

## **Annual Meeting of the Parish – 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

### **Report from Holcombe Playing Field Committee**

The Playing Field Committee have had a busy year, and we have striven to keep this essential village asset looking attractive for all to enjoy. Fundraising is clearly a major requirement, because maintenance of the playing field, play equipment, the barn, our orchard and trees is essential for the safety and enjoyment of our visitors but comes at an extremely high cost. We are fortunate that the Parish Council assists us with some funding, but we are keen to increase our fundraising efforts.

In the past year, we have held events such as a Treasure Hunt and Dog Walk, Christmas Wreath selling at the Christmas fair, and Christmas Tree light switch on and carols.

Maintenance has included:

Hedge cutting.

Barn improvements, to include cleaning gutters and cleaning and fixing the toilet, for which thanks must go to Elaine Emery.

Removing trees suffering from ash dieback.

Having the boules pitch cleaned up and supplying the rake for use as necessary, thanks to Vickie Watts.

Successful restocking of books in the Lychgate, which has proved popular.

Praise must go to Julie Hardy, who knitted the lovely soldier topping for the post-box for the DD landing, and watch out for the VE80 creation, in May!

Events we are planning for this year include organising a recruitment drive next week, on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March, from 19:00 at Holcombe Farmshop & Kitchen (The Duke), to encourage people to help us in our fundraising, as we're short on numbers to organise larger events. We hope a lot of people of all ages and abilities will come along to help us, and you would also be welcome to join our Committee, which meets every couple of months (in a pub!).

We also hope to run a Duck Race this year, possibly on 14<sup>th</sup> June, and our annual Lights On and Carols will, of course, take place in December. The more people we can recruit to help us, the more fun events we can organise! Ideas for events in July and August will be welcome.

We'd like to finish with a huge Thank You to Holcombe Farmshop & Kitchen, who have supported us unstintingly with refreshments for events and allowing us to use their café for our meetings. They are heartily appreciated for their involvement.