

Holcot Parish Newsletter

Edition 1 – 2024

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2024. You will notice that in addition to all the latest village news there is also an additional insert – a short questionnaire to gather the views of residents about the Parish Plan. The deadline for submissions for the next newsletter will be Friday 31st May 2024. Thank you, Jenny.
holcotvillagenewsletter@hotmail.com

If you're an adult Holcot resident who's free to do as you wish on an occasional Thursday afternoon, whether you're 19 or 109, then YOU are invited to the:

"Holcot Hotspot"

You probably know that Holcot has a Youth Club which offers teenagers in the village a chance to meet each other and have fun together.

Well, someone's had the thought: why should they have all the fun?

Here's a chance to meet fellow adult residents, over low-cost refreshments, and with the **OPTION** (but **only if you wish!**) to join in sociable games using all the games equipment in the Village Hall.



The next Hotspot will start at 2.30pm on **Thursday 21st March**,

if it continues to be well supported, we plan to run it as a regular event on the 3rd Thursday of EVERY month

The games and activities provided are:

- ☺ Indoor carpet bowls
- ☺ Pool or snooker
- ☺ Table tennis
- ☺ Darts
- ☺ Card games
- ☺ Dominoes, etc, etc



+ and of course you can bring along any other games you want to play

The idea is that the games themselves are played for fun, and complete beginners can 'have a go' -

but the games also provide an opportunity - if you wish - to join in and play alongside fellow residents you might not normally meet - or even have known.

To make sure no-one will feel left out:

- ✓ It is **NOT** a club
- ✓ There is **NO** membership fee
- ✓ For the first year at least, the plan is that there'll be **NO** charge for entry
- ✓ Refreshments including biscuits, tea & coffee, charged only at cost - so it's no more expensive than being at home

... but you'll be enjoying your biscuit and cuppa with old (and new?) friends in the lovely warm and welcoming atmosphere of our beautiful Village Hall

- ✓ Looking forward to seeing you on **Thursdays 21st March and 18th**



April:

Just turn up... If you (or someone you know) would like assistance to get to the Hall, please call 07885 802 769

Update from Holcot Parish Council

A longer update on behalf of the Parish Council this time...

Budget 2024-25 and the Precept – each year the Parish Council prepares a budget, and monitors against this as the year progresses. We regularly publish financial updates to the Parish Council page on the website, and report individual transactions in the Parish Council meeting minutes.

You will have seen on the website that the Parish Council determined in budget discussions that reluctantly we must increase the Precept (the Parish's share of council tax) by £2000 for the second year in a row. This is expected to impact annual Council Tax bills by about £11 for a Band D property.

Excepting the very apparent inflationary pressures, key budget items include increasing the road safety earmarked reserve to £10,000. More on this below.

Road safety in Holcot – always our top priority and financial/practical challenge.

The **Sywell Road chicane** construction was delayed until March due to “supply chain issues”. The road closure will run from 11 March for 2 weeks.

I promised to report back on the impact of the **20mph advisory signs**. Data from the mobile VASID shows that there has been no discernable impact on vehicle speeds. However, we don't know if there has been any impact on drivers' general behaviour and awareness.

The **second solar-powered VASID**, grant-funded by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, has been ordered and will be installed on Brixworth Road. On Brixworth Road over a third of traffic entering the village is speeding, with two-thirds exceeding the limit before the village gate on exiting Holcot.

The **improved HGV 7.5t limit signage** has been ordered by WNC, and will be installed. **ANPR technology** to monitor HGVs flouting regulations is still expected, although no date is available.

Recently it has become increasingly apparent that **when utility companies dig up roads and footpaths they don't always repair them adequately**. For instance, on Moulton Road near North Farm a dip appeared in the road shortly after installation of services, similarly on the footpath on Brixworth Road (both now fixed). We now understand better the warranty that contractors must provide (broadly, 2 years) and the process by which Highways monitor performance. Continue to **report potholes through fixmystreet** (button on the website homepage), and I suggest that where you know a pothole relates to recent utility works that you note that in the descriptive text.

If you have read recent Parish Council minutes on the website you will have seen that we have established a **Road Safety Working Party** of Councillors. We concluded that waiting for further section 106 funding from the house developers along the A43 was no longer a tenable position as we have the road safety problems now, and the Precept cannot cover the scale of works required. Consequently, the working party will be investigating whether there are alternative ways of achieving priority activities.

Holcot Parish Plan – you will find with this newsletter a **short questionnaire** intended to gather views about the key features of a Parish Plan. Once developed the Parish Plan will help guide the priorities and activities of the Parish Council over the next few years. **Please help us by returning the questionnaire by March 28th. You can drop the questionnaire to either the Church Letter Box or to the White Swan.**

Pub drop-in – we hold an annual **drop-in event in the White Swan**. It is an opportunity for you to informally meet Parish Councillors to discuss ideas for improving our community, any issues that you have, or where you might get involved in community activities. Also, this year you may want to chat about Parish Plan ideas or anything else mentioned in this newsletter. **The drop-in event is on March 28th at 6pm** for approximately an hour. Please save the date.

Green Hill Solar Farm – a project is commencing to build a solar farm across several Northamptonshire locations connected to a hub at Grendon. One solar array site is proposed to be on farmland to the south of Holcot. It is early days, but there is now a website with basic information <https://greenhillsolar.co.uk/>. The formal consultation regarding the proposals is expected in the Autumn, and subject to national-level approval, construction will be towards the end of the decade. We are engaging with the applicants and will post further information on the website as it becomes available.

Dog fouling - You may have seen recently on the Facebook community page that dog poo continues to be a problem. Please **pick up after your dog** when it poos on footpaths or verges!

Using their Public Spaces Protection Order (search for “PSPO” on WNC's website), WNC are responsible for dealing with any problems. Amongst other things, the order specifies 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). The PSPO is supported by a reporting process, £100 fixed penalty notices, and fines. Visit the WNC website to report offences.

To draw attention to the issue we have volunteers who highlight poo with coloured spray paint. If you would like to take a turn, please let Ruby (clerk@holcotvillage.co.uk) know and she’ll put you in touch.

Brief updates;

- The final four streetlights owned by the Parish have been upgraded to LED.
- Each year the Chair of the Parish Council calls an **Annual Parish Meeting** of all electors. This year’s meeting will be held on **Tuesday 30 April at 7:00pm** in the village hall. More details will be published nearer the time, but please save the date.
- We hold an annual community litter pick around the village. This year’s event will be on **Sunday 24 March - meet at the Village Hall at 11am**. Picking equipment is provided, though I suggest bringing a pair of gloves. The litter pick takes less than an hour and is suitable for everyone. If we need to cancel the event due to the weather, a post will be published on the website. Please save the date.

And finally... the website is our key communications channel – if you haven’t already, please sign-up on the website for email notifications of posts. Everyone is invited to attend Parish Council meetings to observe or speak (usually 3rd Monday of each month in the Church Room – check the website for agenda). You can also read the meeting minutes on the website.

Any problems signing up for website notifications, or to get a message out to Parishioners, email editor@holcotvillage.co.uk.

David Walker

19 February 2024

Parish Council - Key dates for your diary

Date and time	Event	Location
Thursday 28 th March- latest	Holcot Parish Plan return	The White Swan / Church postbox
Thursday 28 th March 6-7pm	Parish Council drop-in event	The White Swan
Sunday 24 March, 11am	Community litter pick	Village Hall
Tuesday 30 April, 7pm	Annual Parish Meeting	Village Hall



This year's Annual Holcot Flower & Vegetable Show will be on Sunday 1st September

Have you planted your seeds yet for this year's exhibits?

Even if you don't plan to exhibit, don't forget:

- ☺ **That everyone's will be welcome in the Village Hall from 3pm to view the exhibits**
- ☺ **The fabulous, fun, auction from 4pm - a great opportunity to pick up at bargain prices fresh, locally-grown, fruit, veg & flowers, and delicious home-made cakes, jams, etc**

SAVE THE DATE

TO SUPPORT THIS GREAT COMMUNITY TRADITION



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

Youth Club – Re-opening Soon!

The Holcot Hub Youth Club is for Holcot children that are in school years 6 to year 11. We meet one evening a week in the Youth Wing at the Village Hall to enjoy pool, table tennis, darts, board games, occasional special event evenings and the very popular tuck shop. During the summer months we make use of the village playing field. If you have children interested in attending or if you are able to occasionally help out, email me at Judith.coles@hotmail.com for more information or to be notified of the starting date.



Holcot Annual Trip to London 2024

Everybody welcome!



Saturday 15th June (dep Holcot 8.30am)

See the sights, or 'shop till you drop'

Return 'fare' is a share of the total cost: currently around £30 per adult
(deposit £35 with booking; refund of any change on the day).

Under 19s £15 - if accompanied by paying adult

First come, first served

OPTION to book your own tickets for 'MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING' at the Globe Theatre

(performance at 2pm, tickets from £7 standing, up to £48+ best-view-seats)

We can't make our coach-reservation firm until we have enough bookings, so, if you're interested, please get in touch NOW:

text or call 07785 347 297, or email phil.scordellis@gmail.com

Pilates with Louise

Holcot Village Hall 9am Tuesdays

We are a friendly group of around 12 who enjoy the regular practice of Pilates and the understanding it gives us of how our bodies move so, that we can ensure good positive movement.

With the perfect balance of challenge and with clear explanations provided I cater for a variety of levels and methods of trying new exercises which are not at all intimidating and completely inclusive.

Pilates is a fabulous low impact form of exercise. Using our own body weight and focusing on breathing we find and work all the deeper core and stability muscles, creating strength, length and support.

It is ideal for EVERYbody and keeping the classes small means that I can watch, correct and support you accordingly.

To find out more and to book a FREE TRIAL session call 07766 807184

In addition to classes in Holcot you can also find me at Brixworth, Old, Kingsthorpe and at my newly opened Pilates Reformer Studio – The Old Dairy Pilates Studio in Lamport.
email.pilateswithlouse@gmail.com www.pilateswithlouse.com www.theolddairypilates.co.uk



St Mary and All Saints Church.

CHRISTMAS

We had a very successful time at Christmas at both the Carol Singing and the Carol Service. It was great to see so many people at both occasions taking part and enjoying themselves. We also want to thank you for your generosity. The money collected at the Carol Singing has been sent to the Salvation Army, who played for us. The money on Christmas Eve was given to the church to pay towards some costly, but necessary, repairs. Thank you all again. See you next Christmas, if not before

CHURCH FUND RAISING

At Christmas, we held our usual Christmas Post Delivery event, which was even better supported than last year. We also sold Christmas cards at a very competitive price. Everybody commented on how good the quality was for the low price.

We are hoping to repeat both events next Christmas.

For this year, we will have held our coffee, cake and waffle morning on 13th February and are also hoping to hold our very popular quiz events.

HOLD THIS PAGE!

As a new venture, we are planning to hold a fashion show in the Village Hall on Thursday, 25th April. We will post further details on all our activities on the Church and Village websites.

SERVICES

Palm Sunday, 24th March – 9am.

Maundy Thursday meal and service, 28th March – 6pm in Brixworth.

Good Friday, 29th March – 9am.

Easter Sunday, 31st March – 9am .

OTHER ACTIVITIES

COFFEE AND CAKE.

Our coffee mornings are continuing to be popular. These take place every first and third Wednesday (except during the season of Lent. See the Church website for details.) 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.

During Lent, from Wednesday 21st February for five weeks at 11am, we are running a Bible Study group every Wednesday, which will be followed by a simple Lent lunch of soup and bread. The studies will be based on The Beloved Disciple. This is a book focusing on the Easter events as seen by St John the Evangelist. All are welcome.

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.

A message from Avril Watson Avril wishes to send her thanks to Revd David Reith, Lesley Hunter, Catherine and Sue for their tremendous efforts and kindness in the planning and preparations for her husband Mick's funeral. They truly went above and beyond and the empathy they showed was overwhelming. We are lucky to have them as custodians of the church.



We are a local catering business based in Holcot. If you need catering for any type of event or private function at any venue, get in touch. From buffets, 3 Course dinners, corporate lunches to much more.

Every Friday evening and Sunday lunch we deliver hot meals that are ready to eat.

Julia or Mick 01604 781653 www.thevillagekitchencatering.co.uk info@thevillagekitchencatering.co.uk

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/>

Monday

6.30-9.00pm Balanced Pet Academy obedience classes for dogs – Holly Harte
balancedpetacademy@gmail.com 07892918771

(also occasional puppy courses: contact Holly for details)

Tuesday

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

*7.00-8.30pm 'Holcot Hub' youth club for children age 10-18. Term time only. 50p entry. Check dates & timing 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

2.30-4.30pm 'Holcot Hotspot' social meets for adults with optional games & refreshments: MOST MONTHS ON 3rd THURSDAY (check with 07785 347 297)

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 781943

Interested in Drama or on-stage singing/dancing?

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

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.

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/>)