

# Holcot Parish Newsletter

Edition 2– 2026

Welcome to the Spring Newsletter. It's great to have warmer weather and lighter evenings. The deadline for submissions for the next newsletter will be 17<sup>th</sup> July 2026. Anyone can contribute, so if you have any news or events relating to the village, please send them in. Please email contributions to [holcotvillagenewsletter@hotmail.com](mailto: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.*

## An Afternoon on the Green

 **By Holcot Church • Saturday**

**11th July 2pm** 

Step into a charming summer's day where the grass is soft, the bunting flutters, and laughter drifts through the air. Everyone is invited to wander, nibble, explore, and simply enjoy the magic of a village afternoon.

 **Delights Await You...** 

 **Tea, coffee & refreshments**

\*Delicious & irresistible.\*

 **Curious and colourful stalls**

\*Treasures, treats, and surprises at every turn.\*

\*Tables to rent, see below.\*

 **Children's Fancy Dress Competition**

\*Tiny pirates, woodland fairies, brave knights, surprise us prizes to be won!\*

 **Live music floating across the green**

\*Tunes to tap your toes to.\*

 **Enchanting flower displays inside the church**

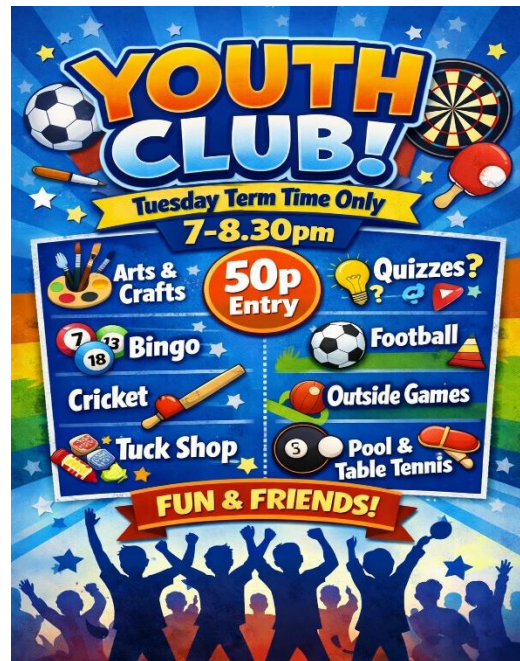
\*A little burst of beauty in every corner.\*

All proceeds help care for and preserve our lovely church — keeping its heart beating for generations to come.

If wet, we will move inside.

**For details or table hire (by 1/7/26) contact:  
[sheila@sharpend-uk.com](mailto:sheila@sharpend-uk.com) 07712 763408**

The "Holcot Old School Charity" has funds available for promoting the education (including social and physical training) of youngsters under 25, who are resident in the parish of Holcot. For details in the first instance, please contact: David Ashworth via email: [david@sharpend-uk.com](mailto:david@sharpend-uk.com) or write to Wychwood House, Sywell Road, Holcot NN6 9SN



The Holcot Village Youth Club meets in the Youth Wing of the village hall.

### **FOR THE SAKE OF CLARITY**

Holcot has three websites. There are valid reasons for this, but there seems to be confusion about the purpose of each site. Hopefully, this list will clarify the situation.

#### **[holcot-pc.gov.uk](http://holcot-pc.gov.uk)**

This website is for **Parish Council business and information only** (eg. agendas, minutes, Councillor details, PC meeting dates, etc).

#### **[holcotvillagehall.co.uk](http://holcotvillagehall.co.uk)**

This site is just for **Holcot Village Hall business** (eg. booking enquiries, events, general information, terms and conditions, site plan, etc).

#### **[holcotvillage.co.uk](http://holcotvillage.co.uk)**

This site tells you about the comings and goings of **Holcot Village** (eg. events in the village hall, live music, roadworks, volunteering groups, church services, printed newsletter schedules, etc).

**Posts on this site also go out as emails to those who have subscribed.**

If you are still unsure about the purpose of these sites, please contact [editor@holcotvillage.co.uk](mailto:editor@holcotvillage.co.uk) (**not** the same as the editor of this newsletter!)

## **Parish Council Update:**

The Parish Council continues to take forward several initiatives on behalf of the village and to address issues raised by residents. Below is an update on recent actions and ongoing priorities.

**Crossroads Garden** The crossroads garden has been maintained by the volunteer gardening group for many years and remains an important feature of the village. Following a recent review, a number of the larger growing and/or invasive plants have been removed as they had outgrown the space and were becoming difficult to manage.

A new planting plan has been prepared by Councillor Watson, drawing on his experience in this area, in consultation with Heather Wilson. Members of the gardening group expressed concern that they have not been as involved in this process as they would have liked. The group confirmed today, 9 April 2026, that they are no longer prepared to continue maintaining the garden.

The Parish Council had asked the group to reconsider following their 'resignation' email of 13 March, recognising the significant contribution they have made over the years. It is now hoped that other volunteers will come forward, enabling Holcot to continue to provide the best possible Crossroads display into the future. In the meantime, an appropriate plan for spring/summer 2026 maintenance must be implemented by the Parish council. At the time of writing this may be without the essential benefit of volunteers. The council invites residents to fill the volunteer gap. The objective remains to retain an attractive feature, with maintenance at a sensible cost.

**Playing Field and Old School Site** Both sites are in the ownership of the Parish Council. We are seeking to register the Old School Site with the Land Registry as the original purchase was before the compulsory registration. The Playing Fields are registered with the Land Registry. There was an old Charity associated with the Playing Fields which has been dormant for several years and we are seeking to have this dissolved as all the costs of the Playing Fields are borne by the Parish Council.

**Traffic and Road Safety** Traffic through Holcot continues to be a major concern. Issues include speeding motorists, HGVs exceeding the 7.5 tonne limit, and the use of Poplars Lane and Back Lane as rat runs. Additional concerns include the lack of a footpath along Sywell Road towards the crossroads, the blind entry from Ivy Farm, and the need for a 20mph speed limit through the village.

To date, both the Highways Department and the Police have not fully appreciated the level of concern within the village nor offered effective solutions. The Parish Council will continue to press what it considers to be the most significant issue facing the parish.

**Solar Farm Proposal** The proposed solar farm by Island Green Power will be considered by the Planning Inspectorate on 14th April. The local pressure group, Stop Green Hill Solar, continues to oppose the development.

Should the proposal be approved, it would result in solar panels on the edge of the village and the potential development of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility at Sywell, which raises concerns, particularly in relation to fire risk.

**Parish Council Vacancies** The Parish Council is currently three councillors short. If you are interested in contributing to the community and becoming involved in local decision-making, please contact the Parish Clerk at [clerk@holcot-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@holcot-pc.gov.uk).

**Annual Village Meeting** The Annual Village Meeting will take place on 16th April at 6.30pm in the Village Hall. Residents are warmly encouraged to attend.




Holcot Village Hall Now has its Own Website [holcotvillagehall.co.uk](http://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



## SPECIAL OFFERS TO VILLAGE RESIDENTS!

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 email [info@holcotvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:info@holcotvillagehall.co.uk))

## Holcot Village Ladies Gardening Group is evolving!



The Group was originally established to create and tend new gardens in the Churchyard, and since broadened its role to include new gardens at the Crossroads etc, based on a proposal way back in the 2010 Parish Plan. However, times change, and a new different vision for the Crossroads has been developed by the Parish Council, and the

Group wishes them well and looks forward to seeing it. Nevertheless, the Group will be continuing its work on the Churchyard gardens, the Old School Site etc.

If you'd like to help us keep these areas of the Village looking beautiful, and can you spare a couple of hours every now and then to come, have fun, (and meet new people?), please do join us. Just phone Heather (01604) 781138 for dates/times etc. We look forward to welcoming you.



**Move it or Lose it!** A fun fitness class aimed at 60+. All movements can be performed standing or seated. Please join my new class in the Holcot Village Hall commencing 13<sup>th</sup> April, 11-12pm. First class is Free! Pay as you go, £6 per session from thereafter. A comfy pair of shoes is all that is needed to participate. Any questions, please give me a ring. Cynthia 07470 073248.



## The Friends of Holcot

This is a group of Holcot residents (male and female), who come together on Friday mornings about twice a month to tackle little jobs around the village. So far this year we have:

- ❖ Cleared leaves from Main Street and Rectory Lane
- ❖ Cut away suckers from the Poplars Lane lime tree
- ❖ Swept the jitty (running between Poplars Lane and Main Street)
- ❖ Cleared undergrowth, fallen branches and brambles from around the Washbrook, and
- ❖ Started restoring two wooden benches.

**We always need more volunteers** – including, perhaps, to help with the flower planting around the village – so if you want more information, or would like to join this merry band, please contact:

[editor@holcotvillage.co.uk](mailto:editor@holcotvillage.co.uk)

## Regular Dates for your Diary

All events normally in Holcot Village Hall, Back Lane, NN6 9SL 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://holcotvillagehall.co.uk/>

### **Monday**

11am-midday 'Move it or Lose it with Cynthia' - Fitness class for seniors (\*\*NEW\*\*)

[cynthia.bouchaud@moveitorloseit.co.uk](mailto:cynthia.bouchaud@moveitorloseit.co.uk) 07470 073 248

5.30-9.00pm Balanced Pet Academy obedience classes for dogs Holly Harte [balancedpetacademy@gmail.com](mailto:balancedpetacademy@gmail.com) 07892 918 771

(times may vary, also occasional **puppy courses**: contact Holly for details)

### **Tuesday**

9am-10am 'Pilates with Louise': 07766 807 184, or email [pilateswithlouise@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:dance@gaynabrown.co.uk)

\*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](mailto:judith.coles@hotmail.com)

### **Wednesday**

6.00-7.00pm 'Strictly'-style Dance classes (Weekly) £7/class

Julie 07736 032 606 or email [dancepod@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: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 648 566 / Pamela Mann 01604

495 249

### **Friday**

12.30-1.30pm Active Mummies Pilates

[clairlouisebrown83@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:clairlouisebrown83@hotmail.co.uk)

\*4.00-5.30pm Zozimus Drama – Children's Drama Class

Check dates & timing with [info@zozimusdrama.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:sheila@sharpend-uk.com) or Pam Wilson 07884 078179 email: [pamwholcot800@gmail.com](mailto:pamwholcot800@gmail.com)

## St Mary and All Saints Church

If you have ever wondered what Christianity is really about, we'd love to tell you more about Jesus. Come along to Holcot Church any Sunday at 9am. David Reith, Rector of Brixworth with Holcot [revdavidreith@gmail.com](mailto:revdavidreith@gmail.com) (01604) 880139

**COFFEE AND CAKE.** Our Wednesday meetings continue, with a good selection of people coming from Holcot and Brixworth. These take place every first and third Tuesdays of the month at 11am in the Church Room 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 going to look at the book of James and what it can teach us.

It is very informal and everyone is welcome to join us.

### **SERVICES**

We held our usual Easter services, starting with a very successful joint Palm Sunday service in Brixworth Church. Then, on Maundy Thursday, we joined together again to have a meal and service in the Village Hall. Many thanks to all the people who prepared the lamb stew, simply delicious! On Good Friday, we gathered for a very thoughtful Reflection service in the Church Room. By Easter Day, we were back in the Church to worship our risen Lord. We stay in the Church now until the Autumn.

### **CHURCH FUND RAISING**

Thank you to all who came to our Pancake and coffee morning on Shrove Tuesday. It was good to see people and the pancakes, as usual, were delicious!

Our next big event is on Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> July at 2pm. We are holding an Afternoon on the Green (In front of the Church) There will be stalls, tables to rent, Fancy Dress competitions for the children, flower displays in the Church, music and refreshments. Please come and support our beautiful village Church.