

Holcot Parish Newsletter

Edition 4 – 2023

Welcome to the final newsletter of 2023. As usual you can find all the latest Parish Council news, upcoming events and village updates. The deadline for submissions for the next newsletter will be Friday 9th February 2024. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Thank you, Jenny. holcotvillagenewsletter@hotmail.com

Many thanks to all those residents and friends - and children - who contributed to the magnificent displays at this year's **Village Flower & Vegetable Show** on 3rd September, with their flowers, fruit, vegetables, arts & crafts, and "kitchen creations".



In view of the very challenging growing season this year, the horticultural judges were extremely impressed and said: "that this was the best show they'd seen in this very difficult year".



The "kitchen creations" judge commented on the sheer number of entries, adding "it is so encouraging that your show is so well supported". Under the superb skills of **Bob Buckler**, the auction was its usual riot of banter, hilarity and laughter.

The whole event raised over £120.



The 2024 Show will be on or about 1st September (tbc): to make sure you don't miss out on **this traditional village fun event**, put the date in your diary now!



... And, if you're planning to enter pickled items, don't forget the judge's tip that they should be made several months in advance of the show ...



BURNS NIGHT BARN DANCE JANUARY 2024 IN THE VILLAGE HALL – DISCOUNT IF YOU BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!

By popular request the 'Occasional Few' (complete with caller) will be returning next year on Friday, 26th January



2024 for a special **Burns Night Barn Dance**. The price will be £15 per person,

OR £12 FOR 'EARLY-BIRD' TICKETS ORDERED AND PAID-FOR BEFORE 12th JANUARY.

Prices include traditional 'Haggis, Neeps and Tatties'. Bring your own tippie.

Ticket numbers will be limited, so do order your tickets **NOW** by ringing either Phil on 07785 347 297, or Pam on 07884 078 179



Holcot Art Group currently has some vacancies.

If anyone would be interested in joining on a Thursday morning (currently 9.30am-midday), please ring Pamela Mann for more details. 01604 495249

TO ALL PARENTS OF CHILDREN 10-18 IN HOLCOT
- OR OTHER RESIDENTS WHO CAN SPARE THE ODD EVENING:

- Have your children ever attended the 'Holcot Hub' Youth Club, or would your children aged 10-18 like to enjoy a Youth Club in Holcot?
- If yes, then the Holcot Hub needs **YOU** - to offer to help **TAKE TURNS on a rota** as the 'second adult'.

Did you know that the village hall includes a fantastic facility for your children to have fun meeting-up and socialising with fellow Holcot teens?

It includes:



- ✓ table tennis table
- ✓ pool/snooker table
- ✓ darts
- ✓ social corner
- ✓ card- and board-games
- ✓ tuck sale
- ✓ own kitchenette and toilets



Right now, that's all standing **UNUSED**, and the children are missing-out on a lot of fun, because of the lack of parents offering to help as the 'second adult' (needed for safeguarding purposes).

If **YOU** feel you could offer **ANY** of your time to help, please call Jude for a chat about what's involved on 07762 085 588, or email her at judith.coles@hotmail.com. *Many thanks.*

[The sessions take place once a week during term time from 7pm until 8.30pm
- traditionally on a Tuesday, but that could be changed to suit availability]

**Summer 2024 Annual Holcot coach day-trip to London,
with optional play at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre**

**We usually book each year's trip early in January
First come, first served!**

So, if you want to ensure that you don't miss out on this great day out, please let Phil or Heather know **NOW**, so we can tell you when the date (and play) have been chosen. Call 07785 347 297 or email phil.scordellis@gmail.com

Return 'fare' for the coach is a share of the total cost: usually around £32-40 per adult (deposit £40 with booking; refund of any change on the day).
Under 19s £20 - if accompanied by paying adult.

(Tickets for the Globe Theatre option usually range from around £7 up to £40+)



Charity No. 1170448

Daventry Area Community Transport are currently looking for volunteer drivers within the wider Brixworth area. Driving your own car, you would help provide transport for villagers who need assistance travelling to and from medical appointments. You only need to commit to hours that suit you on a weekly basis and mileage allowance is paid. If you think you could help, please phone the DACT office on 01327 701665 for further information.

I am currently a volunteer and thoroughly enjoy being part of the team and getting to meet the passengers, who are always very grateful for the support given. I am happy to talk to anyone who may be interested. Jenny

Update from Holcot Parish Council

Road safety in Holcot – always our top priority (and financial/practical challenge). Progress has been made.

The Sywell Road chicane is due to be installed in late-January. This will necessitate a road closure for several days from the washbrook to the village gate – watch the website for updates. This work is being paid for by the remnants of our road safety “section 106” funds provided by the developers of Overstone Leys, and money from West Northamptonshire Council’s (WNC) rural traffic calming fund. The chicane has been a long time coming, but I am sure everyone hopes it has the desired impacts on traffic speeds.

Recently you will have seen new 20mph signs around Holcot. Whilst these are advisory, we hope that they draw drivers’ attention to the need to take more care and will contribute to reducing vehicle speeds. We are still awaiting information about new section 106 funding (from the Overstone Green developers) so that we can apply for legal 20mph limits and design the additional road safety changes I have outlined previously.

You may have noticed that the moveable VASID speed device has been shifted around recently – this will give us up-to-date statistics to allow us to determine whether the chicane and advisory signs make any discernable difference. We’ll let you know. On the subject of VASIDs, we have *in-principle* approval for a grant from the Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for a **second solar-powered device**. We are awaiting financial estimates, and expect that the VASID can be installed over the winter.

The improved **HGV 7.5t limit signage** WNC promised will be installed over the winter. There is no news on the use of **ANPR technology** to monitor HGVs flouting the restrictions. On these, and every other road safety matter, we continue to drive action.

Dog poo – Parishioners have reported a rise in the incidence of dog poo not being picked-up by owners. First, please **pick up after your dog** when it poos on footpaths or verges!

Second, as part of our reaction to this problem reoccurring, we have reinstated the ‘paw patrol’ where poo left on verges and paths is highlighted by temporary fluorescent spray paint to help remind owners to pick-up. We were delighted that 4 parishioners volunteered (two of whom don’t even have dogs!) to undertake an occasional walk around the village on a rota basis to highlight poo. Please **pick up after your dog**.

Lastly, from 3 October **WNC updated their Public Spaces Protection Order** (search for PSPO on WNC’s website). Amongst other things, this focuses on where dogs are allowed (not in playing fields for instance), the requirement to keep dogs on a lead in public places, **picking up poo**, and carrying the means to do so. It also covers smoking prohibitions in certain places (e.g.; children’s playgrounds). Recently, WNC put-up new signs to support this Order. The PSPO is supported by a reporting process, £100 fixed penalty notices, and fines.

Reporting problems – if you notice a streetlamp that is not working, please report it to Ruby (clerk@holcotvillage.co.uk) stating the location and the number on the pole. EON normally fix the lamp within 48 hours.

Ruby can also advise or help with any other problems you notice, excepting Highways issues such as potholes – report these direct to WNC via *fixmystreet* (there is a button on the Parish website home page).

Brief updates;

- The Cycle4Cynthia bicycle ride in aid of the **Cynthia Spencer Hospice** passed through Holcot on Sunday 17 September. Thanks everyone who waved the riders through. The Banter and Batter fun quiz the night before raised over £700 for the hospice – thanks again everyone!
- Each year the Parish Council sets aside money to provide **grants to Parish community groups and facilities**. The closing date for applications this year is 30 November. If your community group would like to consider applying please get in touch with Ruby for a form and the scheme rules.
- Following the success of the **community barn dance** to mark the coronation of the King, a similar event is being organised for Friday 26 January to celebrate Burns Night. See elsewhere for details.

And finally... we provide greater detail in website posts - sign-up for email notifications of posts if you haven’t already. The minutes of Parish Council meetings are another great source of information – they are published on the website each month. Also, everyone is invited to come along to Parish Council meetings to observe or speak (usually 3rd Monday of each month in the Church Room – check the website for agenda).

Any problems signing up for website notifications, or to get a message out to Parishioners, email editor@holcotvillage.co.uk. **David Walker 10 November 2023**

Regular Dates for your Diary...

All events normally in Holcot Village Hall, Back Lane, unless otherwise specified

*For asterisked groups, please enter via Youth Wing (right-hand white door)

If you'd like to hire the Village Hall, or establish a regular user-group there, please contact the Booking Secretary via the website: <https://www.holcotvillage.co.uk/book-village-hall/>

Tuesday

9.00am 'Pilates with Louise': 07766 807184, or email pilateswithlouise@gmail.com

12.30-2.30pm Balanced Per Academy obedience classes for dogs – Holly Harte

balancedpetacademy@gmail.com 07892918771

*7.00-8.30pm 'Holcot Hub' youth club for children age 10-18. Term time only. 50p entry. Check dates with judith.coles@hotmail.com

Wednesday

6.00-7.00pm 'Strictly'-style Dance classes (Weekly) £7/class - Julie 07736 032606 or dancepod@hotmail.co.uk

Thursday

9.30-noon Art Club (Weekly) - Elizabeth Culley 01604 648566 / Pamela Mann 01604 495249

Holcot & Walgrave Beavers (6-8yrs) and Cub (8-10yrs) Scouts currently meet at Walgrave; Contact Kim on 07815070878 or email info@armarketing.co.uk

'IW' (previously the Holcot branch of WI): *monthly outings - or evening meetings in Church Rooms, Main Street*

- Kim Mabbutt 01604 781936 or Janet Wadley 01604 78194

Saturday

Interested in Drama or on-stage singing/dancing?

Pantomimes, variety shows, workshops for young people, etc - Heather Wilson 07785 347 297



The White Swan Christmas Opening Times

From Friday the 22nd December through to Tuesday 2nd January we will open at 12 noon till 11pm
With the exception of Christmas Day 12 noon to 2pm &
New Years Eve 12 noon till late.

And don't forget our New Years Eve party, with music, complimentary buffet and free admission, 8pm till late.

Everyone welcome!

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from us all at The White Swan.

'STRICTLY COME DANCING'
IS ALSO HERE,
IN YOUR OWN VILLAGE !



Do you enjoy 'Strictly Come Dancing'? You can learn the beginners' steps of 'Strictly Come Dancing' style **BALLROOM AND LATIN AMERICAN DANCES** at our Classes in the Village Hall. No partner necessary. It's not just great fun, but maybe it'll also get you fitter in time for Christmas?

It's not too late for complete beginners to join in! All ages welcome!

Ballroom/Latin Classes almost **every** Wednesday evening, from 6.00 to 7.00pm. Just £7 per person per session.

Alternatively, private lessons for individuals, or one or more couples, all dance requirements catered for, and tailored to suit you!

Holcot surely has the best Village Hall for miles around?



- Warm welcoming period atmosphere with many character features
- Yet with modern heating, lighting, kitchen, tables & chairs, sprung wooden floor, toilets, and disabled facilities
- Top class stage with curtains, for band, disco, or dramatics



However, since Covid, we've plenty of spare slots because several regular user groups just never re-formed.



YOUR VILLAGE HALL NEEDS YOU!

Call 07785 347 297 to come and take a look, either for **your party**, or to bring a new club or class to the village. For example, could **YOU, or do you know someone who could**, run a Yoga or Aerobics/Zumba class?

SPECIAL OFFERS TO VILLAGE RESIDENTS !

1. Discounted hire charges (rates for Main Hall):
Only £10.30/hr, children's daytime party £40, evening party £80.50
~ now with option (for Saturday evenings only) to pay for professional next-day clear-up
2. Now **NO** deposit for residents' party-bookings
3. For Holcot residents who'd like to **INTRODUCE**, or trial setting-up, a new regular user-group in the Village Hall
(or to re-start a previous regular user-group that hasn't met there in the previous 12 months):
To get your group up and running and **maybe even to provide free taster-sessions to your potential members, * book 4 initial taster sessions WITHOUT RENT ***
(There are of course a few conditions - for details, please see 'free taster sessions' link on: <https://www.holcotvillage.co.uk/function-and-meeting-venues/>)

St Mary and All Saints Church.



Back in August, a group of us from Brixworth and Holcot visited the British Museum in London. Our tour guide took us to see Mesopotamian, Assyrian, Babylonian, Greek and Roman artefacts. We saw that the archaeological evidence from antiquity backs up many of the historical claims of the bible...and we had a lot of fun!

Another great blessing of the day was getting to know people a little better. That's what we want to do as a Church Family in Holcot - we want to grow in our love and care for one another. We also want to get to know others in our area. We would like to get to know you and to talk about the things that neighbours talk about to each other. We think it'll be great to create a culture of friendliness in our area. People say it's attractive to live in a village because everyone is friendly. We want to be a part of helping Holcot to grow as a friendly village. To that end, I'd like to offer to visit you and find out more about you. If you'd like me to come round, just for a get-to-know-you-better chat, please get in touch. Alternatively, I will be in the Church Rooms on 25th November, between 10:30am-12pm. You can drop in for a cuppa and chat. As always, you are welcome to come along to Holcot church, any Sunday, at 9am.

David Reith (Rector of Brixworth and Holcot) 01604 880 139

revdavidreith@gmail.com

If you'd like to find out more about anything to do with Christianity, I'd love to help. You can get in touch, or just show up at 9am on any Sunday.

God Bless, David Reith, Rector of Brixworth with Holcot
revdavidreith@gmail.com (01604) 880139



It is good to see so many people from the village joining us at the Memorial and in the Church after.

HOLCOT CHURCH THUNDERBALL WINNERS

All winners are posted on the Church website at www.holcot-church.org.uk/thunder If you would like to join us, it's £52 for a year and £26 for a half year, please contact Lesley Hunter via the Church website.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

COFFEE AND CAKE.

Our coffee mornings are continuing to be popular. These take place every first and third Tuesdays and are preceded by a short service of Morning Prayer. You are very welcome to either or both and will be greeted by good coffee, lovely cake and interesting chat!

HOME GROUP.

Our Home study Group is continuing to run on the second and fourth Wednesdays of every month in the Church Room. It starts at 10:30am with coffee and cake or biscuits and lasts about an hour. This time we have been looking at characters in the Bible. It is very informal and everyone is welcome to join us.

CHRISTMAS PLANS. We are planning to hold our usual Christmas Eve service on Sunday, 24th December. This will be at 5pm and will be followed by a short service of Holy Communion for all those who wish to stay.

There will be no service in Holcot on Christmas morning, but there is one at Brixworth. At 10am for communion and 10:30am for all ages.

Start your Christmas by coming and joining us for carol singing at Holly Tree Farm on Wednesday 20th December at 6:30pm. There will be refreshments, good company and some good singing.

CHURCH FUND RAISING

On Saturday, November 11th, we held our second Church quiz in the Village Hall and it was a great success! Apart from the usual brain teaser questions, there was also a raffle and good quality Christmas cards on sale. We had a good crowd and we want to thank all those who took part.

Sorry if you didn't manage to come, but we aim to hold another quiz next year. Watch the Church and Village websites for details.

POST EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS.

Let us deliver your village Christmas cards at 15p per card: all proceeds go to church funds. Bring your cards to a COFFEE MORNING on Saturday December 16th at the CHURCH ROOM between 10.00 and 12pm. Cards should have the name and first line of the address of recipient. Delivery will be during the week beginning Dec 18th. Your cards can be collected if you can't attend the Coffee morning: contact 07753296496 if you need any more help or information.

Remembrance

Following the well-attended annual War Memorial gathering at 10:50 on Remembrance Sunday, during which we held two minutes silence and a wreath was laid, many went on to join the congregation in church for the service.

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EASYFUNDRAISING

EASYFUNDRAISING is a great way for you to support your local church and it does not cost you a penny.

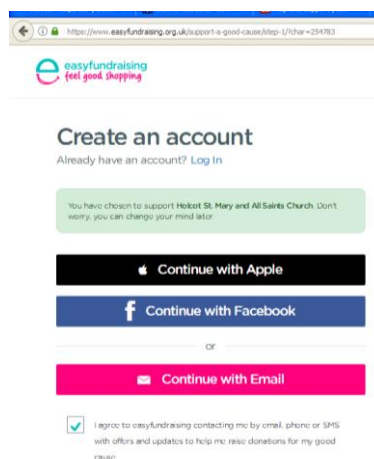
Currently, over 4,500 retailers have signed up to this scheme. All you need to do is sign up and download the 'Reminder App' to your computer or phone. After that, every time you shop online, a percentage of your spending is donated by the retailer.

First, log onto



<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/holcotstmaryandallsaints> and you will see the following:

Click 'Support this cause'.



You will now see:

Click whichever account you want to link to and register yourself. This will link you to Holcot Church: you can disconnect again at any stage if you no longer want to continue with the scheme. Once registered, you will see a pink button - 'Add a Donation Reminder': please click this as it will tell you when you are visiting an online retailer who is part of this scheme. The App collects no information about you other than the site you have visited and the amount you have spent.

When you visit the site of a participating retailer, you need only click 'Collect Donation' for a proportion of what you spend to be donated.

