

HOLTON ST MARY

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

WEDNESDAY 24th APRIL 2019
8 PM IN HOLTON ST MARY VILLAGE HALL

Appendix A
reports

REPORT TO PARISHES, Mid-Samford Ward: April 2019
Suffolk County Councillor, Gordon Jones.

Take part in the 2019 Suffolk Walking Festival

With over 120 walks and events the 2019 Suffolk Walking Festival is shaping up to be to the most creative and ambitious to date. Saturday 11 May at West Stow Country Park. All walks are ticketed, and all tickets must be purchased in advance. To find out more and buy tickets visit www.suffolkwalkingfestival.co.uk

Suffolk Record Office achieves national accreditation

On 28 March it was announced that Suffolk Record Office has been awarded Archive Service Accreditation. This ensures the long-term collection, preservation and accessibility of our archive heritage. Accreditation is the UK quality standard which recognises good performance in all areas of archive service delivery. The new Heritage and Archives Centre in Ipswich, being created as part of this project, is set to open its doors in Spring 2020. It will replace the existing Ipswich Record Office in Gatacre Road,

Alongside a new bespoke heritage facility for the county’s archives, The Hold project will provide greater access to Suffolk’s archives via digital content, as well as a wide range of events and activities across the whole county, bringing people closer to Suffolk’s history than ever before.

Suffolk’s recycling centres opening hours

All 11 of Suffolk County Council’s centres will be open from 9am to 5pm every day from Monday 1 April to September, including Bank Holidays. The new times will give residents an extra hour to recycle their waste during the summer months. On Thursdays from May to August, all sites will be open until 7pm -All sites will be closed on Wednesdays.

Suffolk Day.

Suffolk Day is returning for its third year on June 21, with everything from guided walks and treasure hunts to live broadcasts and competitions set to take place across the county. Anybody interested in taking part can search for opportunities or register their own event on the [Suffolk Day website](#).

One of the more poignant events on Suffolk Day will be the annual Suffolk Remembers service. Organised by St Elizabeth Hospice, and sponsored by East of England Co-Op Funeral Services, it is the opportunity to celebrate the lives of loved ones no longer with us by dedicating a candle in their memory. This year, the aim is to light 5,000 candles –

1,000 more than last time – on Felixstowe seafront, on the evening of June 21. If you would like to know more, visit the [Suffolk Remembers website](#).

Suffolk successful in winning £1.725m in extra funding for business broadband roll out.

Suffolk County Council, working in partnership with West Suffolk Council, East Suffolk Council of Suffolk Coastal and Waveney, and Babergh and Mid Suffolk district councils has been successful in securing £1.725 million from the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs. It will contribute to providing Superfast Broadband access to many businesses across Suffolk's most rural areas, who are not in plans to receive Superfast Broadband as part of the current fibre broadband rollout.

The funding will cover connection to over 550 businesses across the county where current internet speeds are limited to lower speed connection methods. This funding will also reach a further 600 non-business-related premises who will be able to upgrade to superfast speeds. Suffolk has been at the forefront of fibre broadband rollout, via its Better Broadband for Suffolk Program, since 2010 and currently the county enjoys a superfast broadband coverage of 93%, with the current contract due to reach 98% by 2020. The additional funding will contribute towards meeting some of the remaining 2% of the county that is not covered by the existing contracts. Work on connecting these new areas will begin later in 2019.

More than 96% of pupils receive a Preferred Secondary School on National Offer Day

On 1 March, Suffolk confirmed secondary school places for Year 7 and Year 9 pupils in 2019/2020. This year, Suffolk County Council (SCC) received 7,921 applications and over 96.5% of parents were offered a place at one of their preferred schools. Some 7130 applicants received offers for their first preference school and 7651 applicants received an offer for one of their three preferred schools.

Care Quality Commission ratings for Adult Social Care Locations

Analysis of the CQC data for 1 March 2019 shows that Social Care Locations in Suffolk (including Domiciliary Care Agencies, Residential and Nursing Care), are more frequently rated Good or Outstanding than the national average. When looking at similar Local authority areas (based on demographics and geography), Suffolk is ranked 3rd out of 16. Nationally, Suffolk is currently ranked 17th out of 156 Local Authority areas, for the percentage of Social Care Locations rated as Good or Outstanding.

REPORT TO PARISHES, Mid-Samford Ward: April 2019

Babergh District Councillor, Sue Carpendale sue.carpendale@babergh.gov.uk

Forthcoming key decisions to be taken by Leader and Cabinet

As the four-year term of the current Babergh Council comes to an end, the future programme of key decisions for existing activity continues. Financial matters will include approving the out-turn for both the General Fund and the HRA, but the new Council will very quickly (June) be considering the Elmsett NHP and agreeing a draft Joint Local Plan for further consultation. This will set out the preferred strategic policies, development management policies and site allocations to guide and support development in the two districts. In July, Cabinet will be approving the CIFCO Business Plan for 2019/20. The last full Council in March created a third Director appointment for a councillor, to ensure that the Board meetings are more likely to be quorate.

Joint Communities Strategy

This was recently the subject of a public consultation. It received a mixed response. Given the decisions taken by Babergh on many planning matters, often in conflict with local and parish views, some consultees were reluctant to provide feedback. I put this discontent to the officers leading the strategy development. They accept that planning matters have and are continuing to affect Babergh's relationship with many communities – which they acknowledged in the draft. They believe that people need to understand much more about planning policy, and to understand the positive impacts for people seeking a home for the first time, for older people wishing to downsize, for jobs and services – many of which are under threat in our smaller communities. The council's "Communities" role is a nebulous one – difficult to define. At the very least it must generate a far better connection between the Council and residents, and be more about developing a relationship than imposing council decisions. It has often not felt like that. The locality role, for example, has disappeared, and perhaps needs to be re-established. The strategy claims to respond to the big changes which will affect our communities. These include changes in our demographics, the economy, growth and planning issues, and the environment. It recognises the value of volunteers, will empower people who want to do more and should leverage the characteristics of "communities that work" so that other communities can share the learning. The strategy was approved at the March Council, and will run until 2036, alongside the emerging Joint Local Plan.

Motions on Notice to the Council

There have been a few of these of late. The two presented to the March Council concerned adopting Unison's "End Violence at Work" Charter, and one, (which was withdrawn on the day, considered too unpopular) calling for an investigation into installing a multi-storey car park in Sudbury.

Chairman's Report

I would like to welcome you all to the Annual Parish Meeting for Holton St Mary and before we get down to the nitty gritty of the reports, I want to reference that the Electoral Boundary changes have now come into force. Local elections are on the 2nd May. Our discussions this evening are limited by Purdah, which basically means we can't take personal credit for things our collective council has undertaken or achieved, and we can't tell you what any of us might want to achieve after election day on 2nd May. There are no changes to the Parish Council boundary but for District Council this means that Holton St Mary is now part of the Brett Vale constituency, which will have one District Councillor.

Holton St Mary combines with Polstead, Layham, Raydon and a couple of other small Villages but it means we will lose both of our current elected Councillors, Sue Carpendale and Fenella Swan.

We have a small gesture to say thank you for representing us, and I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Sue in particular, who has been our District Councillor for more years than I have been on the Parish Council and has always fought our corner, in representing Holton St Mary.

I would also like to introduce John Ward, who is the current leader of Babergh District Council and is one of the candidates standing in the forthcoming DC election for this constituency. John is not staying for the whole meeting as he has the Layham APM tonight too, and is their existing District Councillor. I just want to invite John to introduce himself and thank him for attending this evening.

2018-19 saw no changes to our elected Parish Council but did mark the replacement of our longstanding Parish Clerk, Dot Steeds with Anne Wicks. Inevitably this has meant some changes in styles of working, with Anne trying to move us away from paper and towards electronic documents and records. There will be a change to your elected Council in 2019 with our long-standing

member Riet Howard standing down and she will be replaced by Janice Cheng. I can tell you this because although the elections are not until 2 May 2019, there were only 7 nominees for Parish Council so our election is uncontested. Seven is the total number of Councillors so there is a full Parish Council. I know we are fortunate to have this, as talking to friends and colleagues in other Suffolk areas, there is a decline in people willing to represent their local citizens. So a personal thank you from me to all of our Parish Councillors, and other Community volunteers and active contributors for standing now, and previously. We have a small token to thank Riet Howard for her long and sterling service to our community.

Moving on to the issues that have exercised your Parish Council this year, I want to draw out one or two issues. Many of these relate to highway matters and you will hear reports relating to road safety, the speeding vehicles and deteriorating road surface from the Council Members that have led on these matters. I must say from a personal perspective, the direct approach; going and

meeting with a number of the key businesses whose vehicles regularly pass through the Village has resulted in a noticeable slowing of their commercial vehicles as they drive through Holton St Mary. We very much welcome this and I hope that you have also noticed the improvements.

Through collaboration with our County Councillor, Gordon Jones, we have also had the County Council Cabinet Member for highways out to see for herself the issues we have. I won't go into any more detail or the report content will be covered.

Away from roads, all of our footpaths are in good order and have been regularly monitored, along with trees. Keith Jeffreys continues to be our Tree Warden. I note that the Oak tree in the grounds of Long Acre now has a preservation order to prevent its' removal. Unfortunately it had already been pollarded at the point this happened and so it is a much reduced specimen and will take many years to recover.

With regard to planning, our approach can be described, I think, as one of tolerance. We have not objected to any changes to people's homes, but may have commented where outbuildings such as garage change proposals would impact on light, road visibility or neighbours. We have also taken a proportionate approach to planning applications for additional properties. This year, we felt that three bungalows in the garden of Long Acre was over-development but the District Council disagreed and granted the proposal. You may recall we also objected to a proposal for 9 or ten houses between the Holton Hall Farm Open Barn and the rest of the Village last year. I know a number of residents also wrote and they will be aware that the proposer Andrew Philpot, has taken

this to appeal. The Planning Inspector only reviews decisions once every few years and fortunately, this was the only appeal impacting on HSM. We did submit further comments, including one relating to the exclusion of an email from an official in the BDC Planning Department to the Proposer - I cannot help wondering if its exclusion from the published paperwork is because it raises the proposer's expectations inappropriately, ahead of the decision. As of today, the decision on that appeal remains outstanding, and the original decision to refuse, may be overturned.

Parish Council Financial Report

Holton St Mary is now classed as a small authority and is exempt from the audit of the annual return. A copy of the assets register, the certificate of Exemption and the Governance and Accountability Statements for the year are available on the village website. The accounts for the year 2018-2019 have not yet been audited by the Internal Auditor.

Income comprised of the Precept at £4722 and Transparency Fund application: £488
Bank Interest: continued to be small due to low interest rates.

Expenditure. The main differences from the previous year are an increase in Grounds Maintenance work, the purchase of a new notice board for Bacons Green, the cost of refurbishment of the Village Hall gates and the inauguration of the website. No costs for resurfacing of Church Square or Phone box, they were all paid for in 2017.

Accounts for the year 2018/19 have not yet been sent to the auditor

**HOLTON ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2018**

	<u>31st March 18</u>	<u>31st March 17</u>
<u>RECEIPTS</u>		
Precept	4,722.00	4,590.00
Grant	0.00	49.50
Bank Interest	3.58	2.06
VAT Repayment	0.00	1,066.65
Transparency Fund	488.81	
<u>TOTAL RECEIPTS</u>	5,214.39	5,708.21
<u>PAYMENTS</u>		
General Administration	311.30	305.39
Subscriptions: SALC/Suffolk ACRE/NALC/SLCC	149.01	244.49
S137 Poppy Wreath	20.00	20.00
Clerk's/Councillors' Training Courses	146.40	0.00
Insurance	354.87	341.70
Clerk's Salary incl. PAYE	2,399.88	2,369.80
Grounds Maintenance	890.00	535.00
Village Floral Decorations	49.90	0.00
Village Hall Hire	112.00	128.00
Internal Audit	120.00	118.00
Dog Litter Bin Emptying	49.55	49.55
CPAD	63.00	0.00
Resurfacing of Church Sq	0.00	5,964.00
Painting of Phone Box	0.00	220.00
Bacons Green Noticeboard	956.72	
Village Hall Gates	280.80	
Website	60.00	
<u>PAYMENTS</u>	5,963.43	10,295.93
Presented chq from 16-17	52.00	
<u>TOTAL PAYMENTS</u>	6,015.43	
<u>SURPLUS/DEFICIT FOR YEAR</u>		
Bank Balances at 1st April (Beginning of year)	749.04	4,587.72
Bank Balances at 31st March (End of year)	6,396.12	10,983.84
	5,647.08	6,396.12
<u>STATEMENT OF MONETARY ASSETS</u>		
Current Account	348.97	1,137.59
Instant Access Saver Account	5,314.11	5,310.53
<u>TOTAL CASH</u>	5,663.08	6,448.12
Unpresented cheques	16.00	52.00
Balance after unpresented cheques	5,647.08	6,396.12

Speeding and Road Issues

The past year has seen a further official census of village-traffic. Its findings confirmed what we all feel, of a gradual, but inexorable rise in traffic-volume (of all shapes and sizes) and frequent speeding, with well over 50% of all vehicle movements exceeding the prosecutable speed. The Police speed-camera van continues to make its seasonal appearances, remaining for a few hours but usually at off-peak periods, but with some success. We hope to see progress with soon with the average speed camera system. This may have been facilitated by the visit of Suffolk County Councillor and Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Rural Affairs, Mary Evans on 10th May. She witnessed the traffic problem (size, speed and volume) and also the appalling road surface, and its poor repair, in many sections throughout the village. We have visited the three companies in Notley Enterprise Park ('LJ Recovery'; 'Phillips' and 'Fleet Automatic') whose vehicles comprise of over 90% of all HGV traffic. All three were understanding and receptive to our concerns. At our request they have asked their drivers, and their sub-contractors, to reduce their speed to 20-25 mph. Thus far we feel this request has been generally heeded. We maintain regular contact with all three on a quarterly basis, to update them on the results of their new speed policy. We would ask the community to let us know if they consider drivers are not compliant with this policy (please give us the company and the date and time if possible). Finally, we will continue to represent your views on both traffic and the road surface to the relevant District and County Council Departments.

Mark Anderson, Richard Appleton

Constable Country Patient Participation Group report to parish

There are currently 10 PPG members and we usually meet monthly, with a break in December and August. Our contact details and photographs are up on the notice-boards in both waiting rooms and minutes of our meetings are posted on the practice website. Some of the activities we have contributed to during the year have included:

- **Capel Parish Nurses Health Fair** June 30th 2018 – we were pleased to be able to provide a stand for this well attended event run by the Capel Parish Nurses
- **Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspections:** We are interviewed by the inspectors at each inspection and provide evidence of our activities. The next inspection will take place on April 24th. We were very disappointed that the practice received a “requires improvement” score last year. This was largely based on patient survey results, carried out by NHS England between January and March of the previous year. We felt it did not reflect the hard work put in by all the staff at the practice to make improvements to the service patients receive.
- **NHS 70th:** We were able to contribute to NHS 70th anniversary celebrations in July 2018: in Capel St. Mary our event was hosted by the Beacon coffee shop, where tea and cakes were provided and in Holton St. Mary we provided strawberries and cream for the monthly lunch club. Contributions raised by those attending have funded toys and children’s books in both waiting rooms. Many thanks to all the helpers.
- **Flu days:** we have helped out at the flu clinics every year since 2015.
- **Christmas drinks and nibbles:** In December we hosted (non-alcoholic) drinks and nibbles for patients and staff in both surgeries.
- A number of us also attend quarterly **PPG network meetings**, where we hear about initiatives in other GP practices in our area. This can be very helpful.
- **“Mystery shopper” phone calls.** In September and October 2018 a number of us undertook to ring the surgery at certain times during the week to find out what appointments were available and how long we had to wait to be answered. On Monday mornings over 4 weeks, we found that the maximum wait was 12 minutes. There were generally appointments available, but availability was sometimes affected by staff sickness. Mondays and Fridays are the busiest days in the practice.
- **Community Infrastructure Levy** – we responded to issue raised by village residents about health facilities in the practice. These had been responses to

the survey carried out by Capel St. Mary parish council. There had been considerable concerns about the size of the premises at Capel and the lack of capacity, given the number of large planning applications currently in the pipeline. We were able to respond to these concerns and to demonstrate that the future of the Capel surgery was not in doubt. The surgery has since been modernised and the waiting room extended. We also asked that the external appearance of the premises be improved and litter, etc. removed and this was done.

Doctors at the practice

There are currently four GP partners at the practice: Drs Victoria, Tetteh, Vincent and Parikh. Dr. Nasta works part time as a salaried GP and Dr. Johal is joining the practice one day a week, having previously worked here as a locum.

Nursing staff, receptionists and other members of the team are all listed on the website: <http://www.constablecountrymedicalpractice.co.uk/staff1.aspx?t=2>

Patient comments and complaints

Over the last year we have continued to monitor the comments and complaints we receive. Patients can either post these in our comment boxes in either surgery or email us at constablecountryppg@gmail.com Occasionally we also pick up comments on social media. We discuss these with the practice manager and GPs at our monthly meetings. The practice also has feedback forms and there is a "smiley faces" board in the East Bergholt waiting room. The results are noted each day for the latter, and there are usually far more happy faces than glum ones, we're pleased to say!

Patients attendance at appointments

As you will probably know patients receive text message confirmation of appointments. We asked earlier last year whether a reminder could be sent again nearer the appointment time in the hope that there would be fewer missed appointments. This was implemented, but it doesn't seem to have made any difference to the number of missed appointments. In addition, patients can now cancel appointments by text message. In February there were 88 missed appointments. The highest number of missed appointments was 39 with the practice nurse. As some of these are 40 minute slots, this is very concerning. We will be contacting another GP practice who are looking in detail at missed appointments to see what can be done.

On the upside, the vast majority of appointments are attended – around 1250 per week. The partners in the practice are currently intending to revise the way appointments are made and we will be helping them to engage with patients over the next few months. The new system will be implemented later in July. An online consultation service is also available – called "e-consult". Receptionists can also offer "GP plus" appointments in the evenings and weekends, which are provided by doctors in the Suffolk GP federation. These are generally in Ipswich.

And finally ... we are always happy to respond to any queries and to advise on the formal complaints process.

Kathy Pollard, Chair Constable Country Patient Participation Group, 14th April 2019

FaceBook report

If you are into social media you may like to join the Facebook group for the village. It is open to residents old and new, your friends, relatives and those from neighbouring villages who have a shared interest in our region. It is a very useful resource for sharing information such as local village events and others in the area, local news, photos, road closures, finding local tradespeople and so on. It also plays a role as an effective 'neighbourhood watch' by allowing any reports of local crime to be passed on quickly. If the weather is bad or you just can't get out and about much, the group is a great way to keep in touch with what's happening. Have a look on Facebook and search for 'Holton St Mary Group'. It is a closed group, so there will be a couple of simple questions to answer. We look forward to seeing you.

Parish Council AGM: Report on Parish Church Activities

2018 was a successful year for St Mary's, Holton.

Church attendances were again up on the previous year, averaging 34 for morning services excluding festivals. The principal services were well attended culminating in the carol service just before Christmas. As ever, we would welcome any new families who have moved to the village at any of our services.

Our rector Rosalind Paul left us in November 2018 and we have started the process to appoint her successor. We do not know how long this will take but it is unlikely to take less than 6 months so at best we might have a new incumbent by Christmas. Church services continue as normal (led by visiting priests) with one morning Communion service a month (usually the third Sunday of the month) held in the church starting at 10am and one said Evening Prayer a month on the first Sunday starting at 6.30pm in the summer months and 5pm in the winter months. Services are held every Sunday in one of the churches in the Benefice made up of Stratford, Higham, Raydon and Holton (see the Quartet magazine).

I would like to thank the Parish Council for organising and paying for the grass to be cut over the course of the year. This work which is carried out by Keith Jeffreys is much appreciated and helps to keep the churchyard looking tidy. I would also like to thank members of the village community who helped tidy the church and churchyard at our clean-up day held at the start of November.

The finances of the church are in good order and a copy of the accounts are posted in the church porch.

PAUL TORRINGTON

April 2019

HOLTON ST MARY UNITED CHARITIES TRUST

Balance as of 25th October 2018	£	4,796.63
MADE UP OF:		
Capital (from sale of Charity Field)	£	3931.75
Accrued rent and interest to 25/10/2018	£	864.88

The sum of £864.88 is available for charitable works.

An application to access these funds can be made to the trustees via Paul Torrington.

Social Club Report

The Club has had a steady year. The annual events were the Quiz in April and October, the Fireworks evening in November and for the second year running the Drinks and Canapés Lunchtime at Christmas, all of which proved successful.

Members attending the Drinks and Canapés were asked to fill in a questionnaire with suggestions for future events. 16 forms were returned, and the committee are now considering these with a view to incorporate some in the future.

Membership peaked at 85 with 7 life members.

Just to clarify the current Licensing Laws, we would like to take this opportunity to update villagers on how we are licensed. The Club operates on a "Club Premises Certificate", which only allows it to supply alcohol owned by the Club to its members and their guests in the Village Hall.

A TENS (Temporary Event Notice) is required by the club for any event serving alcohol outside of the hall or if any alcohol not owned by the club is supplied when the Club is open. Event organisers will need to obtain a TEN for any event where there is a 'pay bar' or where 'free' alcohol is included in the price of a ticket or donations are made in exchange for drinks. It is worth noting that bottles of alcohol as prizes in Raffles and Tombola are exempt from the need for TEN as well as invitation only private parties where no profit is to be made. Please do not hesitate to contact any member the Club committee if any clarification is required.

For the year April 2018 - 19 the Club reported a profit of £124.82, whilst covering at no cost to members, Fireworks Night, Drinks & Canapés Event and drinks for the 11/11 Village Celebration.

In the year ahead the Club is planning further Quiz nights , Fireworks and the Progressive Dinner. We are also trialling early opening on a Friday night in May and in June, looking at a trip to a Vineyard and holding a Casino Night later in the year. The Committee would like to thank all this who help with the bar and organising the events, and of course the members who frequent on Fridays, Sundays and the events.

On behalf of the Social Club Bob Holmes Chairman

Village Hall Management Committee report April 2019

In relative terms 2018 was a quiet year for the hall committee.

After 40 years on the committee Rachel Eagle retired at the end of July and has since left the village. It was agreed that the work she did should be split and now Rob Clarke has taken on the general secretarial duties and Tanya Kunz has joined the committee to become bookings secretary.

A review of key holders took place and a security box was fitted to the outside wall, thus less people hold keys.

Our crockery was also reviewed as there was insufficient large plates for the adult diners of the Church run Sunday lunch, as a result Joe Wells very kindly donated a large quantity of new crockery to the hall. Sadly the Church fund raising committee did not run the Sunday lunch this year.

Our large water usage was also investigated and by adjusting the flow regulator in the mens' cloakroom the flushing system has been reduced from an unnecessary 16 flushes per hour to 2.

The water saving being considerable.

Rose and Gil Mann recently resigned as hall cleaners and Lisa Thompson has kindly stepped in to continue their good work.

Financially the hall is holding its own at the moment but we really could do with some new users following the loss of the bowls club.

Finally I would like to thank our management team who work so well together to keep it in good fettle for all to use throughout the year.

Chris Haste
Chairman

Current committee members.

C. Haste, Chairman. A. Beak, Treasurer. R. Clarke, General Secretary. Tanya Kunz, Bookings Secretary. G. White, J. Cheng, P. Longmate, E Ellis (Holton St. Mary PC representative.)

HOLTON ST MARY MILLENNIUM GREEN TRUST

Annual Report for the Year to 31st December 2018

Background

The Holton St Mary Millennium Green Trust is constituted by Deed of Trust and is a registered charity No 1075419. Its address is c/o Mrs M J Haste, Elmhurst, Hadleigh Road, Holton St Mary, Colchester CO7 6NS. The Declaration of Trust was made on 12th April 1999 and the charity was registered on 10th May 1999. The charity trustees during the year to 31/12/2018 were: Mr Christopher Clark - Chair, Mr Bob Holmes-Treasurer, Mrs Marjorie Haste - Secretary, Mr Ian Pearce, Mrs Gretel Maddison, Mrs Pam Quare, Mr Keith Jeffreys. Mr Christopher Clark and Mr Ian Pearce retired during the year and were replaced by Mr C W (Bill) Priestley and Ms Tanya Kunz. Mr Holmes was appointed to represent Holton St Mary Club and Mr Jeffreys was appointed to represent Holton St Mary Parish Council. The remaining trustees are appointed by the Board of Trustees for renewable terms of four years. The object of the charity is to provide and maintain the open space known as 'Holton St Mary Millennium Green' for the benefit of the inhabitants and to be used forever as an area for informal recreation, play or other leisure time activities, or place for community events for the general benefit of the community. Bank:- Lloyds TSB, 41, High Street, Hadleigh, Ipswich, Suffolk IP7 5AE

The land, previously known as the Town Pightle, was purchased by the Trust in February 2000 and is vested in the Official Custodian. Following the purchase additional grants were received from the Countryside Agency, the Parish Council and the Babergh District Council/Co-op Initiative.

Finance This year we have a surplus of £522 mainly due a slight increase in the support of 100 Century Club and no major expenditure this year. We currently have over £8000 in an interest account and £1330 in the current account which leaves the Trust in healthy position.

The Year's Activities Pam Quare was appointed Chair following Chris Clark's departure. Keith Jeffreys has attended courses on Meadow and Woodland Management and will use this knowledge in the maintenance of the Green. During the year the Sundial feature was clearly in need of some TLC and a working party lifted the original and relaid the various parts, one new number was made after the original was broken by being clipped by the mower. Many thanks to all the Trustees for their on-going commitment. Also Chris Haste who has regularly cut the grass, monitored the bird boxes and helped with the hedge and general maintenance. The 100 Century Club continued to be very well supported and this is much appreciated as the money raised funds the care and maintenance of the Green. The draw now takes place at the Friday village lunch every three months with the December one being drawn in November to give recipients time to cash the cheques before the end of the year.

The Trustees will continue to work hard to enhance this valuable asset to our village.
Pamela Quare For and on behalf of the Board of Trustees

First Friday of the Month Lunch Club - Report for 2018

The First Friday of the Month Club which started in May 2015 continues to be a very popular event in the village.

During the course of 2018 336 lunches were served. This is an average of 30 per lunch, with the most number lunches served in November and December (42) and the fewest served in July (24). As with previous years there was no lunch in August.

The price per head was increased from £2.50 to £3.50 from January 2018.

In November the lunch was actually held on the second Friday, 9th November, to coincide with the Battles Over commemorations. This was a themed lunch with Bangers, Mash, Peas and Onion Gravy and Trench Cake and Poppy Biscuits. Lunchers were asked to pay the nominal sum of a shilling for their lunch. However lunchers did make additional donations and we were able to send £145.70 to be split equally between The Royal Naval Association, Seafarers UK (King George's Fund for Sailors), The Royal Airforce Benevolent Fund, ABF The Soldiers Charity

From 'profits' raised by the lunches the group were able to pay for the printing and framing of the new Roll of Honour which is displayed in the church, and to fund the light refreshments for the Battle's Over party held in the church on the evening of Sunday 11th November.

Approximately 24 villagers have helped run these lunches during 2018, and many more have helped with the washing up and clearing away. Special thanks should go to: Alan Beak, Janice Cheng, Caroline Favell, Antonia Harvie, Marjorie and Chris Haste, Oliver Greene, Marion Gill, Greta and Gerald Godden, Jinny and Mike Hay, Lynn McWatt, Shelia Morgans, Zarina Noel, Sally Pearce, Pam and Tudor Quare, Dot Steeds, Jean Styles, Sally Thurlow, Frances Torrington, Jacqueline Unwin, Barbara Yorke-Edwards. An extra special thank you should go to Sally Thurlow who cooked or helped at a total of five lunches during the year!

Slow Stitch.

In many ways the Slow Stitch group started when a Poppy Waterfall was made in 2017 for Remembrance Sunday and displayed inside the church entrance. Over thirty people were involved in that project and most were local. Mary and Jeanette set up the Slow Stitch group last autumn. The aim of the group is to get away from the fast pace of modern life, to slow down and relax whether it is through sewing, crochet, knitting embroidery or tapestry work. At the same time we enjoy a cup of tea and some company while being creative.

We have group projects and people also bring along their own projects. The group meets in the village hall between 2-4 pm every third Thursday of the month.

Beginners are welcome. If you just want to come for the tea and cake, then you too are most welcome. There is no charge, but donations are appreciated.

Jeanette Appleton and Mary Powell

Holton St Mary ‘Green Gym Group’

The ‘Green Gym Group’ developed following comments and concerns expressed by a number of village-folk over the condition, and specifically the safety, of some of the pavements. Following discussion with the other members of the Parish Council, it was felt appropriate to try and address these concerns. The name, ‘Green Gym Group’ was considered appropriate as it was felt it might appeal to people who enjoyed light gardening and exercise and which could be doubly-rewarding, for both individual and village. The objective would be to keep pavements safe and usable and free of moss and stones, tidying up some verges and other simple green jobs around the village. The Group meets in Church Square on the first Saturday of each month, between 10.30 and 12.30, assuming no torrential rain, blizzard or ice. The inaugural session was in December 2018 and the March session was marked by the planting of a living willow tunnel on the Millennium Green undertaken by a team of enthusiastic and energetic people, of all ages, and with representatives from the Trustees of the Millennium Green, Parish Council and the village community. We hope others will join us.

Richard Appleton (Parish Councillor)