

Holcot Parish Newsletter

Edition 1– 2026

Wishing you all a happy and healthy 2026, welcome to the first edition of the year. The deadline for submissions for the next newsletter will be 12th April 2026. 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 Parish Council funds this newsletter, but the opinions expressed are those of the contributors and are not necessarily the views of the Parish Council.

The 2025 Holcot Christmas Dinner took place in the village hall on Friday 5th December. Forty-four people sat down to a 3 course Christmas meal followed by tea or coffee and mince pies. After the meal and raffle our local group the Hobo's took to the stage and entertained everyone with their lively music which allowed the guests to sit and relax or get up and dance and burn off a few calories before returning home. It was a wonderful afternoon and a big thank you goes out to the committee and to all the helpers who made the day such a success. If you would like to be involved in any aspect of next year's event then please contact Mavis Sturgess as soon as possible. In 2026 the date for the Holcot Christmas Dinner will be Friday 4th December in the village hall. If you or any resident in Holcot reaches the age of 60 in 2026 and would like to be included on our invitation list then please contact Mavis Sturgess on 01604 781568 or 07801365579 with your details.

[Pitsford Water Trail Races; Sunday 1 March](#)

These races start at **Brixworth Country Park** with routes along the public footpaths that surround Pitsford Water over 10k and half-marathon distances. The races **start at 9.00am** with the **first participants reaching Holcot at about 9.20am**, and the **final runners passing through at around 10.00am**.

Signing of the route will take place on **Saturday, 28 February**, so you will see a number of small yellow and black arrows appearing through the village. Warning signs for road users will also be put in place. **Disruption to traffic and village life is expected to be minimal.**

For more information and to enter your preferred race distance, click on this link: raceharborough.co.uk/pitsfordwatertrails/ And if you're taking part – Good Luck!



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



HOLCOT VILLAGE HALL

Holcot Village Hall Now has its Own Website holcotvillagehall.co.uk

Packed Full of Content Including: -

- Details of all Regular Hire Groups, Clubs and Classes
- A Page of Future Events, often Open to All
- All the Information you need to Hire our Beautiful Period Village Hall
- Discounted Rates for Holcot Residents
- Check the Calendar Online & find a Perfect Time for you own Event or Party
- Take a Look round through our Photo Galleries



VIEW OUR WEBSITE



Stay in touch!

The best way to keep in touch with what's going on in our village is to sign up for email notifications. It's easy and free! Just go to holcotvillage.co.uk and enter your details.

The sign-up form looks like this:

Sign up here for email notifications - it's FREE!

Enter your email address and click on 'Sign me up!!' The website will send you a confirmation email - click 'Confirm Follow' to activate.

Sign Me Up!!

Once you've signed up, you'll receive updates about village hall events, club activities, live music, roadworks, church news, Green Hill Solar and more.

Don't miss out on village news – sign up today!

YOUR VILLAGE HALL NEEDS YOU!

Call 07785 347 297 to come and take a look.

SPECIAL OFFERS TO RESIDENTS!

- ☺ Discounted hire charges (rates for Main Hall): Only £11.50/hr, children's daytime party £44, evening party~ £90
~ now with option (for Saturday evenings only) to pay for **professional next-day clear-up**
- ☺ Now **NO** deposit for residents' party-bookings
- ☺ 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 ****

For details, please go to <https://holcotvillagehall.co.uk/faqs> and click on 'Tell me about the Taster Session offer for Residents' Regular Bookings, Free of Charge Scheme')

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: 01604 781438 or 07712 763408 or email sheila@sharpend-uk.com



Green Hill Solar Farm – Project Update

Residents will be aware of the proposed Green Hill Solar Farm development. The project is currently in the **examination phase** of the planning process, which is being overseen by the Planning Inspectorate. This phase allows evidence, representations and submissions to be reviewed in detail. The examination period is expected to **conclude between March and April 2026**. Following this, the appointed Examining Authority will prepare a report and make a recommendation to the **Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, Ed Miliband**.

A final decision on whether the project is approved or refused is anticipated by **September 2026**. Should the development be approved, there may be subsequent **legal challenges**, which could affect the overall timetable.

Residents wishing to follow the progress of the proposal or find out more can visit:

- www.stopgreenhillsolar.co.uk
- www.greenhillsolar.co.uk

Additional information and links are also available on the **Holcot Village website**.

www.holcotvillage.co.uk. The Holcot Parish Council website is www.holcot-pc.gov.uk

Volunteer Speedwatch Co-ordinator Needed

Holcot Parish Council is looking for a **Volunteer Speedwatch Co-ordinator** to work in partnership with **Northamptonshire Police** as part of the Community Speedwatch scheme.

The role involves helping to organise and oversee local speed monitoring sessions aimed at improving road safety within the village. **Full training will be provided**, and support is available throughout.

Speedwatch activity typically takes place for **a couple of weeks at a time between March and October**, with dates arranged to suit the availability of the successful volunteer.

This is an important opportunity to make a positive contribution to road safety in Holcot. If you are interested or would like to find out more, please contact the **Parish Clerk** at:

clerk@holcot-pc.gov.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 make a Booking Enquiry on the Hall's NEW website: <https://www.holcotvillagehall.co.uk>

Monday

5.30-9.00pm Balanced Pet Academy obedience classes for dogs Holly Harte balancedpetacademy@gmail.com
07892918771 (*times may vary, 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 (same contact details - Gayna – as Silver Swans above)

*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

7.30-8.30pm Active Mummies Pilates

clairlouisebrown83@hotmail.co.uk

Thursday

9.30-noon Art Club (Weekly)

Elizabeth Culley 01604 648566 / Pamela Mann 01604 495249

Friday

12.30-1.30pm Active Mummies Pilates

clairlouisebrown83@hotmail.co.uk

*4.00-5.30pm Zozimus Drama – Children's Drama Class Check dates/timing with info@zozimusdrama.com

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

St Mary and All Saints Church.

If you could have one wish for the New Year, what would it be? A calmer year? Good health for the people you love? A little more financial breathing space? New Year has a way of making us take stock. We look back at what has been, and we look forward to what might be. Some of us make resolutions. Others have learned to be suspicious of them. But almost all of us feel the same underlying desire: *I want life to go well. I want to live well.*

So here's a simple New Year prayer, whether you consider yourself religious or not: "God, if you are there, teach me. Help me to live wisely in your world." If Proverbs is right, that's where wisdom begins - and it might be the beginning of a very different year.

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

OTHER ACTIVITIES

COFFEE AND CAKE

At a loose end on a Wednesday morning? Want to be in the warm? Why not join us for our regular coffee mornings. These take place every first and third Tuesdays at 11am and are preceded by a short service of Morning Prayer at 10:30am. 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 are continuing to look at the lives of the minor prophets. After February 18th we will be holding our popular Lent lunches. Please contact Rev. David, James or Lesley for details. It is very informal and everyone is welcome to join us.

PLANS

We held our usual Christmas Eve Family service and it was very popular, especially as we now have heating in the Church. Thank you to all who came and took part.

We are now planning our Easter activities and services and these will be posted on the church website.

CHURCH FUND RAISING

Thank you to all who came to our Christmas activities. The quiz, as usual, was a great success, with some fiendish questions posed!

Also, a big thank you to all who participated in our Christmas card deliveries. It was a great success and good to see so many villagers, old and new.

In the next few weeks, we will be meeting to plan this year's activities.

Keep your eye on the Church and Village websites for all information.

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 on the church website.

Gardening Group

Next time you're in the area walking your dog or having a walk around the village, please have a look at all the gardens in the churchyard, at the crossroads, and on the Old School Site in Main Street. These are all maintained entirely by volunteer residents from our beautiful village.

The **gardening group** (mainly ladies, but it's not exclusive) are a friendly lot, who spend just a few hours most months taking care of beds and borders, and any light maintenance that's needed. Can you spare a couple of hours every now and then to help us?

No regular commitment or prior skills required, but it'll help keep you fit, may broaden your knowledge of plants and techniques, and maybe introduce you to new (possibly interesting?) people! ... While keeping your village a community that works together.

If you think you might be able to help in the gardening-group, for more info, please call, text, or WhatsApp Rosie 07908 848 380. We look forward to welcoming you.