◆ Dismantling & Felling
- ◆ Precision Felling
- ◆ Crown Reduction & Thinning
- ◆ Stump Grinding
- ◆ Fully Insured
- ◆ Free Quotations
- ◆ Land Clearance

Tel: 01986 798977
www.1stcut.net

NPTC

CHURCH SERVICES

JANUARY

3rd Jan	9.30am Team Eucharist at St. Mary's Church, Halesworth 6.30pm Team Epiphany Service
10th Jan	PLOUGH SUNDAY 11.15am Plough Sunday Eucharist at St Peter's Church, Spexhall 6.30pm Team Evensong and Recommissioning of Lay Elders at St Andrew's Church, Bramfield NO SERVICES AT ST PETER'S CHURCH, HOLTON
17th Jan	11.15am Iona Morning Worship
24th Jan	11.15am Eucharist
31st Jan	10.30am Team Eucharist venue TBA

FEBRUARY

7th Feb	9.30am Team Eucharist at St Mary's Church, Halesworth 6.30pm Evening Prayer
14th Feb	11.15am Eucharist 6.30pm Team Evensong at St Peter's Church, Wenhaston
21st Feb	11.15am Iona Morning Worship
28th Feb	11.15am Eucharist

Please be aware that services may change, so please check in 'Team Times' or on the Church Porch notice boards.

FANTASTIC CHRISTMAS FAIR RESULT

THANK YOU to all who came to our Christmas Fair on the 12th December. We raised the amazing sum of £1400.00, the most that we have ever done. This money will help tremendously with the day-to-day running costs of the Church so we are very grateful for your support.

We also hope that you enjoyed it as much as we did, everyone seemed to be having fun, the stalls did a roaring trade, the raffle prizes went down a treat, coffee was drunk and mince pies munched. SO a big thank you to all of you and a big thank you to all who made any contribution whatsoever to our fabulous Fair, not forgetting Dot Booley and Helen Knevett who organised the whole caboodle!

**A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR
FROM ST PETER'S CHURCH**

CHURCH NEWS AND EVENTS

POP-IN PARLOUR

Our first Pop-In Parlour of 2016 will be on Friday 8th January in St Peter's Room from 12 noon until 1.30pm. Come and join us for a warming bowl of soup together with bread, cheese and pickle, coffee or tea and very good company. We do make a charge of £3 which is to cover some of the cost and half any money raised is given to different charities.

In February we will be meeting on the first Friday of the month which is 5th February, same time same place.

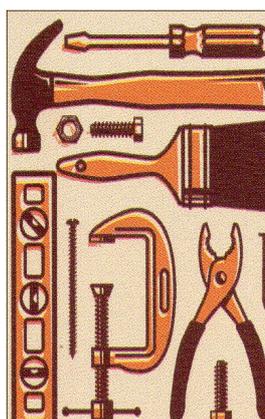
LENT AND LENT LUNCHESES

If you have a new diary for 2016 you may have noticed that Easter is quite early this year, Easter Sunday being on the 27th March which means that Lent begins on Wednesday 10th February, Ash Wednesday. This means that our first Lent Lunch will be held on Friday 12th February from 12 noon until 1.30pm in St Peter's Room, only a week after Pop-In Parlour! What's the difference between the two, you may say, well, Lent traditionally means giving up something so for the Lent Lunches we serve warming bowls of soup with bread, but no cheese and pickles. Not only that, we also charge the same £3 as our Lent Lunches are a fund raising exercise as well as a social get together. But all the money goes to a charity (yet to be decided).

Fairtrade is also something we support at St Peter's so we also have a Fairtrade stall consisting mainly of food products, but also some gifts and cards, at each of the Lent Lunches. Do come and join us.

HALESWORTH COMMUNITY NURSING CARE FUND

Holton's very own sky-diver, Dot Booley, has done it again with her fantastic Coffee Morning for HCNCF raising a staggering £410.00. How we all manage to pack into Dot's house I don't know, but we do, and we manage to consume coffee and delicious cake while catching up with friends and neighbours! WELL DONE DOT!



**01986 872303
07938125438**

Terry Rose

**Property maintenance
painting /paper hanging
Small building works**

terryrose505@msn.com

Duke House
Upper Holton
IP19 8 NN

BLYFORD AND SOTHERTON

PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 7TH NOVEMBER 2015

PRESENT: Councillors G Walker (Chair), R Parry, B Martin, M Jackson, S Macdonald and Cllr A Cackett (WDC), Cllr T Goldson (SCC) Gaina Dunsire (possible new Councillor)

APOLOGIES – Cllr M Jackson

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: Minutes of Parish Council Meeting on Monday 7th September 2015 were approved - all in favour.

PUBLIC CONSULATION: Search for Development sites of 5+ dwellings

A discussion was held and it was formally agreed that there were no sites available in Blyford or Sotherton at present.

REPORTS

Cllr T Goldson (SCC): – Cllr Goldson advised regarding VAS signs brackets and stated that Police my fund some for this. He advised regarding the lose of free hour parking, some definite information needs to be obtained concerning footfall in town. He is currently working with Town Council on this.

Cllr Cackett (WDC): advised regarding the budget at WDC and the difficulties balancing it. She advised she would be working with the Halesworth Councillors regarding the car parking charges

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: – 4th January 2016

Alison Cackett

Clerk to Blyford and Sotherton Parish Council

BLYFORD ALL SAINTS CHURCH CHURCH SERVICE

24th January 2016 - 9.30am Morning Worship

DISTRICT EYE VIEW

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

But alas we must get back to work, my diary in January is already filled with various meetings and events. I have Planning, Overview & Scrutiny and of course Health Scrutiny, both Suffolk wide and Waveney and Great Yarmouth. Lots to discuss and consider as usual. I am keeping a close watch on my district which includes the villages north of Halesworth. Westhall, Spexhall, Holton, Blyford, Sotherton and Wangford with Henham, as you can see I have a large area to cover. Don't forget if you have an issue please let me know and I will do my best to resolve the situation. I am contactable by phone or email.

Regards

Cllr Alison Cackett
01986 874442

MORE SCAMS

2016 may only just have started but sadly new ways are constantly being found to fool us into giving away our personal or credit/debit card details over the Internet or on the phone.

Bank customers need to know about a text and phone scam in which fraudsters impersonate the numbers of companies to steal money from their accounts. The con – known as number spoofing – has fuelled a 95% rise in telephone banking thefts in the last year alone. In some cases, victims have been swindled out of tens of thousands of pounds. The scam has become a real issue and investigators are holding urgent talks with Ofcom and telecoms operators to work out how to tackle the problem. But they admit facing an uphill struggle because many fraudsters are based overseas. The scam involves criminals copying the telephone number of a genuine organisation so that it appears on the victim's caller ID display, enabling them to immediately gain their trust. The fraudsters then pose as bank staff or police officers to persuade the victim to hand over details like their PIN or passwords.

Another scam is where the fraudster pretends to be from a recognised company such as BT and informs you that you are to be disconnected because of an unpaid bill and demands immediate payment. If you don't believe him, he offers to demonstrate that he is from BT by letting you hang up, giving you a number to phone. In fact he stays on the line with the mute button on and you can't dial out - but he can hear you trying. When you stop trying he immediately calls back and tries to obtain your details again.

If you need help or want further information, contact **Action Fraud**, the UK's national fraud reporting centre on: www.actionfraud.police.uk/ or by telephoning: **0300 123 2040**.

NEVER give out your details to someone you don't know. If in doubt, hang up.



Queen's Head,
Blyford

www.queensheadblyford.co.uk

A TASTE OF TUESDAY -
weekly themed evening offering a
meal and a drink for £11.95

FRIDAY NIGHT -
Takeaway Fish & Chips - £6.95
Call Shaun or Lauren to book on:
01502 478404
or email: shaunpdoig@gmail.com

Southwold Road, Blyford,
Nr Halesworth, Suffolk IP19 9JY

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

I'm not usually a grumpy old man (ask my children & grandchildren, not my wife) but there are a few things about the festive season which irk me. Every year. And more so as I get older. So I thought I'd share them with you – plus some others from family members.

Why did Christmas start so soon? Early in October we saw shops decorated with Christmas garlands, selling things for Christmas, and blasting out carols. I realise that we need to think about what we buy for people, and some of us need to post parcels & cards overseas, but this was two months before any parcels needed to go to the USA ...

And why are the carols sung so badly? I'm not talking about groups of schoolchildren, who usually perform very well, or local carol-singers and choirs, who are also worth listening to; but the average singer on Muzak Everywhere (and on most radio stations too), who puts more into *O Little Town of Bethlehem* in notes and music than the composer and writer ever intended. And when asked to turn the muzak down a little so that I can hear myself shop, it would be nice if shop-keepers (seeing that I'm the only customer in the shop) occasionally did so.

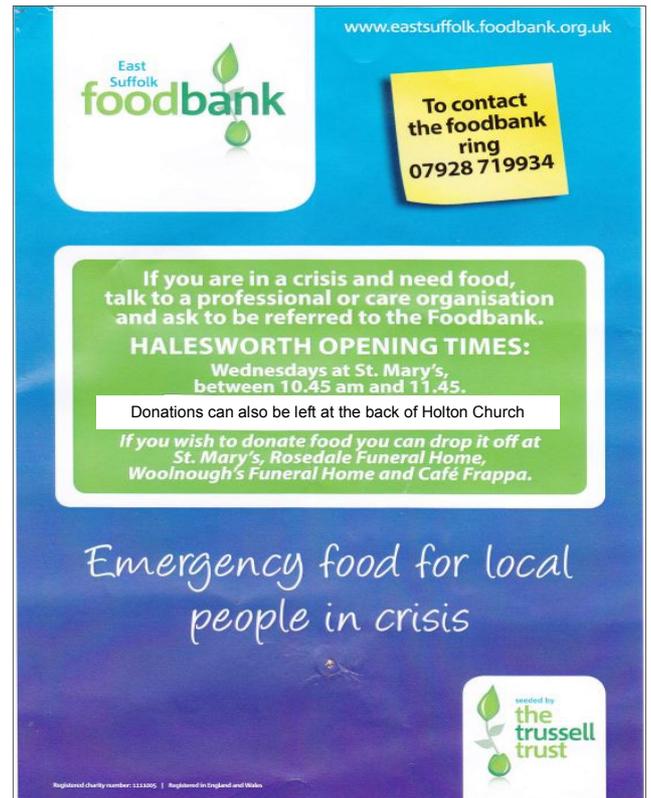
And another thing; the occasional sales pitch from commercial suppliers during the year via email is what I expect, and fairly easily ignored. But did you get one headed "Who knew you could love a train ticket?" or the ones from various travel companies offering cheap travel or cheap hotels over Christmas on or about 21st December, after we'd organised who was sleeping where and what we would eat each day? Or Hotel Chocolat offering end-of-season goods, presumably Christmas-pudding-flavoured chocolate or stocking-shaped delicacies?

Have I simply lived too long? I think that either I've seen every film which is on the box during the Christmas-to-New-Year break; or I decided that I didn't want to watch it when it was first produced; or if it's worth another look, it's on at a time or on a date when I've already planned something else. Other than *It's a Wonderful Life* and the final episode of *Downton Abbey* there's been very little this year that I've wanted to watch again. And spare us from *Mrs Brown's Boys* and from the usual soaps.

With family who don't live nearby, it would be good to have straightforward journeys from and to London. The Ipswich branch line is slow but usually reliable, and has been OK; but this year between Christmas Day & New Year the main line between Ingatestone and Liverpool Street is replaced by a bus journey from Ingatestone to Newbury Park, and Underground train from there to Liverpool Street, potentially adding hours to the journey. And this sort of work invariably takes place at weekends, and often holiday weekends, so that when family have extra time to visit us, they are reluctant to spend that extra time sitting around waiting for train replacement services.

And going back to a commercial theme, is it too much to ask that the "January" sales begin in January, or at least after Boxing Day?

And then there's all the self-inflicted woes: eating (and possibly drinking) too much; being too hot; sitting around too long; feeling bad about not going to the gym in January; feeling worse about it in February; and knowing that it's nobody's fault but our own, and we only have ourselves to blame. But tomorrow is New Year, and my only New Year's resolution is not to grumble about any of the above problems before Christmas 2016!



www.eastsuffolk.foodbank.org.uk

East Suffolk foodbank

To contact the foodbank ring 07928 719934

If you are in a crisis and need food, talk to a professional or care organisation and ask to be referred to the Foodbank.

HALESWORTH OPENING TIMES:
Wednesdays at St. Mary's, between 10.45 am and 11.45.

Donations can also be left at the back of Holton Church

If you wish to donate food you can drop it off at St. Mary's, Rosedale Funeral Home, Woolnough's Funeral Home and Café Frappa.

Emergency food for local people in crisis

supported by the trussell trust

Registered charity number: 112805 | Registered in England and Wales



HOLTON ANIMAL FEEDS

Feed for chickens, goats, sheep, horses, birds, dogs, cats, fish and small animals.

Dog food from £8.99 including:
BURNS, JAMES WELLBELOVED, ARDEN GRANGE, BETA, ROYAL CANIN, SKINNERS, WAGG, SUPADOG & CHUDLEY'S

Dog cat and small animal accessories - everything you need for your pets under one roof

Layer pellets/mash £7.99, Mixed Corn £5.00 - 20 kg
Bags of Hay & Straw, also bales.

Animal bedding and large range of wild bird feeds.
Hydrosoft Salt Tablets £6.29 for 25kg.
Salt blocks £4.50 per pack.

OPENING TIMES
Mon-Sat 9am - 5pm
Mandafield, Sparrowhawk Road, Upper Holton, Halesworth IP19 8NH
Telephone: 01986 873045

WHICH GEAR? THE NISSAN LEAF: The Extended Road Test

It was with a great deal of curiosity that I collected the silver blue Nissan Leaf from Messrs Hammonds, Norwich Road, Halesworth. It was an exceptionally mild sunny autumn morning, just right for a drive. After Paul Betts, a Sales Executive at Hammonds, had run me through the essential controls I was ready to drive to Oulton Broad and Lowestoft, a thirty six mile round trip.

The essential details of the all-electric, automatic, five-seater car, were given in the last issue of the Holton Post so I won't go over them again here. This is a record of my driving experience which I hope will be helpful to those of you considering a Zero Emissions vehicle that has a very useable range.

Paul had shown me the key controls of power "on", foot operated park "off" and gear selection via a small easy to use button in the usual central console. It is basically a two pedal drive car; there is a regenerative mode available which seems to extend range and give a real feel of engine breaking being available. The car had been used that morning so an indicated 82 mile range was available as opposed to the claimed 124 mile maximum range. The car can be fully charged overnight at your home but you can opt for a faster charging unit if you require it for your particular needs. Paul explained that there are a network of rapid charging units around the country which can charge the batteries to 80% in 30 minutes while you have a cup of tea! My relation drove from Heathrow to Holton with three, 20 minute stops, without incident. His chosen B&B allowed him to plug in to an external socket to recharge the batteries once here for the party. Consequently you will need to plan journeys in excess of, say, 80 miles. My friend has owned his Leaf for two years and has advised that he has no negative comments, but then he knew what he wanted from the car. Of course unsolicited comments on the car can be found on the Internet.

Back to my autumn drive. My first stop was at Blyford church to identify a site for an Urn to assist a local Undertaker. Not very cheerful until I walked into a carpet of golden chestnut leaves seen against a background of Yew trees and total solitude. Then back to the car which itself is initially eerily quiet. Yes there is a little wind and tyre noise but otherwise you feel like you are being taken from A to B on a magic carpet. I thought I would miss the involvement of a combustion engine but in fact I enjoyed being transported in this "new" way. I proceeded up to the A12 and found that the Leaf kept up with traffic with consummate ease. As you will be aware the drive to Lowestoft involves two small sections of dual carriageway, the rest being single carriageway. It accelerated from 60 to 70 quickly and nothing overtook me which is surprising as there is usually some numbskull who has to pass the car with stickers on it

(sorry, advertising decals for the car which would not be there otherwise). So an uneventful drive taking in the beautiful reds, greens yellows browns and shades thereof of the autumn leaves before their trees take on the gaunt look of winter. Will it be as wintry as they initially forecast? By the time you read this you should have the answer. Then I arrived in Oulton Broad and the bridge is up! Instead of getting mad I remain calm as I realise I am sitting in absolute silence (apart from radio 4) and not wasting petrol, no sorry, energy. I enjoy the play on the radio and eventually the bridge is lowered. Why anyone ever goes to Lowestoft I will never know. Still I soldiered on and arrived at Lidl's to purchase some seasonal fare which was lost in the ample boot and drove home the way I had come. What did I think of the car? Honestly truly relaxing, comfortable and quiet and easy to manoeuvre with its light steering. Out of the 82 mile charge indicated at the start I had 50 left at the finish. Enough to take me up and back to Halesworth 25 more times. I wouldn't mind betting they will catch on in a big way amongst all but representatives and young men looking for the fast track to eternity.

My sincere thanks to Messrs Hammonds of Norwich Road Halesworth for making the Nissan Leaf available. Now will they lend me a Subaru or fast Ford, for the next issue? We will have to wait and see.

Surprise event at Hammond Ford. The revised Ford Mustang made a welcome appearance for 6 days and attracted much attention. Visitors were encouraged to start the 5 litre engine just to hear the roarty exhaust note. An exciting car which is aimed at motoring enthusiasts with deep pockets although the 2.3 litre version can be had for a shade under £30000. Road tax for the 5 litre is an eye watering £515 per year. I believe the 2.3 litre road tax is in the region of £225 per year. Personally I would have liked to have seen a Capri replacement with a smaller engine. However I believe Ford have no plans at present to reintroduce a Capri. But to end this snippet, what you would rather drive, a car called a mustang, or a car called called a Capri? I think the Mustang wins it!

Finally from me, the long range weather pundits cannot make up their mind whether it is going to be an exceptionally mild winter or whether the late part of January and February, and perhaps March will be very wintry. So don't put your snow shovels away yet!

SOUTHWOLD CARPETS,

CURTAINS & BLINDS LTD

Supplied by Colin Wells with 20+ years experience



- CARPETS
- VINYL
- TILES
- BLINDS
- LINEN
- SAFETY FLOORING
- RAILS & POLES
- CURTAINS
- WICKER BASKETS
- HABERDASHERY ITEMS

Tel: 01502 724948

Unit 1, Southwold Business Centre
St Edmunds Road, Southwold IP18 6JU

www.southwoldcarpets.co.uk

E-mail - southwoldcarpets@btconnect.com

Monday - Friday (Closed Wednesday): 9.00am - 5.00pm

Saturday 10.00am - 4.00pm

WHAT'S ON AT HALESWORTH LIBRARY

Happy New Year! So here we go for another busy year at the library.

Book Wizards Wanted – Are you aged 7–13? Do you love reading? Then we think you have the potential to be a Book Wizard. It started on Sunday 8th November at 11.30a.m and continues every four weeks. Bring along your favourite book and everything else will magically become apparent. This is free but booking is essential.

Have you always wanted to try your hand at creative writing? Following the success of our popular children's writing group, local author Annaliese Matheron is running a group for adults. The Halesworth Wordsmiths meet in the library every Friday night from 6 pm till 7:30 pm; to reserve a space please contact Annaliese on 07885 607374 or halesworthwordsmiths@gmail.com and for more information visit:

www.halesworthwordsmiths.moonfruit.com.

The Young Writer's group run by Annaliese really helps your child unleash their creative side in a fun way. The group meets alternate weeks, ages approximately 8-13 years. Cost is £15 per 5 sessions. If you would like to join please book your place with a member of staff.

Every Sunday we have craft activities and stories for children between 12.00 and 2.30pm. Please drop in and join in the fun – all ages welcome, and it's free!

On a Tuesday we have a Baby Bounce and Tot Rock session for babies/toddlers and their parents/carers 10am-11am. Come and join us.

Knit & Natter, Stitch & Chatter. Every 1st & 3rd Tuesday afternoon of every month between, 2 – 4 pm. Refreshments available. Please come and join us.

Every Wednesday, from 10.30-12.00, we have Time Out; a friendly, relaxed group and a great place to meet new people. 6th January - Time Out Book Group – What we are reading now? 13th January – The Men's Shed talking about the group and what they do. 20th – Time on your hands – Malcolm Heath will be here talking about 'Time Management'. 27th - Kate Eastwood will here talking about and demonstrating the 'I move freely' exercises classes which are held in the library every week. 3rd February – Magical Lantern craft, to celebrate Candlemas! 10th Feb. Romantic Tales; 17th Feb. Stories of Birmingham; 24th Feb – Hearing Dogs and Tiggywinkles sanctuary. Many thanks to all for contributing to our sessions and making this such a wonderful group.

Have a bit of fun and support the library, Collect a copy of our library quiz, just 50p! Answers for last month's quiz on display in the library now.

Are you creative? Perhaps you are an artist who wants to showcase your work? Why not promote your work in our window gallery area. The space overlooks the street and is a well-lit, locked and secure place, so if you have work you wish to sell please contact a

member of staff. There is a small fee/commission.

We are also having some weekend Art exhibitions throughout the ground floor of the library. On 22nd – 24th January we will have oil paintings by local artist Hamit Yoldas, and on 12th – 14th February it will be Jason Avery's photography.

Does your business/workshop/event need publicity? Our display case in the window faces the Thoroughfare. For just £5 per calendar month for a double-sided A4 poster.

Is there a writer struggling to get out?! Don't know where to start? Written before but feeling rusty? Local writer / publisher Tom Corbett is running two creative writing groups in the library every Monday 10.30am-12.00pm and on Tuesday evenings from 6.30pm-9pm at Bridge House. This eight-week rolling programme includes both poetry and prose; for more information contact Tom on 07831264021.

We now have an iPad lending service. If you have been a member for over 6 months and are interested in borrowing one, then ask a member of staff.

Our Laptop and iPad sessions on Wednesday afternoons. iPad from 2pm -3pm, laptop 3.15pm-4.15pm. £5 per session. Places must be booked. There is also a possibility of one to one sessions at £15 per hour. Please let staff know if you're interested.

In need of exercise? Are you living with pain or joint stiffness? If so, our fitness classes may help. On Thursdays the NHS Exercise Referral Scheme runs classes for all abilities in the library:- 9.30am-10.30am & 11-am -12pm I-Move Freely – a gentle mobility and stretches exercise class ideal for those living with chronic or niggling pain. Full instruction given by qualified Physical Activity instructor Kate Eastwood. Just £3 a session. Please book at the library.

A representative from Age UK will be present in the library on the 1st and last Wednesday of the month between 10.30-12pm. If you need some help or information and don't know where to look then please pop in. If you just need to chat that's okay too.

On the 2nd Saturday of the month between 10 – 11am your local district councillor holds a surgery.

The library offers A4 and A3 colour printing, now only 30p for a colour print, laminating, scanning, fax and photocopying facilities. We have internet access, the use of Microsoft Office 2013 with print facility, Skype and free Wi-Fi. We also hold local tourist information, rail and bus timetables, plus much more.

We look forward to seeing you soon or call us on 01986 875095 or contact us on e-mail: halesworth.library@suffolklibraries.co.uk. You can also visit our website at www.suffolklibraries.co.uk.

You will find additional features such as Freegal – free music downloads; Overdrive providing e-books and BorrowBox providing audio books for downloading! We have just introduced a new feature – Zinio for libraries. You can download and read the latest editions of a selection of top UK magazines. No limits and you can keep them as long as you need. All FREE. Or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

HOLTON AND BLYFORD VILLAGE HALL TOTE WINNERS

Result of the draw on 10 November was as		
1st No. 140	Betty Cole	£25
2nd No. 85	Graham McDonough	£10
3rd No. 39	Norman Hatcher	£5
4th No. 59	Claire & Martin Aust	£5
Result of the draw on 8 December was as follows:		
1st No. 153	Jackie Moulson	£25
2nd No. 1	Jan Whatrup	£10
3rd No. 143	The Wooltertons	£5
4th No. 161	Linda Stevens	£5

New members are always welcome. Please contact Helen Fensom on 01986 873575 for further details.

SOUTHWOLD DECORATIVE AND FINE ARTS SOCIETY

The season is continuing with the following lectures:
Tuesday 12th January: 'Paint Brushes at Dawn': Great Art World Feuds, Disputes and Rows. Lecturer: Barry Venning.

Tuesday 9th February: Out of the Blue: the Story of Blue in Art. Lecturer: Alexandra Drysdale.

Lectures are held in St Edmund's Hall, Southwold and visitors are welcome. They usually start at 2pm but the January lecture will be preceded by the AGM starting at 1.45pm.

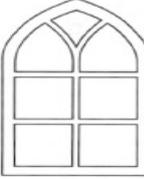
Membership of the society is also available, please contact me on 01986 874000 or email admin@southwoldfas.co.uk.

Anne Holland

CINEMA @ THE CUT

All films start at 7.30pm unless otherwise shown

PROGRAMME	
JANUARY	
Wed 6th	The Music Room (U)
Wed 13th	The Clouds of Sils Maria (15)
Wed 20th	45 Years (15)
Wed 27th	Salt of the Earth (PG)
FEBRUARY	
Wed 3rd	Strictly Ballroom (PG)
Wed 10th	Double Indemnity (PG)
Wed 17th	Suite Française (15)
Wed 24th	Slow West (15)



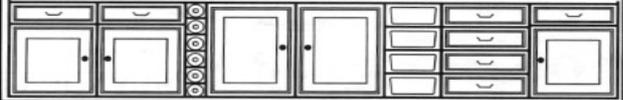
C.W. Ellis

(Halesworth) Ltd

Purpose Made Joinery

Windows, all styles produced ✦ Doors
Stairs ✦ Conservatories ✦ Kitchens

Tel: 01986 875395



MARKET FIELDS FARM SHOP

AT

HOLTON ROAD GARDEN CENTRE

- FROZEN VEGETABLES, FRUITS AND READY MEALS FROM FIELDFARE
 - FRESHLY FROZEN FISH FROM LOWESTOFT
 - LOCAL HOMEMADE CAKES
- Special offers on Beers and Wines!**
- FRESH FRUIT & VEGETABLES
 - FRESH & FROZEN MEAT FROM CLARKE BUTCHERS, BRAMFIELD
- SELECTION OF GIFTS AVAILABLE**

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
EASY PARKING & LOADING

Tel: 01986 872134

The Hot Meal Service

Serving the elderly
and disabled
in Halesworth, Holton, Blyford, Wenhaston,
Southwold & Reydon

Mother and daughter team Sandy and Lisa cook delicious traditional meals daily and deliver them hot and ready to eat to your door at lunchtime Monday to Friday.
2 course meal only £6.30.





Telephone Sandy Camp
on 01986 835895
www.thehotmealservice.co.uk
Environmental Health Hygiene Star Rating
★★★★★



USEFUL INFORMATION AND CONTACTS

HOLTON POST

Committee/Editorial Group

Geoff Cackett (*Chairman & Advertising*)
Tel. 874442

Anne Holland (*Treasurer & Secretary*)
Tel. 874000

Jackie/Jim Watts (*Distribution*) Tel. 835752

Jill Hewlett Tel. 875913

Alison Hyden Tel. 872559

John Beckett Tel. 875259

Email: holtonpost@gmail.com
Website: www.holtonpost.co.uk

Hand deliver or post any articles or photos to:
Geoff Cackett, Paigles, 6 The Street, Holton
Halesworth, IP19 8PH

DEADLINE DATE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS:
Friday 19th February 2016

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

OTHER USEFUL LOCAL NUMBERS	
Age UK link - Contact: Maritza Simpson	01986 872990
Doctor’s Surgery	01986 874618
NHS (non-emergency)	111
Police (non-emergency)	101
Waveney District Council	01502 562111
– Halesworth Local Office	01986 873162

REGULAR ACTIVITIES AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Art Group	4th Tuesday, 2 - 5pm, except July, August and December
Badminton Club	Tuesdays 7.30 - 9.30pm
U3A	Once a month on Tuesday afternoons, 2 - 4pm
Fear Naught Boot Camp	Monday and Wednesday evening 6.30 - 7.30pm
Term time only	
Pre-School	Monday 9.00 - 3.00pm Tuesday 9.00 - 12.00pm Wednesday 9.00 - 3.00pm Friday 9.00 - 3.00pm

The Village Hall is also available for private functions and is licensed for the sale of alcohol. Please contact the Letting Officers, Wayne or Emma Saunders: Tel: 01986 835922 or email: holtonandblyfordvillagehall@hotmail.com

Suffolk Libraries

MOBILE LIBRARY TIMETABLE

Greenbank	1345-1405
Lower Park Walk	1410-1425
Valley Close	1430-1450

Calling every 4 weeks on Fridays 8 Jan & 5 Feb.

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

MINOR INJURIES UNITS

When you have a minor injury but don't need to go to A&E, use the Minor Injuries Units instead.

Minor injuries include minor cuts, burns, sprains, grazes, foreign objects in eyes, nose or ears, bites, stings and minor head injuries. Minor illnesses are not treated at Minor Injuries Units.

Minor injury services are run by experienced emergency nurses at:

Cutlers Hill Surgery, Bungay Road, Halesworth
Open from : 8:30 am to 6:00 pm, Monday to Friday
(not Bank Holidays)
Tel: 01986 874618

Beccles Hospital, St Mary’s Road, Beccles
Open from : 8:00 am to 8:00 pm every day
Tel: 01502 719820