



Holmes Chapel Partnership Community Newsletter Issue 89: January 2022

WELCOME TO THE JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Looking backThe Holmes Chapel Partnership Team ended the year on a high with the Christmas Market and Fair. The centre of the village was transformed into a bustling, magical space with lights, market stalls and a stage whilst the fairground rides brought a sense of fun to the Coop car park. We had lots of positive feedback (see inside) and many messages of thanks from visitors and stallholders who realised how much work had gone into staging the event. We, too, have to say thank you: to the performers, to the owners of the spaces we used, to Dane Sound and to our sponsors who made it possible to put on a bigger market and, very importantly, to everyone who turned out to support the event.



Looking forwardIf you enjoyed the Christmas Market and Fair and feel you would like to be part of the 2022 event, please get in touch. If your New Year's resolution is to be more community minded, then there are plenty of volunteer roles to be filled all year round - so don't wait to come forward! The next big occasion will be the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June - see inside for more details.

Your Partnership Team would like to send you their very best wishes for 2022. Like you, we are keeping our fingers crossed that things will get better!

Visit our website www.hcpartnership.org.uk

HOLMES CHAPEL CHRISTMAS MARKET & FAIR 2021

Well, we wanted to do bigger and better and I think we succeeded! Just a few photos and some of the great feedback from the event:



I was amazed to see our village centre transformed - something for everyone—the turnout says it all

Amazing turn out! So lovely to see so many familiar faces!

Lovely atmosphere! Delighted that the weather was so perfect.

So lovely to see everyone getting out and enjoying our fabulous village

It's such a lovely thing to see everyone supporting our local businesses

The only thing I'd say is please make it longer!



It was a great evening, so nice to see so many out of all age groups. The fair was great for the younger group. Stalls fab

Fairground rides were amazing to have in our little village

We had our grandchildren with us—the verdict was that the rides were great fun.



It was absolutely amazing - we had so much fun!



NEWS



Great idea to close the road!

It was our first time as newcomers to the area and we were blown away!

Good to see more youngsters there

Loved it - felt very festive!



Drinking wine with friends, kids having fun in the fair and some lovely stalls selling unique and personal gifts. So lucky to live in Holmes Chapel

There were many more comments in this vein - and nearly everyone was thoughtful enough to thank the organisers which was much appreciated by the HC Partnership team who put in a lot of work to make it happen - especially Peter Whiers, our Project Officer.

There seemed to be universal approval for closing the road:
Closing the road made a huge difference - it was easier to move around - so much more space.

The Lions Youth Brass Band The band really enjoyed performing and would love to come back next year - if you let me know the date I can reserve it in the diary for you!

Are you too up for a another Christmas Market on Sunday December 4th 2022? We have already been discussing what went well and what we could have done better. As you can see, the planning has to start early! If you have further ideas you would like to share with us, do get in touch!

SANTA'S SLEIGH UPDATE



Reggie Green, aged 7, supporting Santa on his Sleigh Run

At the time of writing, Santa is still frantically busy completing his consultations with local children. Already he has raised over £2000 to help support local groups in their activities throughout the year.

A huge thank you is due to Santa, his elves, his transport team and the team from the Partnership who organised his schedule. And of course, a huge thank you to all of you who donated money on your doorstep or via our Just Giving page.

www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/holmeschapelsleigh

If you missed Santa but would still like to give something the page will be open until mid January!

***Santa is planning ahead to Christmas 2022
If you would like to help him with his schedule or could help him sort out his sleigh,
please contact projects@hcupartnership.org.uk***

SANTA REPORTS BACK...

The lively nine-year-old looked me straight in the eyes and asked "Are you the *real* Santa?" The queue stretching back towards the fun fair did not allow for deep philosophical discussion and, thankfully, both he and his younger sister seemed satisfied with my reassurance. For three hours at the Holmes Chapel Christmas Market and Fair I was kept busy with an endless stream of visitors to Santa's sleigh. How time flew



One lady, who had probably seen more Christmases than I have, was delighted to have been greeted as she walked by and stopped for a chat before the queue had built up. She seemed satisfied with Santa's wishes of good health and happiness for the year ahead and went on her way with a smile. There were, of course, some very serious children, anxious to ensure that Santa had received their lists and the likelihood of at least some of the items on it turning up on Christmas morning. There were also the clandestine non-verbal communications with parents hovering nearby to give me clues as to whether a particularly expensive item might be feasible or not.

Of the responses I received to the request to leave a drink and a mince pie out for Santa, it would seem that most dads in Holmes Chapel prefer whisky on Christmas Eve, a few prefer beer and some were prepared to leave out milk (!) for their nocturnal visitor. One miserable parent offered water and I had to ask that it be hot and with a tea bag. I didn't forget to ask for the mandatory carrot and forbid sprouts on the basis of reindeers getting wind.

Every child who came was a delight to interact with and the joyous wonder in their eyes has caused me to reflect on that nine-year-old's question and remind myself of what the Santa allegory means to the way in which we conduct our lives. I believe that it translates into us being kind to others throughout the year. Being generous doesn't have to mean material things. Simply listening to someone, helping with a task or just being there can be enough. If my experience at the Holmes Chapel Christmas Fair is anything to go by, the rewards far outweigh the effort.

Wishing you happiness through your acts of kindness throughout 2022.

"Santa"

ROAD AND TRAFFIC NEWS

Our **Safe Walking Routes to School** campaign and the **Speedwatch** sessions have been on hold for the last month or so. That doesn't mean the problems have been solved, just that preparations for the Christmas Market took our time instead. We promised to add Manor Lane to the Speedwatch rota but there is no point at the moment as the seemingly endless roadworks seem to be slowing the traffic down anyway!

Good News!



The hedge along Macclesfield Road has been properly cut back which makes the pavement more accessible.

Who do we have to thank? The Parish Council, Anwyl Homes or Cheshire East?

A mystery!



Why? This Chester Road / Middlewich Road junction has been without markings for weeks. Is white paint in short supply?

Another mystery

This appeared in the CE Highways schedule of works:

01/01/2022 - 31/01/2022 Selkirk Drive Holmes Chapel
CE AHG Congleton **Full extent** CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL:
Cheshire East Council - SMOTS 45713791 **Road Closure**
What happens if Selkirk Drive is closed for a month?
What is SMOTS which is the purpose of the closure?

CEC Speed Management Strategy Update

We reported in the December edition that this had been approved to go out to consultation.

If you wish to comment on the document you have until 31st January 2022 to complete the survey online at : surveys.cheshireeast.gov.uk and search for Speed Management Strategy Consultation.

THANK YOU TO THE YARN BOMBERS!

“The knitted decorations were a joy to many” – was among the comments after the Christmas Market!



The imaginative decoration of the post box is wonderful. Not to mention the elf and the Christmas pud!



The next big project will be decorating the village for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in early June.

Do you want to be a part of it?

If you can knit or crochet and you want to be a part of it, look at the Holmes Chapel Community Yarn Bombers Facebook page to find out what they are planning for the Jubilee celebrations or contactor contact Naomi Sumpter (projects@hccpartnership.org.uk) or Anita Armitt (anitaarmitt@hotmail.co.uk)



The Christmas Market as a backdrop to a festive stocking!

DOWN IN THE DANE MEADOW



Raking up the leaves from the path down through Cotton Wood into the Dane Meadow is a great way of getting some exercise and fresh air - and doing your bit for the community by keeping the paths clear.

We have a bit of a work session on the second Tuesday of the month. Each month brings different jobs but we decide what needs doing, what tools will be necessary and meet at the picnic tables at 10am. We generally work and chat for about an hour.

We are always looking for willing workers, so if you feel you could rake or cut back vegetation, we would love you to join us. If you want to know more, email Hazel Sutcliffe (h.p.sutcliffe@gmail.com)



You may have noticed the bin by the picnic tables - you may even have disposed of your dog's poo in it! You may not be aware that the contents of this bin have to be carried up to the bin at the Daresbury entrance because the rubbish collection service won't go down and empty it.

The bag is often heavy - and smelly - so a **HUGE THANK YOU** to the volunteers who do this month in and month out so that the Dane Meadow stays clean and tidy for everyone to enjoy. If you feel you could help out by taking your turn once a month - especially if you have a dog and use the bin - it would be great to hear from you. Contact Hazel Sutcliffe (h.p.sutcliffe@gmail.com)



Finally just a reminder of how lovely it is down in the Dane Meadow in the summer - it's not all about work and emptying bins!

PLATINUM JUBILEE OF ELIZABETH II



In recognition of the 70th anniversary of the accession of Queen Elizabeth II on 6 February 1952, an extra Bank Holiday has been created and the traditional Spring Bank Holiday is being moved from the end of May to the start of June, to create a special four day Jubilee Bank Holiday from **Thursday 2 June 2022 to Sunday 5 June 2022**. This will be half-term week for the schools who break up on Friday May 27th.

Jubilee weekend

The tradition of celebrating royal jubilees, weddings and coronations with the **lighting of beacons**, will continue for the Platinum Jubilee, and will take place on **2 June** across the United Kingdom.

On **3 June**, a service of thanksgiving for the Queen's reign will held be at St Paul's Cathedral.

On the last day of the extended Bank Holiday, people are encouraged to have a **'Big Jubilee Lunch'**, encouraging communities to celebrate their connections and get to know each other a little better.

What's happening in Holmes Chapel?

The planning has started so that some of these events can be replicated in Holmes Chapel. A Platinum Jubilee Task Group has been set up and plans to meet on **Thursday 13th January 2022 at 10am**.

Some progress has already been made but if you would like to offer your services and help to make these celebrations happen, it is not too late join in! Contact Tina Cartlidge, or Sue McKay at the Parish Office (clerk@holmeschapelparishcouncil.gov.uk)

BACK IN THE SADDLE AND WINNING PRIZES!



Jane Ashmore riding the grey Todd and daughter Ki riding Alice

You might be more likely to recognise Jane Ashmore (née Chetham) behind the counter of her card and sweet shop in the centre of Holmes Chapel that she runs with husband Graham. But she has another life!

Jane has always been keen on horse-riding - she learnt to ride almost before she learnt to read and write. Alongside conducting her business in the village she has been working with, buying and selling horses all her life. She passed on her love of horses to Bekki and Ki, her two daughters who as teenagers competed successfully all over the country. Since her daughters were born Jane has done little riding herself but coached and supported Ki and Bekki.

However when Bekki left home to live in London and Ki was no longer so keen on competing, Jane decided she was going to get back in the saddle - at the age of 70 she decided that a showjumping career was maybe a bit risky, so she opted for riding on the flat and headed for the dressage ring. She took over her daughter's prize-winning working hunter pony - Camsdale Earl Gray (usually known as Todd) and got to work schooling herself and him.

In the photograph above Jane is doing a lap of honour having won a whole series of dressage competitions between April and October at Dean Valley Equestrian Centre. Beside her is daughter Ki riding Alice - a pony she competed successfully on at the Horse of the Year Show ten years ago. The two had been neck and neck throughout the series of competitions but at the finale it was Jane who took the Championship. "I feel very proud that I can still give Ki a run for her money!" commented Jane after her success. What Ki thought about it has not been revealed!

HOLMES CHAPEL RAILWAY STATION CORNER - January 2022

Graham Blake, our Stationmaster, was on duty on Saturday the 27th of November before 07:30 am, well before dawn. He noticed something strange about the footbridge adjacent to the Railway Bridge and went to investigate. He quickly identified a calamity! The night's high winds had ripped the hoarding down which covered the footpath at an angle, partly blocking it on the Crewe side of the platform.

There was nothing between the footbridge and the overhead power lines and railway track apart from the hoarding wooden posts with large gaps in between them.

The hoarding boards were cold and slippy and anyone trying to walk on them could easily have slipped down onto the power cables or track.

As a professional Graham instantly knew what to do; he contacted the Signaller, the Highways Agency, the British Transport Police as well as the police via 999. He kept an eye on anyone trying to cross the footbridge and made sure that anyone using the road bridge could do it safely until Network Rail arrived. They posted a two man team, one each side of the road bridge ensuring a safe crossing while works were carried out, ushering pedestrians across when there was no hazard.



Network Rail constructed new wooden panels in the Station car park and fitted them to the standing posts on the pedestrian footbridge. It was during the morning of many incidents being reported to do with storm damage and flooding.





The completed work - safe passageway restored!

Well done to Graham for his prompt action and to Network Rail for their work on that morning. I asked Graham for a comment and he said "it's all in a day's work - that's what I'm here for" with a smile on his face.

Many passengers in Holmes Chapel appreciate Graham's help and cheerfulness and think we are lucky to have him!

Tony Wright

NEWS

DANE SOUND COMMUNITY RADIO

New Year, New Volunteering Opportunities!

We are your local community radio station, a non-profit group, run by local volunteers, broadcasting on-line 7 days a week.



We are looking for more volunteers and these are some of the tasks you could help with, most of which can be carried out from your own home:

- Programme Scheduling
- Social Media Marketing
- IT Support
- Research
- Website Support
- Grants & Funding
- Administrative Tasks

If you are interested in joining our lovely, friendly team please get in touch.

Are you a local business
and would like to support us?

Are you a local community group
and interested in broadcasting your own show?

Get in touch for more information.
We would love to hear from you!

Email: contact@danesound.com
Text/Leave a message on 07789 134128

HOW TO LISTEN IN TO DANE SOUND RADIO

To view our weekly schedule of programmes and listen in visit our website **www.danesound.com** on your computer, tablet or smart phone, or ask your listening device to 'play Dane Sound Community Radio'

WHAT'S ON



HOLMES CHAPEL
MUSIC SOCIETY

Celebrating 50 golden years

3pm 22nd January 2022
Ensemble 360

"one of the most adaptable chamber groups in the country"
- The Guardian



3pm 12th February 2022
Elias String Quartet
and Robert Plane (Clarinet)

*"Few quartets at any stage of their evolution
have this much personality"*
- Philadelphia Enquirer

Concerts are held at Clonter Opera Theatre, CW12 2LR
Tickets £23, Members £15, Children (under 16), Students and Benefit Claimants £2
From The Print Room, 5 Church Walk, Holmes Chapel or Mrs Jane Perrins (01477 537 769)

Tickets and Full details at www.themusicociety.org.uk

The Society retains the right to change the programmes without notice

HOLMES CHAPEL COMMUNITY CINEMA

The Community Cinema is hoping to open its doors to filmgoers again on Thursday January 20th at 7pm.

They are hoping to show West Side Story but at the time of going to press the film has not been confirmed and then of course there is Omicron

Keep an eye on the noticeboard outside the Library and follow the Community Cinema on Facebook for the latest information but in the meantime pencil in 20th January and keep your fingers crossed!





Holmes Chapel Library

Opening Hours

Monday:	9.30am - 5pm
Tuesday:	9.30am - 5pm
Wednesday:	9.30am - 1pm
Thursday:	9.30am - 7pm
Friday:	9.30am - 5pm
Saturday:	9.30am - 1pm
Sunday:	CLOSED

Story Time

Stories & rhymes for under 5s!
Every Wednesday, 11am - 11.30am
Free to attend; no need to book.

Rhyme Time

Nursely rhymes for under 5s!
Every Thursday, 11am - 11.30am.
Free to attend; no need to book.

Tuesday Book Club

Alternate Tuesdays,
2pm - 3.30pm.

In our book discussion group, we swap recommendations & talk about what we've been reading lately.

Friday Book Club

Every Friday,
2pm - 4pm.

Relax with a cup of tea & listen to/discuss novels, short stories & poems.
Free. All welcome.
Refreshments provided.

Colour and Relax

Every Wednesday,
10am - 11am.

Unwind with a cup of tea & some mindful activities: colouring, jigsaws, scrabble, etc.

eBooks, eMagazines & eAudiobooks

Save money on magazine subscriptions. Download Libby & read eMagazines for free on your Android or Apple device.



Download BorrowBox and read eBooks or eAudiobooks on your Android or Apple device.

Holmes Chapel Library, London Road, Holmes Chapel, Cheshire, CW4 7AP
01477 689550 holmeschapel.library@cheshireeast.gov.uk



WHAT'S ON



U3A AIR WAVES" Programmes for January 2022



"Jazz with Peter Shields"

"The Blues"

8:00-9:00pm on Tuesday 4th January

Repeats at 8:00-9:00pm on Tuesday 18th January



"Americana & Country with Roy Rawlinson"

The best of Country Rock, Bluegrass and Electric Folk

8:00-9:00pm on Tuesday 11th January

Repeats at 8:00-9:00pm on Tuesday 25th January

"Insights" Magazine

A mix of u3a news, poetry and play readings, history, stories, interviews and features, all prepared and recorded by HC&D u3a members and interest groups, plus recorded music.

"Insights Magazine"

10:00am-12:00 noon on Monday 17th January

Repeats at 4:00 -6:00pm on Saturday 22nd January

Tune in to all of the Air Waves programmes at
www.danesound.com
and click on "Listen Live".

You can listen on Alexa by saying "Play Dane Sound Community Radio".

Catch up with past programmes at: www.mixcloud.com/danesound

To contact us or leave feedback email: airwaves@holmeschapelu3a.org.uk

This information is also on: www.holmeschapelu3a.org.uk – scan the QR code above to go to the website

From Holmes Chapel & District u3a in partnership with Dane Sound Radio.

A happy & healthy 2022 from u3a Air Waves!