

Holcot Parish Newsletter

Edition 1 – 2025

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2025! The deadline for submissions for the next newsletter will be Monday 7th April 2025. Anyone can contribute, so if you have any news or information relating to the village, please send them in. Please email contributions to holcotvillagenewsletter@hotmail.com Thank you, Jenny

The Annual Holcot Christmas Dinner for the over 60's took place at the Village Hall on the 6th December 2024. Fifty people sat down to a wonderful Christmas meal and afterwards enjoyed entertainment from our local group The Hobo's. It was certainly a day to remember and a wonderful start to the Christmas festivities. A very big thank you from the committee for all who helped on the day to make the event such a great success.

In 2025 the Holcot Christmas Dinner will take place in the Village Hall on Friday 5th December. If you or any resident you know will reach the magic age of 60 years during 2025 and would like to be added to our invitation list then please contact Mavis Sturgess on 01604 781568 or 07801 365579 with your details.

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

"Holcot Hotspot"

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 Hotspots will be on Thursdays 20th February and 20th March.

If it continues to be well supported, we hope to run it as a regular event on the 3rd Thursday of EVERY colder month, excluding December (start time 2.30pm),

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

To make sure no-one will feel left out:

- ✓ It is **NOT** a club
- ✓ There is **NO** membership fee
- ✓ Until further notice, there's **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 there: Just turn up...

If you (or someone you know) would like assistance to get to the Hall, please call 07785 347 297



SILVER SWANS & ADULT TAP

Classes held at Holcot Village Hall

Contact 07909966695 for further details All classes taught by Gayna Brown



Life member of Royal Academy of Dance & Imperial Society of Dance. Silver Swans Licensee.

9 ways in which dance can improve your life:

- ✓ Dance increases your energy levels
- ✓ Dance can help reduce stress and support weight loss
- ✓ Dance can reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease
- ✓ Dance slows ageing by improving the immune system
- ✓ Dance classes are a great way to expand your social circle/meet new people
- ✓ Dance can help diminish the symptoms of depression
- ✓ Dance improves balance, resulting in fewer falls later in life
- ✓ Dance increases cognitive ability by promoting new connections in the brain and may even help stave off dementia in later life
- ✓ Dance whatever your age and wherever you feel comfortable, but if you're an older learner, the social benefits of joining a dance class will also enhance your sense of wellbeing.

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.pilateswithlouise@gmail.com www.pilateswithlouise.com www.theolddairypilates.co.uk



'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 great 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 the summer?

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!

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



Update from Holcot Parish Council

Elections 2025 - Local elections will be held on 1 May 2025. This includes elections for Parish Councillors. *We need people from all backgrounds and experiences to put themselves forward to become a parish councillor. Councillors can make a huge difference to the quality of life of local people and how local issues are dealt with. **Do you, or someone you know, have what it takes to be a local councillor?** The deadline for candidates wishing to stand in the election to deliver their nomination papers to the Elections Authority; West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) is Wednesday 2nd April 2025 at 4pm.*

Please Please Please consider whether you might like to volunteer yourself as a Councillor – get in touch with Ruby (clerk@holcotvillage.co.uk) for the simple form, or give me a call on 07802 416704 to chat.

Precept - the Parish Council has set the **Parish precept at £22,250** for the financial year commencing April 2025. This is an increase of £750 (c3.5%) on the current year.

Green Hill Solar Farm – The proposal covers 3000 acres of farmland, primarily spread across Northamptonshire (a total area of 4 times that of Pitsford reservoir). Around 150 acres of solar panels and equipment are proposed in Holcot. Details of the applicant and the opposition group are on the website.

Following the community meeting in the village hall, **the Parish Council responded to the statutory consultation before Christmas**, setting out our opposition and objections to the scheme (see Green Hill Solar Farm page on the website). We also wrote to the Secretary of State, although we knew he wouldn't read the letter himself the messages were received by his office.

The next step is for the applicant to submit a Development Consent Order (DCO) to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS), expected now in April. We then register our interest with PINS for further consultation.

Road safety in Holcot – There has been no substantial change since last time. The Parish Council continues to seek clarity on the **funding stream** so that focus can be applied to the next priorities. On 14 February we are meeting our MP to outline the issues and ask for help in moving us forward. In February, WNC are commencing their research into **automated enforcement of the HGV restrictions**.

Brief updates;

- **Pub drop in** – each year the Parish Council holds a drop-in event in the White Swan, to allow informal chats about anything that Parishioners want to discuss. **The drop-in event is on 13 February 6pm-7pm.**
- **Litter pick** – **This year's litter pick is on 23 March at 11am.** Equipment is provided, and with enough people the whole pick within the 30mph zone typically takes around 30 minutes. Meet at the Village Hall.
- **Annual Parish Meeting** – This year's Annual Parish Meeting is on **Tuesday 8 April at 7pm in the Village Hall**. We are inviting the Police and WNC Highways to report again – watch the website for the agenda.

And finally... the website is our key communications channel – if you haven't already, please subscribe on the website for email notifications of new posts.

To get a message posted on the website and emailed to subscribers, email editor@holcotvillage.co.uk.

David Walker 30 January 2025

St Mary and All Saints Church.

Why I Believe Jesus Really Rose Again, and Why It Matters. I know, I know. 2025 has only just begun. We've only just got past Christmas. Why am I thinking about Easter already? Maybe it's the shops already stocking mini eggs and cream eggs. In truth, Christians don't really ever stop thinking about Jesus rising again, because the resurrection of Jesus is the cornerstone of the Christian faith.

But is it reasonable to believe it actually happened? And even if it did, why should it matter to anyone today? Let's start with the evidence. The accounts of Jesus' resurrection are rooted in history. The Gospels were written by people who either knew Jesus personally or carefully recorded the testimonies of those who did. These texts describe Jesus' crucifixion, burial, and the astonishing claim that He rose from the dead three days later. Critics often argue that the resurrection is a myth or fabrication, but this raises questions: why would early Christians, many of whom faced persecution and death, invent such a story? If their aim was to gain power or popularity, they failed spectacularly by earthly standards. Furthermore, the Gospels reveal embarrassing details — such as Jesus' followers initially doubting the resurrection — which no propagandist would include. One striking piece of evidence is the empty tomb. Opponents of Christianity in the first century didn't deny the tomb was empty; they tried to explain it away. The most plausible explanation is the one given by Jesus' disciples: He rose again.

Then there are the eyewitnesses. Paul's letter to the Corinthians, written around 20 years after Jesus' death, lists over 500 people who saw the risen Christ. Many were still alive at the time, inviting readers to verify the claims. Such public testimony would be risky if untrue.

But why does this matter? The resurrection is more than a historical curiosity; it's the foundation of hope. It declares that death doesn't have the final word. If Jesus rose, it means God is real, sin and evil can be defeated, and there is life beyond the grave. It also means Jesus' teachings about love, forgiveness, and justice carry divine authority.

For me, the resurrection transforms life's struggles. In moments of grief, doubt, or failure, I find hope in the promise that God is making all things new. The resurrection assures me that love is stronger than death, and that the world's brokenness isn't the end of the story.

*You might be skeptical, and that's okay. But if there's even a chance the resurrection is true, isn't it worth exploring? The answer could change everything. **Rev. David Reith.***

Services, etc.

March 5th – Ash Wednesday, 7pm.

April 13th – Palm Sunday, 9am.

April 17th – Maundy Thursday, 6pm meal followed by short service. Details to follow.

April 18th – Good Friday Reflections at 9am.

April 20th – Easter Sunday service, 9am.

CHURCH FUND RAISING

We finished off our church year with 3 very successful events. Thank you so much to all those who have supported us again through the year. The Church quiz was yet again another resounding success and has become part of the Village diary. Then in December, the actor James Hornsby gave his rendition of the Christmas Carol to a full church and a very appreciative audience. The next day was the Village Christmas Post, which also saw more people taking part than ever before.

We are now in the planning stages for this year's activities. Please continue to support us. Details of all events will be on the Church and Village website in due course.

We hope to see you at our Shrove Tuesday coffee morning in the Church Room on March 4th, 10 am to 12.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

COFFEE AND CAKE.

We hold our coffee mornings in the Church Room on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month. Please feel free to join us for a short session of Morning Prayer at 10:30am, led by different people, followed by coffee and lots of lovely cake at 11am. You are very welcome to join us at either or both times.

HOME GROUP

We are continuing to meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays to have some coffee and cake, (We like our coffee and cake!) followed by a short Bible Study, led by people of our congregation. At the moment we are still looking at the Psalms, but will soon be switching to a Lent course. Further details will be on the Church website.

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.

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

9am-10am 'Pilates with Louise': 07766 807184, or email pilateswithlouise@gmail.com
1.00-1.45pm 'Silver Swans Centre & Barre' (Ballet-based posture for 55+): } Gayna 07909 966 695, or email dance@gaynabrown.co.uk
2.00-2.30pm Adult Tap
*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 email 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: October to April ON 3rd Thursday of most months (check dates 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. This ladies group meets for monthly events & outings: for more information contact Sheila Ashworth 781438 email: sheila@sharpend-uk.com or Pam Wilson 07884 078179 email: pamwholcot800@gmail.com

Interested in Drama or on-stage singing/dancing?

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



Need to hire a small meeting room?

Ideal for up to 12 people.

Kitchen - toilet - large table & seating - heated.

The Church Room

Main Street, Holcot

For details: 781438 or 07712 763408 or

sheila@sharpend-uk.com



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



Have you noticed the 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



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



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/>)

