

# Holcot Parish Newsletter

## Edition 3 – 2023

Welcome to the August newsletter. In this edition you can find all the latest Parish Council news, upcoming events and Church updates. There are a number of exciting events taking place, from the imminent Annual Flower and Vegetable show all the way up to Christmas. The deadline for submissions for the next newsletter will be Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November. Thank you, Jenny. [holcotvillagenewsletter@hotmail.com](mailto:holcotvillagenewsletter@hotmail.com)



### Holcot Community Flower & Vegetable Show

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September

View from 3pm in the Village Hall  
Auction 4pm

### **Banter and Batter Quiz**

16<sup>th</sup> September, Holcot Village Hall

A fun night, with food, prizes and raffle!

Tickets from Caroline 07710 990194

**All proceeds to Cynthia Spencer**

### Allotments Available

We have a number of allotments for rent and some for immediate use. They are very reasonably priced at an annual charge of £10 for 10 poles, all that is required is hard work and a bucketful of enthusiasm!

Please contact Maureen Cooke on 07732 757876 or Dave Cooke on 07759 980927.



### Christmas Dinner 2023

In December 2022, sixty-three people sat down for their annual Christmas dinner at the village hall in Holcot. It was a fun afternoon with wonderful food supplied by Sally O'Dell and entertainment by the HOBO's.

Already preparations are underway for the 2023 Christmas Dinner which will take place on Friday 8th December at 1pm in the Village Hall. Any resident and partner over the age of 60 will be invited to the dinner at a price of £17 per person.

If you are now eligible for this very popular event and would like to be added to the list, please send your name and address on paper to; Mavis Sturgess, Peveril House, Back Lane, Holcot or message Mavis with your name and address on mobile 07801 365579.



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

## *Update from Holcot Parish Council*

My short update...

**Annual Parish Meeting** – this year's meeting was held on 24 May. It was well-attended, with lots of questions from parishioners for our guest speakers. Thanks everyone who participated.

**Road safety in Holcot** - since the last newsletter we have had some progress with WNC Highways. We have complained again to WNC about poor performance. We now have commitment (but no dates) that the Sywell Road chicane will be implemented this year, along with the minor works requested. The Parish Council will review **WNC Highways performance** again in October, by when we should have certainty over the actions being taken. One piece of work that was completed quickly when requested were the repairs of the pavements in Main Street.

Thanks everyone who undertook shifts on the **Community Speedwatch 2023**. It is very clear that standing at the roadside wearing high-viz does improve drivers' speed awareness, although six warning letters were sent by the Police nonetheless. Also, subsequent to a promise at the Annual Parish Meeting, the **Police did speed checks on 14 June** - one driver received a Traffic Offence Report (41mph) and eight other offenders were spoken to at the roadside or received warning letters (34-36mph).

More good news is that Holcot has been selected as a pilot site for **WNC's new ANPR capability**. This will allow WNC to electronically monitor HGVs passing through Holcot, and after a period of testing WNC will be able to undertake enforcement activity.

Our **longer-term road safety plans remain the same** (20 mph, chicane for Brixworth Road, etc), and await finalisation of our next tranche of money from the building works along the A43. We are also investigating grant-funding for another solar-powered VASID.

For further details, see Parish Council minutes and the website. Road safety remains our #1 priority.

### **Brief updates;**

- The **Cycle4Cynthia bicycle ride** in aid of the Cynthia Spencer Hospice is passing through Holcot mid-morning on Sunday 17 September. The timing will be posted on the website – please come along and cheer the participants (and bring cash!).
- You will see elsewhere in the newsletter that, in support of the Hospice and marking the ride passing through Holcot, parishioners have organised a **charity Banter and Batter fun quiz** on 16 September. Please book a table or individual tickets.
- The volunteer Friends of Holcot have been looking after our village environment and gardens as always. Let Ruby ([clerk@holcotvillage.co.uk](mailto:clerk@holcotvillage.co.uk)) know if you would like to volunteer. Cllr Pete Matthews coordinates the **Parish Council's maintenance activities** and you may have seen that recently the bin surround at the crossroads has been replaced, the war memorial repaired and the trees on the old school site reduced in size. Thank you everyone who helps look after Holcot.
- The **playing field annual inspection** has recently been undertaken. An essential repair to one of the goals was completed immediately. Whilst a Councillor does a visual check of the playing field regularly, if you notice any problems please let Ruby know.

**And finally...** Quarterly I summarise here some of the things that the Parish Council is currently working on. To help everyone keep up to date, the minutes of meetings are published on the Parish website each month, there are a variety of website posts published and notified to subscribers. Also, everyone is invited to come along to Parish Council meetings to observe or speak (usually 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month in the Church Room – check the website for agenda).

Sign-up for email notifications of new website posts at [www.holcotvillage.co.uk](http://www.holcotvillage.co.uk). Any problems signing up, or to get a message out to Parishioners, email [editor@holcotvillage.co.uk](mailto:editor@holcotvillage.co.uk).

**David Walker 19 August 2023**

### CHURCH FUND RAISING

Many thanks for all those who took part in our recent Bridge and Tapas events. We raised well over £1,000 at each. A fantastic effort and result.

We are now looking towards our next Fund raising events. Please put the dates below in your diaries and come and join us. Further details will be put on the Church and Village website nearer the time.

September 9<sup>th</sup> – Annual Ride and Stride event. See Jill Charman for details.

September 10<sup>th</sup> – Cream tea in the Church Yard, plus a picture quiz around the Church.

November 11<sup>th</sup> – Our very popular Quiz returns.

### OTHER ACTIVITIES

MORNING PRAYER / COFFEE AND CAKE.

On the first and third Wednesdays we are continuing to meet up for a quiet, reflective service of Morning Prayer at 10:30am and then coffee and cake at 11am. All are welcome.

HOME GROUP.

Our Home Study Group is resuming in September, with sessions on the second and fourth Wednesdays every week. This time we will be looking at the lives and actions of various Old Testament characters, such as Samson, Ruth, David and Solomon. The sessions are led by different people. We start at 10:30am with coffee and a chat, then start the study by 11am. This usually lasts no more than an hour and is very informal. You can take part in any discussions or you can just sit and listen. It is up to you!

### HOLCOT CHURCH THUNDERBALL WINNERS

All winners are posted on the Church website at [www.holcot-church.org.uk/thunder](http://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.

We are now on our third list, so have some new numbers available.



Save the date. **11th November 7pm**

Following last year's success, another quiz night is being held at the Village Hall, to raise funds for Holcot church fabric fund.

PLEASE HELP TO KEEP YOUR CHURCH IN ONE PIECE!

Bring your own nibbles and drink. Raffle and Christmas card sale.

**ONLY £5**

Further details from [sheila@sharpend-uk.com](mailto:sheila@sharpend-uk.com) or Tel: 781438



**Holcot & Walgrave Scout Group** has a small Beaver Colony and Cub Pack. Beavers are aged 5 ¾ to 8 years old and Cubs are 8 to 10 years old. We have plenty of space for any young people in those age groups, both boys and girls, to come and join us. The group currently meets at **WALGRAVE** Village Hall, so IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN YOU CHILD JOINING, DO PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH KIM PHILLIPS 07815 070878 or by email to [info@armarketing.co.uk](mailto:info@armarketing.co.uk) NOW, SO SHE CAN KEEP YOU INFORMED OF RE-START DATES.

### 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)

**ACTIVITIES SHOWN IN RED MAY BE SUSPENDED IN THE VILLAGE HALL HOWEVER, MANY OF THESE MAY BE CONTINUING IN OTHER FORMATS, OR MAY RE-START AT ANY TIME.**

**THEREFORE, IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING, DO PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH THE CONTACT NAME BELOW **NOW**, SO THEY CAN KEEP YOU INFORMED OF RE-START DATES**

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/>

#### **Monday**

6.15pm Dance 'N' Tone [karen.conway83@yahoo.com](mailto:karen.conway83@yahoo.com)  
7.30pm Pedigree Paws dog training - Edwina (d.coe1@ntlworld.com)

#### **Tuesday**

9.00am 'Pilates with Louise': 07766 807184, or email [pilateswithlouse@gmail.com](mailto:pilateswithlouse@gmail.com)  
10.00-11.30am Mums & tots, (currently suspended – enquire with Miranda Parry 01604 781918)  
7.45-8.45pm Lucy & Frankie Zumba Fitness (weekly) £5/class, First class free! - francesca020788@hotmail.com  
\*6:30-8pm Holcot Hub- for Holcot children age 10 & up. Term time only. 50p entry. Check dates with [annabellehesselwood@hotmail.com](mailto:annabellehesselwood@hotmail.com)  
8:15pm Anglia Marine Model Club (Boat Club) – every 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month during March to November - enquiries Laura Fletcher (laurafletcher50@hotmail.com) or Geoff Fletcher (geoff.s.fletcher@ntlworld.com)

#### **Wednesday**

2.00-4.00pm Bowls (Weekly) – (currently suspended – but enquiries most welcome to Pat McGlasson 01604 781215)  
6.00-7.00pm 'Strictly'-style Dance classes (Weekly) £7/class - Julie 07736 032606 or [dancepod@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dancepod@hotmail.co.uk)

#### **Thursday**

9.30-noon Art Club (Weekly) - Elizabeth Culley 01604 648566 / Pamela Mann 01604 495249  
4.00-5.00pm Yoga Classes (Most term-time weeks) – 07557 020 183 for info, or 07785 347 297 for dates/bookings  
Holcot & Walgrave Beavers (6-8yrs) and Cub (8-10yrs) Scouts currently meet at Walgrave; Contact Kim on 07815070878 or email [info@armarketing.co.uk](mailto: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**

9:30-10:30am Lucy & Frankie Zumba Fitness (weekly) £5/class, First class free! - francesca020788@hotmail.com

#### **Interested in Drama or on-stage singing/dancing?**

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

'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**, socially-distanced private lessons for individuals, or one or more couples, all dance requirements catered for, and tailored to suit you!

For more details & to check dates for all the above, contact Julie  
(07736 032606 or email [dancepod@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dancepod@hotmail.co.uk))



Have you noticed the various beautiful garden projects springing up around the village?

So far mainly at the **crossroads** and in the **churchyard**, and **now also including the Old School Site**. These are now being regularly maintained by a group of volunteer residents; so far mainly women, but it needn't be exclusive! **No**

**commitment! No gardening knowledge needed!!!** If **\*\*\* YOU \*\*\*** can spare a couple of hours now and again to join this group, to come, have fun, (and meet new people?), please phone or text your contact details to 07908 848 380

Or, if you prefer, how about joining 'Friends of Holcot Village'?

Mostly men (but it's also not exclusive!) who provide a volunteer maintenance service - mainly on village trees, bushes, signs and the 'Washbrook'. It's usually on alternate Friday mornings, but no commitment to attend regularly.

Please phone or text your contact details to 07785 347 297