

I have been a regular visitor to Holly's tree, as you would imagine, and I'm always touched by your continued emotions that drive you to visit there too. I have seen young boys, who saw me up there and came over to enquire if I was ok as they said they were concerned. On another visit, as I reached the top of the hill, I saw a young girl of no more than fourteen years old standing under the tree and looking at the pictures of Holly. She was with no-one else and had made her own way there straight after school, what motivated her I can only guess. In a short conversation she did tell me that she knew of Holly and was saddened by her death. Not wishing to intrude on her solitude I thanked her and left her to her own thoughts. When I returned some twenty minutes later she was gone.

How utterly brilliant are some of the children in this town that they should care so much. That they should be respectful, kind and sympathetic. They stand as a living embodiment and a testament to your parenting skills and can only give us all hope for the uncertain tomorrows ahead.

During the recent snow storm, I went for a walk with my son, Elliott, to Holly's tree. It was so nice to see young children and adults playing and having fun on Radar Hill. Afterwards Elliott and I went for a walk beyond the tree. After climbing the barred gate at the top we turned left and entered a very short path overhung by two large hedges. At the end of the path we turned right and headed downhill. To our left was an open field and a view down and over the countryside toward the Four Witches Hill that leads up to Old Woodham. The sky suddenly seemed to fill at once with a thousand birds that took to the air above us.

We trudged on through the snow to the bottom of the hill and we came across a stream that borders two fields. Once over the stream you enter a small wood and we followed a path on the wood's perimeter until we came across yet more stunning views. I have included some of them for you in this post so that later on should you need an incentive to walk in our beautiful countryside, you'll find it right there in the pictures. I have no idea how much more idyllic the view will be in spring and summer. Perhaps you will go and see for yourself some time and I do promise you it is worth it.

On a slightly different tack, I found some headphones a while ago at Holly's tree and I still have them. If you have lost them, or know of anyone who has, then please contact me and I will get them back to you.

I have been in contact with the RSPCA and will be handing them a cheque at the Chelmsford branch in the next week or so. Again, this is done with your generosity, and was something that I mentioned we would be doing in Holly's memory.

Today I have ordered the two benches to be placed up on Radar Hill. Lindsay and myself have decided to have them made from oak and both are complete with arm rests. They are six feet in length and will be engraved with 'Holly' on one, and 'Dodge' on the other. The delivery is expected to be around two to three weeks' time. We are hoping that, although the wheels of the Council grind slowly, we won't have them sitting around too long before we can take them up the hill and you can start using them. Hopefully, once planning permission has been granted, the plan is to have one bench under the tree for those that

like the shade, and the other near the hedgerow for those that wish to bask in the coming summer sunshine. We have also instructed the company to recess a plaque in each with some words chosen by Lindsay and myself. The Holly Clacy Foundation will continue to work with the Councils and any future developers to strive for planning permission for the bench area.

I will take this opportunity to thank you all so much for your generosity to make these things happen. My family is happy and humbled to give these benches as gifts back to you. They will be there for you to sit and rest, and enjoy that spectacular view of our town.

David Clacy