

# The Holton Post

July/August 2016

Issue No 89

## YOUR VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

### THE FUTURE OF THE HOLTON POST

The Holton Post will have been in existence for 15 years at the end of 2016 – and I have been involved in its production since the start. I have now decided that the time has come for me to step down at the end of the year and so we need someone to take it over and perhaps bring fresh ideas to the layout and production.

Have YOU always had a burning desire to produce a newsletter or do you know someone who has? You will need to have reasonable word processing and file management skills but I am quite willing to help you learn the required program if you want. What you don't necessarily need are brilliant writing skills - as most articles are provided by others. We publish six issues a year, and our small committee has a meeting before each one when we decide what to include based on what's happening round and about. So there are only six meetings to attend plus the AGM - currently all held in the daytime but this could be changed if required.

It will be very sad if we have to close down our newsletter through lack of support but that is what will happen unless someone comes forward – so here is your chance.

Please contact me on 01986 874000 or email [holtonpost@gmail.com](mailto:holtonpost@gmail.com) if you are interested or would like further information.

Anne Holland

### CHANGE OF WEBSITE ADDRESS

Please note that our website address has changed. We are now part of the Holton Village site at: [www.holton.onesuffolk.net](http://www.holton.onesuffolk.net). On the **Holton Post** page you will find a link to the past issues from 2014, 2015 and 2016 with all the photographs in colour of course, so why not take a look at the site and browse some of them now?

**St Peter's Church Holton**

**~ Flower Festival ~**

**CHILDHOOD MEMORIES**

**10am to 5pm**

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July**

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July**

**Refreshments \* Raffle \* Plant Stall**

**Bric-a-Brac \* Cake Stall**

**Sunday 6.30pm**

**Songs of Praise**

### VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

First of all I'm sure you will all wish to join the committee in saying how sorry we are to see the closure of the Pre-School. It is the end of an era spanning more than 40 years, including the time the playgroup ran, which gave the local under-fives the opportunity for play, social activity and pre-school education. It was a very happy time and we mourn its passing. We wish all the children a bright and happy future.

The loss of the Pre-School naturally leaves a big hole in the Village Hall funds, added to which the Treasurer reported a loss over the past year of £1500 and unless we have more lettings we are likely to make a loss this year; however, we are planning an advertising campaign which hopefully will bring in new day-time hirers. We hope to attract new groups and classes and if any of you know of anyone who would like to run a class or group – or if you would like to do so yourself – please contact anyone listed below.

Our AGM was held on 9<sup>th</sup> June when 4 residents attended. It was lovely to see you and thank you for your attendance and input. One of them has joined the Committee and we warmly welcome Wendy Mendham who already has a long list of possible fund raising ideas. We can't wait to get going! The Committee was elected en bloc with Jim Watts voted Chair, Philip Mills – Treasurer, Helen Fensom – Secretary and for another year Alison Cackett will be our Lettings Officer. A good amount of business was discussed and the Acting Chair's Report follows (see page 2). There is still room for another committee member so if you would like to join us please make contact.

Out Tote is still running well and no doubt you may have already been approached to join or re-join for the next year. Our collectors are busy out and about at the moment collecting subs. The Tote year runs from 1<sup>st</sup> July with the draw being held on the second Tuesday every month. Don't worry if you miss the 1<sup>st</sup> July deadline; you can join at any time of the year. There is a first prize of £25, a second of £10 with third and fourth prizes of £5 each. This usually brings in about £400 to £500 a year for hall funds and is well worth running. If you would like to join please contact Helen Fensom on 873575. It's a bit of fun and you may end up winning the top prize!

Fund raising is always an important factor in our plans and our upcoming events are a Fashion Show on 15<sup>th</sup> September and a gig by the Backwoods Band on 26<sup>th</sup> November. Please put these in your diaries now and watch out for posters nearer the day. If there is anything you would like to see organised in the village and if you have an idea for a really good fundraiser please let us know.

We do hope to see you at our fundraisers. Please use our village hall as much as you can – as once again I have to remind you – USE IT OR LOSE IT.

Jim Watts – Chair: 835752

Philip Mills – Treasurer: 875932

Helen Fensom – Secretary: 873575

## LETTERS AND E-MAILS

To the Motoring Correspondent who is nameless or is it the Stig!?

I always enjoy reading The Holton Post – a brilliant publication.

Also enjoy reading your motoring articles.

Should have written to you much sooner as the July issue will be with us soon.

Just feel your article in May/June 2016 may require some minor corrections – you will probably tell me otherwise!

The sequence of Ford family cars is this:-

- Ford CORTINA from 1962 to 1982 – there were five generations from Mk I to Mk V
- The name Cortina was NOT dropped in favour of the Mondeo in 1992.
- It was the Ford SIERRA from 1982 (replacing the Cortina) to 1994.
- Ford MONDEO from 1992.

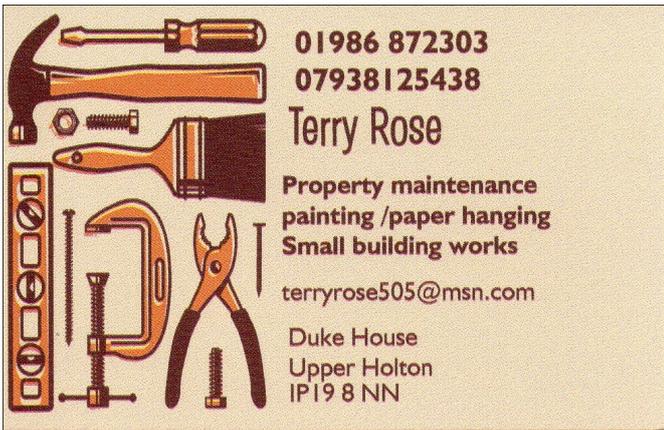
Ford CONSUL was basically from 1951 to 1962 and later revived from 1972 to 1975.

Keep up writing the articles – very enjoyable.  
Many thanks.

Colin  
Upper Holton

### By the motoring correspondent:

*Nice to know at least one person reads the articles, but it took a deliberate mistake to find you. That Wikipedia is a load of c...p!*



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## HOLTON & BLYFORD VILLAGE HALL

Acting Chairman's Report at the AGM

Thank you all very much for coming.

Since standing in as Chairman in October last year the hall has continued to function without too many problems.

As the hall has been here for over 30 years some of its infrastructure is in need of renewal and repair. Paul Kerridge has recently replaced our fire exit signs and emergency lighting and has quoted for replacing all the fluorescent lighting with LED lighting. The external windows and doors need a look to see what is required. We could do with a new sound system which could accommodate a hearing loop, loft and cavity wall insulation also and Wi-Fi may be a good idea for internet connection.

Vandalism has been a problem occasionally which has given me a few headaches and we never know what lies ahead.

The cleaning of all the rubbish from the gully along the road in January this year included wooden branches, rotary washing line, step ladder, a hall chair, plastic dustbin, a child's fold-up scooter, a length of carpet and a piece of chain-link fencing which had to be dug out from the silt in the bottom of the ditch. I would like to thank Brian Chapman for his able assistance. I'd also like to thank Bob Stephenson for sending his man to cut both the hedge and the long grass on the sides of the gully, and Mike Hart for using his ride-on to mow the difficult bits of grass the council man is unable to reach.

I would like very much to encourage the people who want to represent their groups to think carefully and take their responsibilities seriously so that, as they say "A problem shared is a problem halved" as we all pull together.

And finally, I would like to thank Helen, Philip and Alison for making their important contributions, and also Steve for keeping the important bits clean.

Jim Watts – Acting Chairman

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Saturday: 9am - 2pm

## HOLTON SCHOOL NEWS

KS1 pupils have continued their learning this term about food and where it comes from and had a day visit to Shotford Hall Farm near Harleston. All pupils had a great day and saw many animals including, cows, calves, pigs and goats. They also learned about the hard work bees have to do to produce honey. The highlight for many of the pupils was the tractor ride. This trip was made possible thanks to help from Friends of Holton so many thanks to all who have supported their fundraising events through the year, it is greatly appreciated by staff and pupils.

Mrs Righton and her staff are very proud of how pupils throughout the school have coped with the various tests they have sat this term. They feel that all pupils tried their hardest and have been a credit to both the school and their parents.

Kestrel and Red Kites are now working equally hard in preparing for the annual KS 2 performance. This year they are performing 'The Tempest' on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July and Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July. Both performances will begin at 2.15pm. If you would like to attend please e-mail or contact the school office by Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July.

It was sad to hear of the closure of Holton Pre-school in June. The school has welcomed many children from there over many years – going back to when it was Dot's playgroup over 40 years ago. Children from the pre-school who are due to join the school in September have been offered some extra transition sessions up to the end of term. These sessions with Mrs Lovett, our Reception class High Level Teaching Assistant, have been very successful and the children are learning our Holton routines and expectations.

Many thanks to all who attended the Quiz organised by Friends back in May. It was a really good evening, special thanks must go our question setters – Mr and Mrs Hyam and also our quiz master, Mr Bailey for all their hard work. Thanks too to everyone who helped on the night too or donated prizes for the raffle. It was a great success and raised over £600 for school funds which will go towards the traditional end of term whole school trip

The Queen's Birthday was celebrated at Holton with pupils making crowns and taking part in the colouring competition organised by Halesworth Town Council. Mrs Thompson also made "regal" cupcakes for the pupils which were greatly appreciated.

The following week the whole school were out to see the Aviva Ladies' Cycle tour as it shot past the school at great speed. Pupils had decorated bikes to display for the occasion, one even had a royal rider. As the cyclists went past flags were waved and everyone cheered them on the way. In fact every vehicle passing was treated to a Holton cheer – even the rubbish lorry!



Many thanks to one of our parents, Ms Harrison, who took the photos accompanying this article. More photos can be seen on the Holton Post website.

On Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June Holton hosted a Year 1 and 2 Partnership Outdoor learning day. We had 240 pupils on site from our 5 partnership schools and all the pupils enjoyed an active day of learning. They also made lots of new friends. Thanks to Miss Chittock for her excellent organisation.

If you have passed the school in the mornings recently you may have noticed an improvement regarding car parking outside the school. In common with virtually every school in the country Holton has problems with the number of cars involved in the school run. In response to concerns from neighbours and the Parish Council we trialled a "drop off zone" for two weeks. This was popular with parents and has cut down the number of cars parking outside the school in the morning. The system has been so successful that it will now run to the end of term from Monday to Thursday each week. It will not happen on Fridays as that is parent share day when parents are encouraged to come into school to see what their child has been learning that week. Many thanks to Mrs Righton and her staff for running this scheme and also thanks to the volunteer parents who are helping with seeing the pupils safely out of the cars and into the school playground.

For more information and photos about the school please visit the school website.

Alison Hyden

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Saturday 10.00am - 4.00pm

## CHRISTIAN AID

### COLLECTION (DOOR TO DOOR) IN HOLTON

Thank you for your donations that came to £331-82. This was added to Halesworth and the other surrounding village collections along with 'Heather's Walk' collection, making a total of £4,964. This is sent to our Regional East of England office in Norwich.

This year, Christian Aid Week focused on the devastating floods in Bangladesh that keep coming with the huge amount of rainfall due to climate change.

Feroza's story tells how your support has helped her. Feroza lived in fear of the floods that continually destroyed her home. But then Christian Aid helped her rebuild on a raised plinth, safely out of reach of future floods. Now Feroza keeps cows, goats and chickens, grows vegetables and can start saving to move to the mainland, where her future would be brighter.

Too many of our global neighbours go without the basics of food and shelter. We're working for an end to this injustice.

To see more of Feroza's story and her neighbours please go to: – [www.christianaidcollective.org/then-the-floods-came](http://www.christianaidcollective.org/then-the-floods-came)



### HEATHER'S WALK FOR CHRISTIAN AID

This was the second year we walked in memory of Heather Burroughes from Chediston, a wonderfully caring person, always looking out for others. She inspired many people to support Christian Aid and was also the Traidcraft Rep for this area. Heather's husband Gib and two daughter's Sara and Belinda walked with us, also friends from all the churches. We started and finished at the 'Sign of the Fish' Halesworth Market Square and enjoyed a very welcome half way stop at Holton Church. The 4.5 mile circular walk takes you along the River Blyth to Mells, over Holton Pit to the Church. Then to Upper Holton and past the turkey factory. Opposite the museum we took the footpath through the fields and back via Town Farm and Halesworth cemetery. There were 34 walkers and 7 dogs and we raised £358. Everyone enjoyed themselves and some people discovered paths they had never been on before. Many thanks to all who came and especially those who helped as marshals, tea makers and in the 'Sign of the Fish.'

Jackie Watts

## HOLTON PARISH COUNCIL

### DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2016

**PRESENT:** Councillors D Fosdike, D Davis, M Hart, M Jones, N Kerridge, R Stephenson

**ALSO PRESENT:** Cllr A Cackett (WDC), and 4 members of the public

**APOLOGIES:** Cllr G Cackett, Cllr Tony Goldson (SCC)

#### MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL MEETING:

These minutes were agreed at the next regular meeting in July 2015.

**MATTERS ARISING:** None

#### FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

The Clerk produced the following documents for year 2015/16:- (a) Receipt and Expenditure Statement (b) Significant Variance Statement © Bank Reconciliation, (d) Items above £100. The Clerk explained these documents to the Council and answered any questions arising.

Item (a, b, c & d) were then proposed by Councillor R Stephenson and seconded by Councillor M Hart. All in Favour. The Chairman then signed these documents as a true record.

#### AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS:

The Annual Return Form was discussed. The Clerk explained the form and reported on the various questions, explaining the answers on the form. The Annual Return was agreed, proposed by Councillor M Hart and seconded by Councillor M Jones. All in favour.

It was then agreed that the Chairman and Clerk would sign the Return in the appropriate places. The clerk advised that the Internal Audit would take place in June, with the external Audit in July.

#### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

The Chairman gave a short address concerning the past year. It had been identified that Section 137 grants would have to be reduced due to works being required to update and maintain the playarea equipment. Discussion regarding the parking issues in the village during term time and speeding down the Beccles Road.

The Chairman thanked all Councillors for their assistance during the year and their hard work. He also thanked the Clerk for all her efforts during the year to keep the Council running smoothly.

#### DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL MEETING:

24th May 2017.

Alison Cackett

Clerk to Holton Parish Council

*By Ed: Full Holton Parish Council Reports and Minutes for 2015 and 2016 are available on the Holton Village website (see front or back page for details).*



## COMMUNITY TRANSPORT



On 16<sup>th</sup> June a new service was started, to provide a door to door service between 9.30 am and 4 pm on Thursdays. This service is provided by **bact** based in Bungay and it enables eligible people to request transport from their home to a destination within the parishes of Brampton with Stoven, Blyford, Halesworth, Holton, Sotherton, Uggeshall, Wangford/Henham, and Westhall. Fares are reasonable though

concessionary passes cannot be used. For more details of the new service or to book, contact **bact** on 01986 896896.

Please note that this service is in addition to the normal Hoppa bus service which is still being run by Halesworth Area Community Transport, every weekday except Thursdays.

## CHURCH SERVICES

### JULY

3rd July	9.30am Team Eucharist at St Mary's Church, Halesworth 6.30pm Evening Prayer
10th July	11.15am Eucharist 6.30pm Team Evensong at St Andrew's Church, Bramfield
17th July	6.30pm Flower Festival Songs of Praise
24th July	11.15am Eucharist
31st July	10.30am Team Eucharist at St Andrew's Church, Wissett

### AUGUST

7th August	10.30am Team Lammas Eucharist at St Peter's Church, Spexhall (NB TIME) 6.30pm Evening Prayer
14th August	11.15am Eucharist 6.30pm Team Evensong at St Peter's Church, Wenhaston
21st August	11.15am Iona Morning Worship
28th August	11.15am Morning Worship

### SEPTEMBER

4th September	9.30am Team Eucharist at St Mary's Church, Halesworth 6.30pm Evening Prayer
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Please check the latest 'Team Times' for full Service details as these can change.

## CHURCH NEWS AND EVENTS

### CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

**Coffee Morning and Box Opening**  
**Saturday 2nd July**  
**10am to 12 noon**  
**St Peter's Room, Holton Church**  
 Bring & Buy, Cakes and Raffle  
 All welcome

### HOLTON CHURCH FLOWER FESTIVAL "Childhood Memories"

**Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th July**  
**10am till 5pm**  
**Refreshments: Raffle: Plant Stall: Cake Stall:**  
**Bric-a-brac**

### FLOWER FESTIVAL SONGS OF PRAISE 6.30pm Sunday 17th July

Come and join us to celebrate the delight of God's creation and the creativity of our wonderful flower arrangers!

### POP-IN PARLOUR

Our first Pop-In Parlour of the Autumn is on Friday 2nd September from 12 noon till 1.30pm in St Peter's Room. Do come and join us for a soup, bread and cheese lunch plus lots of chat.

### CAR BOOT SALE REPORT

Once again we had a most enjoyable morning on the Church Paddock with a wide range of things for sale from our Car Booters, plus refreshments from our Refreshment tent ( kindly loaned to us by Gwen and Simon Woolner) and manned/womened by Dot Booley, Helen Knevet and Team, and the barbecue organised by Mary Curtis and her merry band. The weather was kind to us, the Car Booters sold their wares and the visitors found all sorts of bargains, and everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves.

Our thanks go to Jackie and Jim Watts for doing the lions share of the organising and to everyone else who helped in any way, once again St Peter's Church is very grateful to everyone for the boost to its bank balance which this year amounted to £1052.19.

THANK YOU EVERYONE.

### APOLOGIES

In the last issue of the Holton Post I got the name of the winning team at the Church Quiz Night wrong! Well, I still don't know the name, but it was the team from the Halesworth Dementia Carers Fund, so congratulations again to them!

### A VERY ADVANCED NOTICE FOR YOUR DIARIES

The Church is hoping to hold another quiz night on Thursday 20th October in the Village Hall, more information and confirmation of the date in the next issue of The Holton Post.



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Blyford

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# BLYFORD & SOTHERTON PARISH COUNCIL

## DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 23RD MAY 2016

**PRESENT:** Councillors G Walker, R Parry, B Martin, M Jackson, S Macdonald, G Dunsire, and 2 members of the public

**ALSO PRESENT:** Cllr A Cackett (WDC), Cllr T Goldson (SCC)

**APOLOGIES:** None

### MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL MEETING:

These minutes were agreed at the next regular meeting in July 2015.

**MATTERS ARISING:** None

### FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

The Clerk produced the following documents for year 2015/16:- (a) Receipt and Expenditure Statement (b) Significant Variance Statement (c) Bank Reconciliation and (d) items above £100. The Clerk explained these documents to the Council and answered any questions arising.

Items (a, b, c & d) were proposed by Councillor M Jackson and seconded by Councillor B Martin. All in Favour.

The Chairman then signed these documents as true record, subject to Internal Audit comments.

### AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS :

The Annual Return Form was discussed. The Clerk explained the form and reported on the various questions, explaining the answers on the form. The Annual Return was agreed, proposed by Councillor M Jackson and seconded by Councillor B Martin. All in favour. The Chairman and Clerk then signed the Return in the appropriate places. The clerk advised that the Internal Audit would take place in June, with the external Audit in July.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** The Chairman thanked everyone for the hard work over the year. He also thanked the Parish Clerk for all her hard work over the year.

### DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL MEETING:

**15th May 2017.**

Alison Cackett

Clerk to Blyford and Sotherton Parish Council

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# HOLTON AND BLYFORD VILLAGE HALL TOTE WINNERS

Result of the draw on 10th May was as follows:		
1st No. 156	Roger Woolnough	£25
2nd No. 90	Helen George	£10
3rd No. 64	Marjorie Handley	£5
4th No. 87	Erica Strange	£5
Result of the draw on 14th June was as follows:		
1st No. 110	Marjorie Shiers	£25
2nd No. 76	Beryl Farrington	£10
3rd No. 151	Mrs S Martin	£5
4th No. 157	Philip Mills	£5

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

## NEW WEBSITE FOR WAVENEY

A new website has recently been launched which provides a single home for all Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Council services, information and news. [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk) replaces the previous two separate websites - [waveney.gov.uk](http://waveney.gov.uk) and [suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](http://suffolkcoastal.gov.uk) - and is the next step in the development of online services for customers in East Suffolk, working in partnership. Here you can find out about benefits, business, leisure, council tax, planning, as well as finding your local councillors.

Looking at the home page I found the results of the EU referendum. Apparently the turnout of the electorate in Waveney was nearly 73% with 41,290 people voting to leave against 24,356 wanting to remain. Suffolk Coastal's turnout was over 80% with 41,966 people voting to leave against 37,218 wanting to remain.

Anne Holland

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[www.prestige-nursing.co.uk](http://www.prestige-nursing.co.uk)

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# AFFORDABLE HOMES FOR SALE – LODGE ROAD, HOLTON

*'Shared Ownership Opportunities for local people'*

Completing early 2017, Orwell Housing Association have 4 shared ownership properties which will be available for sale. The units are on a site of 11 homes, with four of these being shared ownership sale; 2 x 2 bedroom houses and 2 x 3 bedroom houses.

Priority for these properties will be given to those that have a connection with Holton or the surrounding parishes.

The properties will be available for 50%-75% shares with a guide valuation of from £70,000 for a two bedroom and £80,000 for a three bedroom.

To receive more information as it comes available or to reserve one of these plots, please contact Karen Suddes, Home Ownership Officer 01473 228604 / 07595 120688 or email [ksuddes@orwell-housing.co.uk](mailto:ksuddes@orwell-housing.co.uk)

## Affordable Homes for Sale Lodge Road, Holton

*'Shared Ownership Opportunities for local people'*

Completing early 2017, Orwell Housing Association has 4 shared ownership properties for sale.  
2 x 2 bedroom houses and 2 x 3 bedroom houses.



**Two bedroom properties**



**Three bedroom properties**

The properties will be available for 50% - 75% shares with a guide valuation of from £70,000 for 50% share of a two bedroom and £80,000 for a 50% share of a three bedroom.

**Priority will be given to those that have a connection with Holton or the surrounding parishes.**



To receive more information as it becomes available or to reserve one of these plots, please contact:

**Karen Suddes**

**Home Ownership Officer**

01473 228604 / 07595 120688 [karen.suddes@orwell-housing.co.uk](mailto:karen.suddes@orwell-housing.co.uk)

**Orwell**

## WHICH GEAR

From Our Motoring Correspondent  
THE RANGE ROVER SPORT 3.0L SDV6

A change of car retailer this issue: Messrs Marshall Land Rover, Norwich Road, Halesworth, kindly offered to provide a Range Rover Sport for test. Now I appreciate that not many of us would wish to spend £62,000 on a vehicle but I thought that it would be interesting to see what you get for your money! The Range Rover has been with us for 4 decades but the current fourth generation model was revealed in 2012 and represented a real advance in ride, attributes and comfort. For a start the body is made of aluminium to save weight and improve economy and performance on road. This premium model comes with permanent four-wheel drive and an eight speed automatic gearbox. As you would expect for this kind of money it is a plush SUV, but it hasn't sacrificed off-road ability in the pursuit of luxury. The Terrain Response system can raise the car by 65mm to help the car clear obstacles, while the Wade Sensing function allows you to make the most of its wading depth. [It can travel through water up to 900mm deep.]

Given the time the car was placed at my disposal [4 hours], I was limited to road testing only. Technical data is repeated from the Range Rover Sport brochure. The brochure in itself takes some reading and comprises 94 pages of information which obviously I cannot condense to fit in this article. Précised, the car has auto lights and wipers as standard plus features to maintain its off road progress. It has 5+2 seating and a huge load area. Being a sports model it has high tech suspension gismos to ensure it can corner with the likes of the Mini Cooper, viz the test seen on BBC's Top Gear.

### Driving Impressions

Climbing into the car is not too taxing, [as it is relatively high off the ground compared to a saloon car] but there is available an optional retracting side step which looks very natty until you learn that it costs an eye - watering £3500. Less able people may need it but I found it to be a nuisance. Although the car looks wide from the outside I found that once you were in the cabin the width was not that obvious and the width was not a problem until you travelled on single track roads with no passing places. Once in the car you are surrounded by luxury including the mandatory leather seats which immediately hit me as extremely comfortable. The instrument panel is interesting and features a Full Thin Film display which basically, is like your tv: it only shows the dials and touch screen when you turn the ignition on via the start button. The car has an electronic parking brake which may or may not suit you.

Time only permitted a round journey of some 25 miles, but it was enough to show me that the ride is exceptionally comfortable on A roads and that road and engine noise inside the vehicle is almost absent. But the car is very fast for a vehicle weighing 2184 kgs. The data shows a 0-60 time of between 6.4 and 6.8 second depending upon the state of tune of the 3 litre diesel engine. The top speed of the 3 litre is quoted as 130 but I never went over 60, honest!

If you buy the 5 litre V8 petrol engine the sprint takes just 4.5 seconds, but then it may only achieve 17 miles to the gallon. Ouch! A double "ouch" is in the fact

that the Range Rover SVR starts at £95,150 and to top that there is a model to take on the 4 wheel drive Bentley which won't give you much change, wait for it, for £150,000. Another £12,000 would buy you the Bentley!

### Towing and will it fit your barn?

The vehicle can tow an unbraked trailer up to 750 kg. The maximum towing ability for you caravanners is a massive 3500 kg so there are not many caravans you cannot consider. Or could move your pigs in an agricultural trailer.

The vehicle is 2220 mm wide mirrors out, and its length is 4850mm.

### Did I like it?

You bet, but then I had not spent my money on it. It was both fast and very comfortable and I favoured the high driving position. During my drive I achieved 35 mpg but more should be expected on a long run if driven sensibly. If it is not too large for your needs, I would highly recommend it. You could of course buy a prestige saloon car for far less but then you would be not be able to use it for off road motoring. Given the mess - up at Hevingham Hall firework display last year [heavy rain, vehicles stuck in mud] that might not be such a good idea. During a 4-year period of 4x4 ownership I only went off road four times and those occasions were to park my caravan. So if your pocket runs to this sort of motor, I feel you should try it for yourself. Or you could buy a Jaguar from the same company if a premium saloon is more your style.

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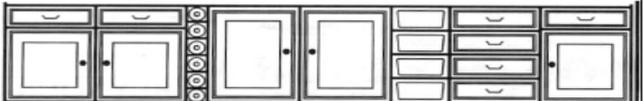
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## FREE PARKING RETURNING TO HALESWORTH!

I am sure many of us regularly spend some time in Halesworth, given the breadth of facilities it provides. I'm equally sure the imposition of car parking charges earlier this year was met with some muttering and discontent. So it's not surprising to read local headlines this week including words such as "joy" and "delight" when it was announced that free parking for the first hour is on its way back! On the 17<sup>th</sup> June Halesworth Town Council issued the following statement:

"Following recent discussions with Halesworth businesses, the Town Council in collaboration with District Cllr Tony Goldson have hopefully been successful in negotiating a deal with Waveney District Council to reinstate the free 1-hour parking in the Thoroughfare car park.

The Council will meet on Monday the 20th June, 2016 to formalise the agreement and it is hoped that the ticket machines will be re calibrated within the next 2 or 3 weeks in order to bring the much needed free parking back to Halesworth.

The finer details of the agreement are yet to be finalised but the offer is a significant improvement over the original offer made to the Council back in November 2015. The Council hopes that with the voluntary support of local businesses, local parish councils and our District Councillor, the financial impact will be minimised. Negotiations with WDC for future years will commence in September 2016"

But how did this unfortunate situation come about in the first place? Waveney District Council had said that it was no longer financially viable to sustain the free first hour parking, first introduced in October 2012 (the idea being to help encourage visitors to the two market towns of Halesworth and Bungay). The last published revenue figures for car parks (2013/14) show that the service is running at a loss of approximately £135,000 per annum. So a decision was made to reintroduce charging for the first hour at Halesworth Thoroughfare and Extension and all Bungay pay and display car parks. The plan was to review the revised charging policy after one year.

So what happened after the changes? Before the June deal was announced I went to see for myself if the new charges had had an effect. I asked a range of local shop keepers what their experiences and feelings were. The first thing to say is the main Thoroughfare car park has not seemed as busy as usual, even on market day (apart, that is, from the circulating and loitering with intent to bag one of the 10 free for 1-hour parking spaces, inconveniently located in the corner by the bridge!) This impression seemed to be confirmed by the number of pedestrians along The Thoroughfare. And this was further corroborated by the traders I spoke to including the charity shops – all have noticed reduced footfall. This has occasioned a wide range of reactions perhaps reflecting the variety of shops and trades in the town. Specialist shops such as electrical goods and hardware felt that their customers, with whom they have developed strong relationships, would still remain regulars. Indeed Coopers has imaginatively come up with a scheme by which a discount is provided on purchases if one shows ones parking

ticket (a little tricky given it should be on display in one's car it's true - camera function on mobile phone to the rescue perhaps). The story is different though for food providers especially the 4 cafes. All felt they served a slightly different clientele – to their advantage one would think - and had a consequent range of feelings about the charges. On the one hand one philosophically said "you just have to get on with it"; on the other, a newer business may never have opened had the change in parking charges been known at the time. Other food retailers also have experienced a decline in trade at the start, although one described "ups and downs" (and was not happy about potential increasing business rates at the same time) but felt it was too early to say if this was an enduring trend. In fact, one mentioned that it doesn't take long for people to adapt and accept the 'new normal' (whilst still feeling hard done by, no doubt). As one of its distinctive and attractive qualities Halesworth does feature several independent retailers. Custom does seem to come from far and wide to shop at these – one trader mentioned she has customers from as far as Ipswich calling by regularly. Conversely, it was put to me, from a more local point of view, why would anyone wanting to buy a newspaper and a pint of milk, pay 70p just to do so when you can just pop into the supermarket and park for free?

It seemed from this that there were serious implications of the falling footfall and a peeved populace:

Less trade, less hours to work, a smaller number of staff required

Danger of a domino effect if one shop closes; less reason for people to come into town with fewer shops, more difficulty for those remaining

Other locations around town get overloaded with (sometimes inconsiderately) parked cars, for example on the Bungay Road above the roundabout and of course...

....drivers are persuaded or choose to park for free in larger supermarket car parks whether this be in Halesworth or farther afield in, say, Beccles or Bungay. A symbolic case of corporates standing to gain whilst independents suffer maybe.

One wonders and doubts whether all these implications were properly pondered in the rush to balance books and increase revenue. It also seemed unfair that 2 smaller market towns should suffer because of a revenue problem in the largest town in the area. I say 2 but on a recent visit to Bungay it appears that free parking has been reintroduced in the town's car parks – see below. Understandably Halesworth Council were not best pleased about this state of affairs and released this statement in mid-May:

"The Town Council is very concerned about the impact that Waveney District Council's removal of the free one hour parking is having on the businesses in the town due to declining footfall. With this in mind the Council is proposing urgent new meetings with both the traders in the town and the Chief Executive of Waveney District Council. Certain politicians at Waveney have been making inaccurate statements about the negotiations with the Town Council and unfavourable comparisons between Halesworth Town

Continued from p9

Council and Bungay Town Council who came to an arrangement with Waveney over the free parking. What was not mentioned was that WDC wanted to charge Halesworth three times more than Bungay, to keep the one hour free parking, a sum equivalent to over a third of our annual budget! We will keep you informed of any progress and our ongoing negotiations.”

My observation from my non-scientific survey was that this was clearly not a sustainable situation for anyone especially as there were rumours that the revenue from the increase was not bridging the shortfall as intended. I felt instinctively that a return to the free first hour of parking was essential to acknowledge that an error of judgement/miscalculation had been made. This may engender the return of some goodwill as well as the shopping public. If then, this means policing the car parking areas more diligently (I'm not sure in almost a year I've ever seen a parking warden – what do they look like, is the uniform smart?) to prevent the '55 minutes' from diving out of the cafe to get another hour's free parking, then so be it. Most of all be fair across the board – why should one town benefit at the hands of another – and think of other ways of raising revenue. Car parking charges are the easy revenue money of the 21<sup>st</sup> century – there are other fairer ways.

So, it's good news and the story ends (hopefully) - an arrangement has been arrived at for which the businesses in the town (and their clients) will be thankful. It seems a shame that such an ill-thought through means of generating revenue caused such angst and upset.

John Beckett

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## AND ANOTHER THING ...

The Brexit, or not, from the European Union. (No, I don't want to hear from you, thank you, as Mr Speaker said to our MP on television last month.) But politicians of all political persuasions seem to believe that we will take their opinions about the future of our country (In or Out) as gospel, rather than giving us facts and letting us work out what we think. Why do they never give us the credit for having brains and using them? And this applies to a whole range of policies across the political spectrum, whatever our own political beliefs. (I could go on about some specific policies of this Government and previous governments, but might get led in party politics myself, and this isn't a party political paper, unlike most of our national press!) This is written the day before the polls, as the *Holton Post* deadline is 23<sup>rd</sup> June and our Editor is very strict about time.

The same goes for the discussions on the new NHS contract. I have rarely seen facts printed in the national press, it appears to be more mere opinion, always from those involved already with the arguments on one side or the other. But both sides have now agreed to sit at the discussion table together (at the time of writing) and talk about it, rather than talk only to the press with their opinions again. (Incidentally, I have the highest praise for all NHS staff, on the wards, at Cutler's Hill, and especially the junior hospital doctors who have variously taken blood, injected me, passed gastric tubes and done other necessarily unpleasant things to me, for their professional attitude towards their job and their patients. Thank you.)

Political rant over, feel free to breathe a sigh of relief.

And who thought of gluing the coin slots on the parking payment machines in Halesworth Middle Car Park? I know that we are all irritated by having to pay for what had previously been an hour's free parking, and that some of us won't necessarily go into Halesworth so much as we used to, and that the businesses in the town will consequently suffer, and that Lowestoft has some free parking to encourage footfall into that town's businesses. But taking the law into our own hands like this doesn't encourage the District Council to look favourably at decreasing parking fees; or spending money on improving Halesworth's car parks – their argument may be that they have had to repair the machines and therefore haven't further money to spend. (And in any case, the gluing job wasn't a good one, and was very quickly put right.) **STOP PRESS:** ENORMOUS congratulations to Halesworth Town Council who have spent their time and money to get the hour's free parking re-instated. I haven't seen it officially published yet, so remember, you may have seen it here first!

Does intolerance of abstract things increase as we get older? I can have the greatest tolerance for people I know, who may be mildly irritating, or even very irritating; but I can also think to myself "Oh, it's only X's way, he's always been like that" or "Well, he's an only child of older parents therefore ..." or "Small children are usually lovely but always sticky". But

general irritations – other drivers, mechanical or electronic things that don't work as they should, politicians of all sorts, the national press (mostly) – these have the ability to wind me up rapidly almost to screaming pitch. So this safety valve is really useful, I can get it all off my chest without shouting at somebody or kicking the cat.

Thank you, *Holton Post!*

Grumpy Old Man

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