



Holmes Chapel Partnership Community Newsletter

Issue 83: July 2021

WELCOME TO THE JULY EDITION OF THE NEWSLETTER!

We still have to be cautious but that doesn't mean there is nothing going on in and around Holmes Chapel as you will see from the contents. This is just a sample of the news inside:

We are still pursuing our **Safe Walking Routes to School** campaign. Updates inside. We have re-started Community **Speedwatch** around Holmes Chapel so



It's lovely down in the **Dane Meadow** at this time of year! What did they find in the pond?



We have news from **St Luke's**



Read about our prize winning **station!**



Don't miss the 197th **Gooseberry Show**. The gooseberries will have to be bigger than these to make the grade!

And how is your **sunflower** growing?



With best wishes from
Your Partnership Team

SAFE WALKING ROUTES TO SCHOOLS - UPDATES



Our successful 'Walk to School' event in May had quite a lot of coverage in the local press especially as they also picked up on Liz Alcock's Facebook post of her young sons having to walk single file down the pavement on Macclesfield Road to get safely to school.

Coincidentally on page 7 of the same edition of the Chronicle there was an article about (by?) Anwyl Homes promoting its own success (*Builder sees 30% rise in turnover, profits are up £2m*) As we have reported before, Anwyl has not been required by the Planning Authorities to make any contribution to the surrounding road infrastructure. As a result the extra people and traffic generated from the 138 homes to be built on the Victoria Mills site will pour out on to Macclesfield Road. According to the article Anwyl has been successful in collecting 'both national and regional awards this year'. One of these is "The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents Gold Medal Health and Safety Award". How to explain then that they won't be doing anything to make the walk to school safer – even for residents of their own development?

The Chronicle followed up on this. Anwyl Homes did not wish to comment. Councillor Mick Warren, Cheshire East Council's Chair of Environment and Communities said "A sum of £25,000 has been secured by way of a travel plan and can be used towards the funding of some highway improvements, for example upgrading pedestrian facilities and bus stops" To put this in context, a controlled crossing costs about £80,000. More bus stops anyone?

20 mph Flashing School Signs

These are currently located on Hermitage Drive where it is almost impossible to do more than 20 mph – especially at start and end of school times! A request by the Parish Council to have them transferred to Macclesfield Road where there is no indication that there is a school in the area was turned down by Cheshire East Council on the grounds that they were correctly sited according to national guidelines.

Community Speedwatch



One of the practical things we can do to make our village a safer place to live is to revive the Community Speedwatch which exactly what Liz Alcock has done.

A new team of Community Speedwatch volunteers, including parents from both primary schools, has been successfully trained by our local PCSO.

You may have seen the team in operation with their hi-viz and speed detector. In the first week we conducted two hours of Community Speedwatch during morning and afternoon school runs. **Shockingly, over 30 drivers were found to be exceeding the speed limit on Macclesfield Road and Station Road**, all of whose details have been passed to Dane Valley Police. The second week has come up with similar figures. This will provide useful evidence to counter the assertion by Cheshire East Highways that there is no issue with speeding – on Macclesfield Road in particular.

The Speedwatch Team will be continuing to make regular appearances with the aim of encouraging drivers to drive safely through the village at all times. Presently, we only have enough volunteers to cover Macclesfield Road and Station Road but we know there are residents on Chester Road, The Cottons and Bluebell Green who are equally concerned about speeding vehicles. If we can find more volunteers then we can create Speedwatch Teams to cover those routes too. Speedwatch is entirely flexible around volunteers' work and home commitments, so please do get in touch if you can spare an hour or two each week to get involved. Please email: projects@hccpartnership.org.uk to register your interest.



Junction A50 / A54 alterations

There was a meeting hosted by Cheshire East Highways towards the end of May at which several options were outlined. These were substantially the same as the ones we described in the March edition of the Newsletter:

There is unlikely to be a roundabout

There will be 5 options - going from cheap to very expensive

There have to be 2 lanes on Chester Road so that traffic heading south (turning right) does not impede traffic going north and east.

The aim is to widen the footpath on the south side of Chester Road and put in some sort of pedestrian refuge further down to assist crossing from south to north.

However the £550,000 from the developer Bloor Homes that was going to finance any worthwhile option is nowhere near enough to cover costs which are estimated at £2 million.

Feedback

We are always happy to hear your experiences and opinions – email SWRTS@hccpartnership.org.uk We hope you support our campaign but not everyone sees it that way - one correspondent wrote:

I am happy with our pavements and paths and, generally, the traffic isn't a problem. Please stop this nonsense!

THE DANE MEADOW

Pond Dipping

On a sunny morning at the beginning of June we held a pond dipping session and invited local children along. Lucinda Hodges who regularly volunteers in the Meadow turned up with nets and containers and with Mick Collier, another regular volunteer, advised the children how to go about dipping the nets into the water and retrieving what they had found. They were thrilled to find lots of wriggling tadpoles, along with different sorts of snails, water fleas and water boatmen and even the odd leech or two.



We are planning another session early in August to see if there is any change to the residents of the pond. Details in the August issue of the Newsletter.



Thinning out the Himalayan Balsam

On a similarly sunny morning a week later regular Dane Meadow volunteers were joined by members of the u3a to try and thin out the invasive Himalayan Balsam. It is important to pull it out by the roots and not just cut it down as it can re-grow with ease.

Everyone created huge piles of plants mostly from alongside the pathways but as you will see if you venture down to the Dane Meadow there is still a lot of scope for you to do your bit if you wish to have a go at pulling some up!



Wildflower Meadow

The wildflower meadow is showing promise: yellow rattle, red clover, ox eye daisy and buttercups.



Waste Bin

You may have noticed the new waste bin by the picnic tables that has replaced the one melted to a puddle by a carelessly discarded barbecue.

The bin does a great job at keeping the Dane Meadow litter and dog poo free for us all to enjoy **BUT** ANSA the organisation that collects rubbish won't go down and collect it from this bin.

The rubbish is carried up the hill by volunteers and left next to the bin by the Viewing Platform to be taken away. If you are a dog walker and find this bin convenient, would you be prepared to volunteer to be part of the rota? It would only be once a month – so not a huge time commitment.

HOME GROWN IN HOLMES CHAPEL



The past year has been full of challenges. One challenge was to keep Home Grown in Holmes Chapel going through the dark times, providing fruit and vegetables for the community and lots of outdoor work for our volunteers. So many of you took the opportunity to help yourselves to the peas, beans, chard, strawberries, radishes and so many other tasty offerings from our sites at the Health Centre, carpet shop and The George, as well as from the fruit trees in the Dane Meadow and at the Comprehensive school. We have had such positive feedback and lots of people donating and taking plants at our spring plant swap.

So many of you support our activities, by picking our produce and by visiting our stalls at the Victoria Club's summer fete; our Harvest Festival at the carpet shop, and at the Christmas market. We really appreciate all of this. Now, we would like to invite you to come along to one of our regular monthly digs, to see what we do, have a go yourself and join us for cake, drinks and a good chat.



NEWS

No matter what your age, all are welcome. We enjoy showing families and youngsters how to grow their own fruit and veg. All residents are very welcome, and don't forget that gardening is great for everyone's physical and mental health.

You don't need any particular skills, equipment or knowledge, or a lot of spare time. Many of our volunteers have gardening knowledge we want to pass on, we always have a spare trowel or fork and you don't have to come along every month.



We meet, at the carpet shop patio, on a Saturday, at 10am. Generally, we work at one of our sites in the centre of the village for between one and two hours. Then it's back to the carpet shop for the lovely cakes, drinks and chat.

Our future dates are 10th July, 14th August, 11th September, 9th October and 13th November. Please come and join us.

THE CLONTER FAIR & CAR BOOT SALE

Sunday 5th September - 10am– 4pm
Clonter Opera Theatre, Swettenham Heath CW12 2LR



If you are a crafter, artist or local food producer you may be interested in having a stall at the Clonter Fair on 5th September. There are inside and outside stalls available for this lovely family day out and car boot pitches to display and sell all those treasures found in your loft. If you are interested please email events@clonter.org for all the details and a booking form.

All funds raised on the day are split between Cancer Research UK and the Clonter Farm Music Trust. www.clonter.org

HOLMES CHAPEL PARISH COUNCIL NEWS



Front Garden Competition

Remember to send in your nominations for our annual front garden competition. We have two categories; Front Garden Competition Winner and Dane Housing Bungalow Winner.

We are also introducing runner-up prizes this year. Please email the address and name (if known) of the nominee with an accompanying photo to the Clerk by Tuesday 10th August 2021 for consideration by our judges.

Return to Face to Face Parish Council meetings

The legislation allowing the Parish Council to meet remotely has not been extended by the Government. This means we are now back to meeting face to face at the Community Centre. A risk assessment has been completed and any attendees are kindly requested to adhere to Government guidelines. Please do not attend if you have any symptoms of coronavirus or have been asked to self-isolate. Agendas, Minutes and dates of all our meetings can be found on our website:

www.holmeschapelparishcouncil.gov.uk/meetings

Vacancy for a new Councillor

We currently have a vacancy for a new Councillor. If you are interested in joining the Parish Council and would like some more information please contact the Clerk by emailing clerk@holmeschapelparishcouncil.gov.uk

Civic Service

The Parish Council is planning to hold a Civic Service on Sunday 19th September 2021 if restrictions allow. Together with HC Partnership we are investigating the options of holding a community event in the afternoon to celebrate volunteering.

HOLMES CHAPEL & AREA CHRISTIAN COMMUNICARE

EGM UPDATE:

Because of continuing uncertainty over lifting of restrictions, general safety etc, we have decided to postpone our planned EGM to September - date to be arranged.

HOLMES CHAPEL ECUMENICAL CHRISTIAN GROUP AGM 2021



Once again, because of Covid restrictions, the group committee will not be holding an open meeting AGM in July this year. People are also starting to take the chance to get away after lockdown restrictions and so trying to arrange a Zoom has become a challenge. We are therefore arranging a virtual AGM which will be managed via email in these unusual times.

The AGM will be set for 28th July and copies of the usual Secretary's Report and Financial Report will be circulated to the committee for approval, along with confirmation of the re-appointment of the officials.

Because this is normally a meeting open to the public, we are inviting anyone who would normally attend to contact the Co- Ordinator, Caroline Wood by 16th July on her email address carolineawood18@gmail.com or phone 07742930346 and she will be happy to send copies of the reports on request. In addition, any questions raised in respect of the reports should also be referred to Caroline by 23rd July who will then present them to the Committee by email on 28th July.

We would like to thank everyone who has supported the work of Christian Aid over the last 12 months and we are looking forward to reinstating our normal local activities in the Autumn - watch this space!

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK COLLECTION - MAY 2021

A very big Thank You to everyone in and around Holmes Chapel who supported us during Christian Aid Week in May.

You all raised the magnificent sum of £2055.73 including Gift Aid of £193 through our Tap Simple Online Giving page as well as the envelopes in our churches which we have been able to send to Christian Aid to help Refugees and the needy throughout the world.

Because this year, as with last year, is so very different as a consequence of the Pandemic, we will be leaving our GiveStar OnLine donation page to Give Thanks for Your Vaccine open through the Summer months as more age groups have the opportunity to have the Vaccine as well as the older groups to have their second vaccination. Money raised through this page on the link below is being used by Christian Aid centrally to help with vaccine supplies directly in India where the need is the greatest.

<https://cutt.ly/HolmesChapel>

Our Online donation page for the Vaccine Thank You currently stands at £335 of which £60 is Gift Aid. This, again, is a wonderful amount raised so far for this Vaccine campaign and we say thank you in anticipation of further kind donations through the summer as we all have the chance to count our blessings and give thanks. Any queries please contact Caroline Wood – Co-ordinator- on 01477 535746
Holmes Chapel Ecumenical Christian Aid Committee

ST LUKE'S PARISH CHURCH ORGAN & LIGHTING APPEAL Update



The Parish Church of St Luke is the special, landmark building for our local community in the centre of Holmes Chapel. It has been a place of regular Christian worship and for key lifetime events of birth, marriage, and death, since 1430. As we approach the 600th Anniversary, several aspects of the building need to be updated to enable its best use by all in the 21st century.

The most urgent of these are the Organ and Lighting.

For the last fifteen months the congregations of St Luke's, Holmes Chapel have been barred from singing hymns, but this has not stopped them making good plans for the day when indoor singing is allowed once more.

In October last year, at Harvest Festival, Canon Rob McLaren launched an £80,000 Appeal to replace the failing organ and provide eco-friendly, efficient lighting. The good news is that through the generosity of parishioners, local businesses and organisations, a total of almost £69,000 has been raised so far

The current church organ was rebuilt in 1971 with parts from the earlier 1886 and 1851 instruments and is in a poor state beyond economical repair. In January an excellent pipe organ, built by Rushworth & Dreaper, was rescued from a church in the Wirral being demolished and rebuilt. This organ is now being refurbished by specialist organ builders in their workshops near Newcastle-under-Lyme, ready for installation in St Luke's during July and August. When all is finished, including a new organ console and pedal board, churchgoers will be more than ready to sing God's praises again.

Plans are in place for a Civic Service in September plus an organ recital and other concerts later in the year. Churchwardens, Jayne Weaver and Alastair Cragg, are looking forward to everyone being welcomed to hear the quality sound of the new pipe organ and to sing along.

The current lighting in the church is inflexible, expensive to run and requires regular replacement of the now obsolete halogen bulbs located at dangerous height. To get the best from this lovely old building improved lighting is needed which will highlight its attractive features and add brilliance to the regular services and special events. Modern LED lighting will provide flexible control and energy efficiency and require minimal maintenance. Coloured lighting will help provide a special atmosphere at major festivals and special family events. It is hoped that this new lighting system can be installed in November, ready for the season of Christmas.

If you would like to make a donation to this worthy appeal, you can visit the church appeal website <https://stlukesappeal.uk> or contact the Vicar, Canon Rob McLaren, by email at vicar@stlukesholmeschapel.uk or phone 01477 668695.

CELEBRATING LIVES TOGETHER IN A POST-PANDEMIC WORLD

The old saying "how time flies" is so applicable as I reflect over the last year and a half.

We've all experienced ups and downs, to say the least. Our new way of life has brought with it many changes across all aspects of life. From wearing face masks and never being far from the sanitiser to working out how we social distance in church, oh, and then there's Zoom. It's the closest I've come to DJ'ing.....but perhaps the less we say about that the better!

Zoom aside, the things that have kept me going throughout all this, are the strength and grace of God plus the kindness I've experienced from within this community. Jean, my wonderful wife, and I arrived in Holmes Chapel in November 2019. In the first four months of work, we settled right in; getting to know our community, experiencing the local businesses, and enjoying the lovely surroundings. Little did we know that so much would dramatically change in the following months.

It's been a roller coaster journey, as I'm sure many will agree. But as we slowly ease out of lockdown, the last year has really brought home how resilient we can be when it comes to coping with challenges.

From our NHS heroes, key workers and those who have been shielding, to all the parents and grandparents faced with the challenge of home schooling. Everyone has had such an important role to play within the pandemic. Personally, I've lost my Dad in lockdown and gained a new appreciation of the devotion of so many carers.

However, although we're finally on the verge of being able to move forward with our new normal, we will never forget the moments with loved ones that were lost, or the opportunity to say a proper goodbye.

This element of the pandemic weighed on me the most during lockdown, which is why I'm pleased to be able to offer you the chance to properly commemorate the life of your loved one alongside your friends and family.

We have put together a package including a 'celebration of a life' service in the beautiful St Luke's church, with myself as celebrant, the organist for a couple of hymns or musical items (AV available), the vergers to help the smooth running, discussion and advice to help choose the ingredients of a service to celebrate your loved one. After the memorial service you can then move on to eat, drink and continue to share memories in a suitable venue.

If you'd like to know more about how we can support you in celebrating the life of a loved one, just give me a call on 01477 668695 (Holmes Chapel vicarage), or email me at vicar@stlukesholmeschapel.uk

Canon Rob McLaren

HOLMES CHAPEL MUSIC SOCIETY

Founder of Holmes Chapel Music Society awarded the British Empire medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours



Dr Martin Hudson has been awarded the British Empire Medal for services to music.

Dr Hudson was a highly respected GP at the Holmes Chapel Health Centre for many years and has, since retirement, specialised in aviation medicine.

However, it is specifically for founding the Holmes Chapel Music Society, and leading it for fifty years, that the Queen has honoured him.

Left: Dr & Mrs Hudson

Together with Derek Johnson and the then Vicar of Holmes Chapel, Martin and Sue Hudson started the Music Society in 1972. Since then it has gone from strength to strength and become renowned among music lovers and musicians as a venue where one can hear the best in classical chamber music.

Martin was the Chairman of the Society for 40 years, before stepping down to become Secretary a few years ago. His wife, Sue, has also played a leading role, finding and booking musicians of a suitable calibre and looking after their welfare before and after the concerts. Both have always been willing to "muck in" with the more mundane tasks of organising concerts – setting out chairs, checking staging, serving refreshments. And they have always been the friendly face of the Music Society, welcoming concert goers at the door and sharing comments about the music as they leave.

The award recognizes Dr Hudson's achievement in creating an organisation of such high calibre in a little village in Cheshire and sustaining its reputation over fifty years.

The Society celebrates its 50th anniversary this coming season and has ten concerts to celebrate – starting with the Magnard Ensemble on October 2nd 2021 and ending with Sir Mark Elder conducting the leading players from the Halle Orchestra on May 21st 2022. Concerts this coming season will all be held at Clonter Opera Theatre, in order to allow for social distancing measures should they be necessary. Membership of the Society and entry to all ten concerts costs just £123.

Full details are available on the website – www.themusicsociety.org.uk.

To see the attractive surroundings of the Clonter Opera Theatre look at their website – www.clonter.org

"U3A AIR WAVES" Programmes for July 2021



Holmes Chapel & District u3a is continuing its partnership with Dane Sound Radio with our 5th series of programmes under the banner "**u3a Air Waves**". There is a mix of music programmes and "magazine"-style programmes.

We do hope you can join us - happy listening!



"u3a Jazz with Peter Shields" is a 1-hour programme, this time featuring the blues, and acoustic guitarists from the folk music boom of the 1960s.

The broadcast is at **8.00pm on Tuesday 6th July, repeating at 8.00pm on Tuesday 20th July.**

To Listen in, go to www.danesound.com and click on "Listen Live".



"u3a Americana & Country with Roy Rawlinson"

is a 1-hour programme of Country Rock, Bluegrass, and Electric Folk with spoken commentary about each selection.

The broadcast is at **8.00pm on Tuesday 13th July, repeating at 8pm on Tuesday 27th July.**

To Listen in, go to www.danesound.com and click on "Listen Live".

u3a Air Waves "Insights"

Monday 10:00-12:00 & Saturday 16:00-18:00



**News;
Updates; Stories
& Features**



Debra Cummins; Heather Jones; Shena Lewington;
Roy Rawlinson; Peter Shields: Valerie White

The third offering in July is our **"Insights"** magazine programme, a mix of news, poetry and play readings, history, stories interviews and features, all prepared and recorded by our u3a members and interest groups, plus recorded music.

The 2-hour broadcast is at **10:00am on Monday 19th July, repeating at 4:00pm on Saturday 24th July.**

To listen in, go to 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 email: airwaves@holmeschapelu3a.org.uk

This information is also on: www.holmeschapelu3a.org.uk

SO HOW DOES YOUR SUNFLOWER GROW?



Since the weather was so unkind in May, we have decided to put back the final date for our sunflower competition to **August 31st**.

When you think your sunflower has reached its maximum height then take a final measurement (from soil to the very top of the sunflower in centimetres) and take a photo.

Send your measurement to us at sunflower@hcpartnership.org.uk with your name and a photo of your sunflower.

We would like to see what progress your plant is making so please take a photo before then so that we can all compare notes.

Go to the hcpartnership website for more information!

HOLMES CHAPEL & DISTRICT U3A MEMBERS Picnic in the Park - Change of date



You will be aware that the Government has extended Covid restrictions to 19th July. This means that our "Picnic in the Park" can no longer take place on Wednesday 7th July as originally planned.

Fortunately, we have been able to re-book the band, 5 Bar Blues, and the venue, the Victoria Club field, for **Wednesday 4th August**. This was confirmed yesterday. All other event details are unchanged.

If you have already signed-up for the event on the u3a website, and you can attend on the new date, you need do nothing. Simply turn up on the day.

If however you are *unable* to attend the event on the new date, please either:

Log in to the u3a website, open the event listing and send an email to Peter Shields by clicking on [Contact by email](#) or Email prcomms@holmeschapelu3a.org.uk

Please note that this is a u3a members only event. We hope you will be there!

Peter Shields
PR & Comms

AFTERNOON TEA

2 - 4pm, 7th & 8th August 2021

23 St Oswald's Crescent, Brereton CW11 1RW



Early in March this year my Mum died from Alzheimer's, but her life was much more than a disease. She enjoyed many things such as afternoon teas, chatting, listening to music, and singing, especially hymns. So, with this in mind I thought it would be a nice idea to bring people together to enjoy what my mum enjoyed. I also wanted to take the opportunity to raise some money for St Luke's Organ and Lightning Appeal and the Alzheimer's Society.

The afternoon teas will be served between 2 and 4pm, on Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th August. Vegetarian and Vegan options will be offered. Just let me know when you buy your ticket. Please note I cannot guarantee that some foods may contain nuts. This event is ticket only, costing £5 per person. Just give me call me on the number below and I will deliver your tickets to your home.

There's wheelchair access and plenty of room to spread out in the garden. We are keeping our fingers crossed for good weather, but if not, seating will be available inside. There will also be an opportunity to have a look round the garden while listening to music, buy a few cakes to take home and raffles.

Contact details

Gill Brickwood – email: gill.brickwood@yahoo.co.uk

mobile: 0752 885 0303

Jayne Weaver – email: jayne.weaver@a365uk.co.uk

mobile: 0774 832 8032



DEMENTIA ACTION WEEK UPDATE



'Thank you so much for entrusting us with your kind donation of £1030.00. Please pass on our thanks to everyone in Holmes Chapel for their efforts for this fantastic amount raised. It really is very appreciated. Your donations are vital to us as these uncertain times begin to come to an end' reads the opening paragraph of a letter received from the Alzheimer's Society following our fund raising during Dementia Action week.

You may recall that the weather during dementia action week was not the best for hosting friends in the garden but, Dorothy Davidson, our Dementia Friendly Community lead, reiterates those thanks and admiration for those who worked around the weather and enabled us to forward this amazing amount which she understands will be put to work straight away towards not only providing essential services for those affected by dementia but also towards much needed research into this disease.

IT'S SHOW TIME AGAIN!



**Holmes Chapel and District
are holding their
197th Gooseberry Show**

When?

Saturday 31st July 2021

Where?

At the Victoria Club
Victoria Avenue
Holmes Chapel

Cost?

Free Admission
all welcome

Last year's winning display of gooseberries!

The weighing of the berries starts at 1pm. With lots of different classes to judge they expect to have come up with the winners by approx: 5pm

The bar will be open and the berries will be on display there after the show.

Growing and showing gooseberries in this way is an old tradition that has died out almost everywhere else in the country. If you want to learn more, go along on 31st July or look up gooseberry shows on the internet and discover this bit of living history!.

RHYTHM TIME CELEBRATES 21 YEARS



Local businesswoman, and long-standing Rhythm Time franchise owner Frances Donkin, is delighted to have celebrated an incredible 21 years of delivering music classes to babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers at Rhythm Time throughout Cheshire and North Staffs. .

Frances' Rhythm Time journey began when attending a mums and tots group in Balsall Common with Rhythm Time founder Kathy Doolan. Not only did Frances attend the first ever Rhythm Time class, but she was also the first Rhythm Time teacher, and the first Rhythm Time franchisee.

Frances says "At @RhythmTimeChesh we understand that early exposure to music supports all aspects of a child's development. Our age-appropriate classes have been created to help support your little one's early development through sensory play, gentle sounds, fun songs and lots of musical activities, making our classes the highlight of the week for many families.

Our classes have been adapted to provide the perfect opportunity to make new friends and share special moments all in a clean and safe environment."

Frances hosted a week-long timetable of music and fun throughout Cheshire and North Staffs for this milestone birthday starting on World Music Day on Monday 21st June, with fancy dress parties for all 80 classes throughout the week, family zoom classes for nurseries, competitions, online birthday themed crafts, story time, TikTok, plus lots more!

It's not too late to join the fun!

Classes are held in HOLMES CHAPEL every Friday! Book your place today ...
<https://rhythmtime.net/find-a-class/>

PLUS all customers receive FREE access to our ONLINE Hub full of extra age-appropriate classes & activities for you to enjoy 24/7, in the comfort of your own home.

Follow the fun on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/rhythmtimechesh/>
Instagram.... <https://www.instagram.com/rhythmtimechesh/>

NEWS

HOLMES CHAPEL RAILWAY STATION CORNER

July 2021



Following on from last month, all the planting troughs are now finished and the new plants bedding-in. During the recent dry spell we had a rota system for watering to make sure the plants have the best chance of surviving. We have also received an award since the last Newsletter!



The recent pandemic-delayed Cheshire Best Kept Stations Award ceremony.

Photo attached shows (from L – R) Julie Barber (Volunteers & Friends of Holmes Chapel Railway Station and Viaduct), Geoffrey Males (Volunteers & Friends of Holmes Chapel Railway Station and Viaduct), Lindsay Wright (Volunteers & Friends of Holmes Chapel Railway Station and Viaduct), Tony Wright (Volunteers & Friends of Holmes Chapel Railway Station and Viaduct), Mark Barker (Chair, Cheshire Best Kept Stations), Rebecca Styles (Regional Community and Sustainability Manager, Northern Trains Ltd) & Mike Street (Councillor for Holmes Chapel Parish Council).

The ceremony was originally planned for January 2021.



The Volunteers and Friends of Holmes Chapel Railway Station were delighted to receive the award as we do our best to make the Station a pleasant environment for the local community, passengers and visitors to Holmes Chapel. The presentation complied with the Government and Northern requirements and face masks were removed very briefly for the photographs.

We are fortunate in having the full support of Northern Rail and the Parish Council in carrying out our work. Graham Blake, the Station Master is very pleased with the award, the plaque is now on display in the booking office.



This image shows the plaque being held by Tony Wright from the friends group with Mark Barker in the middle (Chair, Best Kept Stations) and Mike Street from the Parish Council to the right.

Lastly, you may have read my recent Holmes Chapel Railway Station Corner article about the September 14th 1941 rail accident at Holmes Chapel Railway Station when nine people lost their lives. The application for funding from Northern Rail to mark the anniversary was approved a few days ago and I am organising a memorial bench and brass plaque. All being well we hope to install the bench over the Summer and mark the 80th anniversary in September by attaching the brass plaque plus a short ceremony. The bench will offer a seat for passengers waiting for taxis and friends and relatives to meet them after their train journeys .

Tony Wright

NEWS FROM FRIENDS OF GOOSTREY STATION

Debbie and Sian are in the building!



Artist Debbie Goldsmith talks to FoGS members inside the station building

To explain - artist Debbie Goldsmith and leather worker Sian Tudor Jones now have the key to the restored station building at Goostrey Station. Debbie and Sian have a vision : 'We hope to build an exciting creative space where we can not only house our working studios but also hold workshops, exhibitions and educational activities.' At present the contracts are being finalised and there are negotiations with Northern rail about matters such as electricity meters.

On 25th May, during the presentation to FoGS of a sixth award from the Cheshire Best Kept Stations (CBKS) competition, Debbie and Sian were able to allow members to enter for the first time since the refurbishment was completed in 2019. The outside of the windows had been spring cleaned beforehand and inside, as well as paintings and leather goods, there was a display of photos showing the stages of the refurbishment. Everyone was impressed!



Jarvis and Craig Sidebotham holding the Special Award from CBKS

Mike Jarvis, former chair of FoGS, accepted the CBKS Special Award on behalf of the whole team. Members had been asked to nominate the project that they were most proud of. In his speech Mike said 'Our main aim when FOGS was formed some 7 or 8 years ago was to persuade the railway companies to renovate our Victorian former ticket office, of which there are few examples left in the whole country.

We also wanted it to be brought back into use in some form. We have achieved that goal and it's fitting that we have with us today Debbie Goldsmith and Sian Tudor Jones who plan be the first occupants of the building for many years. Their aim is to form working Art and Leather Studios with Education Workshops for adults and children.'

Mike went on to explain that 'This was made possible thanks to Network Rail and The Railway Heritage Trust (RHT) who together funded the £150K renovation project. It is also highly appropriate that we have with us Mark Barker from CBKS who introduced us to Andy Savage at the RHT, and Rebecca Styles from Northern Rail with whom the letting contract has been arranged.'



FoGS members celebrate their sixth award from CBKS

During the FoGS working party on 13th June, the new totem was attached to the wall of the road bridge. At the same time, members admired the recently planted tubs of flowering plants and the new exhibition of art work in the platform shelter.

Year 4 at Goostrey Community Primary School have a display inspired by Carol Ann Duffy's book called *The Lost Happy Endings*. The children have written poems and stories with twisted endings to traditional tales. The title of one is 'Goldilocks and the Side Order of Potatoes' - intriguing! It's well worth a look whether you're a passenger or just out for a walk or cycle ride. Chair of FOGS, Dave Roberts emailed members after the working party saying 'It was really good to see everyone's enthusiasm with the various activities. The mounting of the recent CBKS award adjacent to the five previous awards really highlights FOGS achievements at the station.'



Left: Sian Tudor Jones with a display of her leather craft

Have you thought about becoming a Friend of Goostrey Station? Our monthly working parties have started again and new members are always welcome to join us. Some people sweep, some tend the plants and others bring their DIY skills. There are jobs to be done at home too, such as negotiating the purchase and installation of a bike rack and display cabinets for artwork. You can find out more about FOGS from our website friendsofgoostreystation.org.

You can also talk to Dave Roberts (chair) on 01477 544779 or Craig Sidebotham (vice chair) on 07526 704218.

If you missed it in May there is another chance to see this interesting and delightful garden featuring herbaceous borders, unusual trees, flower meadows, woodland and ponds. All wildlife friendly. Mr and Mrs Foden would like to welcome you to ...



ROWLEY HOUSE

**Kermincham
CW4 8DX**

Sunday 11th July 2021

from 11am to 4.30pm

Entry £5 for adults Children free

(the correct change would be appreciated!)

- **Dogs welcome**
- **Easy parking on site, toilet**

The ladies of Swettenham Parish will be serving teas - proceeds to the Church of St Peter's Swettenham.

The garden is being opened under the National Garden Scheme (NGS)

NGS raises around £3 million nationwide for such charities as: Macmillan, Marie Curie, Hospice UK, Parkinson's, Queen's Nursing Inst. Mind and many others.



WHAT'S ON

It's coming! Get in touch to find out more or join our Facebook page. Details below.



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COMMUNITY PRESENT

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