

District and Parish Council Elections

Your vote counts

ELECTIONS are coming up on Thursday 5 May and if your name is not on the electoral register you won't be able to have your say. Voting will take place for seats on South Holland District Council and on parish councils in the district.

When you move house, it is important you don't leave your vote behind.

If you have changed address since October, you need to contact us to get your new details listed on the electoral register.

You also need to take action if you would like a **postal vote**. Several thousand people in South Holland have the right to a permanent postal vote at every election and you can join the list if you wish.

Make sure your name and address are correctly entered on the electoral register, if they are not you won't be able to vote in these elections. If you're not sure then please contact our offices on 01775 761161 to check.

People used to be allowed a postal vote only if they met certain criteria but the rules have changed over the years and now anyone can apply to vote in this way. If you wish to do so then please get in touch with us now.

- **Polling day is Thursday 5 May**
- **Voting will take place for your 37 district councillors and for parish councillors in the 21 parishes**
- **Make sure you are registered now - the completed application form must be with us by 14 April**
- **If you wish to have a postal vote, apply now - the completed form must be in by 14 April**



National Referendum

ON THURSDAY 5 May you are also being asked to choose whether the UK should introduce a new way of selecting its Members of Parliament or keep the traditional system.

The traditional system is First Past the Post (FPTP). The new system being considered is called the Alternative Vote (AV).

It would still result in one MP for each constituency but the way we make our choice on the ballot paper would be different.

Instead of marking one 'X' in one box, the voter has the opportunity to rank the candidates in the list.

Voters put a '1' by their first choice candidate, and can continue, if they wish, to put a '2' by their second preference, and so on.

If a candidate receives a majority of first-preference votes (more people put them as number one than all the rest combined), then they are elected.

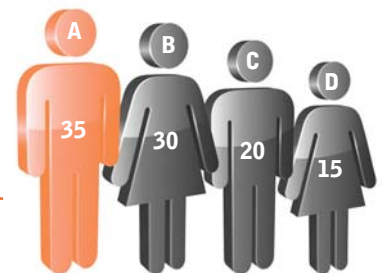
If no candidate gains a majority on first preferences, then the second-preference votes of the candidate who finished last are redistributed. This process is repeated until someone gets over 50 per cent.

AV or FPTP? The choice is yours.

How AV works in an election with 100 voters and 4 candidates...

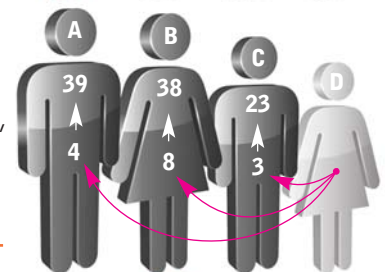
First-Past-the-Post

Candidate 'A' has the most votes. Under FPTP he would win.

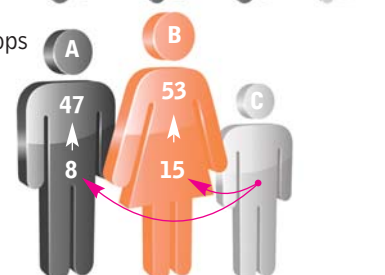


Alternative Vote

With AV voters' their 'first preferences' are counted as before. As no candidate has 50% support the last placed candidate, 'D', is eliminated, and her supporters' second preferences are transferred to the others.



Still no candidate has 50% support, so candidate 'C' drops out and his voters' second choices are transferred. 'B' emerges with majority support. Candidate 'B' wins.



For more advice contact:

- ▶ South Holland District Council
- ▶ tel: 01775 761161

▶ Our priority: Democratic community leadership



Grow your OWN

- **Would you like to grow your own food but you haven't got a garden?**
- **Would you like to know more about cooking and eating healthy local produce?**
- **Could you help a group in your community establish a new growing plot?**

THE South Holland Kitchen Garden Project aims to help you find the answers to these and many more questions on growing, cooking and eating healthy food.

The plan is to encourage people to eat healthily and learn how to grow their own food. One aim is to encourage communities, young and old together, to find a piece of land to grow vegetables in their town or village. Perhaps someone has a garden that is too big and they're willing to share?

If doing your own thing is more in your line, why not apply for a kit to make a raised bed for your own garden?

A 'tools amnesty' is being organised for people with spades or forks or hoes they don't use to give them up so they can be given to a new gardener with bags of enthusiasm but not enough gardening equipment.

The Kitchen Garden Project also links in with other schemes like the Red Lion Quarter and the South Holland Food Festival.

Many of us can achieve some of the aims now - like Nude Food Days! If you take a packed lunch to work, try putting it into a lunch box without extra packaging.

▶ **Our priority: Care of our villages and towns**

For more information contact:

▶ www.kitchengardenproject.co.uk

Priory Road changes

Council offices now offer you more access to more services



VISITORS to our offices in Priory Road will now find a range of services on offer under the same roof.

A one-stop shop for a variety of services will be created over the coming months as some other agencies make a new base for themselves in our building.

The scheme is being made possible as space freed up by various changes is made available to external organisations.

Among the first takers is Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, whose staff have moved from their former Holland Road premises.

South Lincolnshire Community & Voluntary Service has also relocated to Priory Road and it is expected that other parts of the public sector will transfer to the offices as time goes by.

"It makes sense to use the surplus accommodation which we now have as wisely as possible," said David Fannin, South Holland's Head of Partnerships, Performance and Community Development.

"These moves reflect the changing world of local government. Bringing in other agencies is in the interests of operational efficiency and it creates revenue income from rental of the space."

Various changes have led to space being available at Priory Road, including the partnership arrangements with other local authorities.

▶ **Our priority: Improving Access to Services**

For more advice contact:

▶ South Holland District Council
▶ tel: 01775 761161

Top Marks...



HOLBEACH ST MARKS has had more than its share of anti-social behaviour and an eight-week course aimed at solving some of those problems has just finished.

“Holbeach St Mark’s is a great place to live but unfortunately has had a disproportionate number of anti-social behaviour incidents, some criminal damage and three arson attacks in the last few months,” said Sgt Duncan Ashwell, who worked with our own officers on the project.

“We want everyone, young and old, to get on, with tolerance on both sides.

“A lot of the problems are because of anti-social behaviour and everyone is aware there is very little for young people to do in the area.

“The eight-week course was designed to include some work and some play, with a different theme each week and various speakers. We took the young people out of their ‘comfort zone’ in the village and ran the course in Holbeach Fire Station.”

The course was run by our Anti-Social Behaviour Unit, Holbeach Neighbourhood Police Team, the Children’s Services Detached Team and Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue.

“

We want everyone, young and old, to get on, with tolerance on both sides.

Sgt Duncan Ashwell, one of the driving forces behind the project

”

Subjects tackled included the effects of anti-social behaviour on the community, the history of Holbeach, community life, dangers and consequences of arson, the effects on a community of criminal damage and penalties like curfews and tagging.

One evening’s theme was car crashes and the effects upon surviving passengers, the families of any deceased victims and those officers who deal with incidents.

Families were invited to a celebration at the final session, which included a presentation of certificates.



South Lincs Community Safety Partnership
Helping to make your community safer

▶ Our priority: Care of our villages and towns

For more information contact:

- ▶ Anti-Social Behaviour Team
- ▶ tel: 01775 761161



Spalding Flower Parade
a little bit of R...

Spalding Flower Parade Saturday 30 April

THE Spalding Flower Parade is nearly here and as the excitement builds designers are working all hours to produce a stunning collection of floats, including An English Country Garden, Strawberries and Cream, George and the Dragon and A Day at the Seaside.

A Flower Parade fanfare has been commissioned which will be world-premiered by trumpeters from RAF Cranwell at the parade.

Spalding and South Holland are hugely significant within Britain and to celebrate the heritage and Britishness a bouquet of tulips will be sent to Kate Middleton in celebration of her marriage to Prince William, the day prior to the parade.





Flower Parade Rio in Spalding

To add the flavour of 'Rio' an award-winning Brazilian Dance troupe 'Parias Samba' will be joining the parade which begins its three and a half mile route from the Springfield Events Centre at 2pm on Saturday 30 April and finishes at the Sir Halley Stewart Playing Field where the floats will be 'FREE-to-view between 4pm - 6pm.

The finale will feature dance routines and band performances as well as the official prize giving by this year's Flower Queen and a guest celebrity.

A film about the parade is being produced by New College Stamford and plans are underway for a special VIP preview in Spalding, further details to follow.

You can follow the build up on Twitter (twitter.com/flowerparade) and Facebook ([spaldingflowerparade2011](https://www.facebook.com/spaldingflowerparade2011)) - please leave your comments. Or find out more on www.spalding-flower-parade.org.uk



► Our priority:
A Secure and Diverse Economy

For more information visit:

► www.spalding-flower-parade.org.uk



South Holland Seniors

Words provided by David Roberts - Holbeach Seniors

THERE are a lot of older people in South Holland, far more than in most parts of the country. There are two reasons for this.

First, the "locals" are very long-lived, and secondly, large numbers of people from other parts of the country chose to retire here. The attractions of the area include the comparatively low cost of housing, the lack of hills for ageing joints and the welcoming attitudes of the locals.

Since 2002 two groups of local seniors have got together to form older people's forums. They are Welland Seniors' Forum, for Spalding and the western half of the area and Holbeach Seniors' Link for the eastern half.

Although they have received a lot of support from the local council they remain TOTALLY INDEPENDENT.

They function in three ways, "The 3 Cs":

Campaigning: Access to G.P.s and transport services are two of their current issues. The forums were partly responsible for ensuring that bus passes could be used before 9.30 am.

Communicating: Both groups meet five times per year in a variety of places to hear and questions speakers on a whole range of relevant subjects from

council tax to foot-care and saving money on fuel bills to eyesight problems. Many of their members have gained financially and in terms of quality of life as a result of attending these meetings.

Consultation: Amongst other things they were represented on the reference team for the new Johnson Hospital and are increasingly getting involved with our local council. They are invited to send representatives to cabinet meetings - and not just to listen, they can join in debates. They have recently been asked to help in the production of this magazine.

It is worth remembering that there are a lot of older voters and they are the group which is most likely to vote. Their voice can not be ignored. Joining one of the forums could not be easier. Anyone over 55 is most welcome, just turn up. Meetings are advertised in the local press and parish magazines. There is no membership fee, it is totally free.

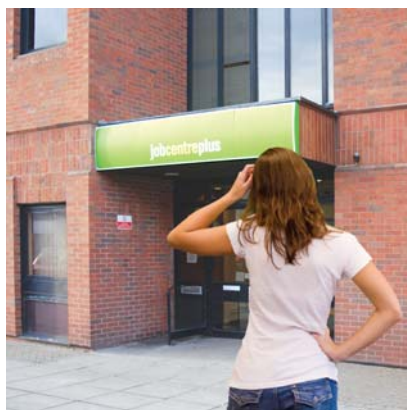
► Our priority: Democratic community leadership

For more information:

► About forthcoming meetings contact Maureen Scantlebury for Welland Seniors - tel: 01775 711427, email: moscant@talktalk.net or David Roberts for Holbeach Seniors - tel: 01406 371500, email: dehroberts@aol.com

Give us a break...

OVER the past few months members of our Youth Council have become very concerned about young people's inability to find part-time jobs and, in some instances, work experience placements in the area.



Their concern centres on two main issues: they want to earn money and they need to show when applying for college or university places or for full-time jobs that they have had experience in the world of work.

At their February meeting, Youth Council members invited representatives from the employment world and from the voluntary sector to discuss how young people might get over the special difficulties they are facing in the tough economic climate.

To see a recording of the discussion, click on the webcast link on www.sholland.gov.uk

Here is the experience of one teenager in South Holland...

Young people looking for work often find themselves in a corner. Bosses are usually looking for people with relevant experience and that's the one thing you do not have when you're still trying to get a first step on the jobs ladder.

Becky* keeps finding herself in just that Catch 22 situation as she hunts for work in our area.

"I apply for at least five or six jobs every week but if I get an interview they always say they need someone with experience," she said. "It's very frustrating."

Becky, 18, has good A levels and is considering applying to take a degree course in the future.

In the meantime, she had hoped to spend a gap year earning money and gaining experience in the world of work.

“ I apply for at least five or six jobs every week but if I get an interview they always say they need someone with experience, it's very frustrating. ”

So far it's been a tough few months.

"Every day I go on to websites for vacancies and I've applied for a lot of jobs but often don't hear anything back.

"When I've gone for interview and not been successful I've ask for feedback, to find out why and the answer is always the same - no experience."

While at school Becky worked part-time as a waitress and she has done work experience in a hotel and admin work.

Currently she is doing work experience in a primary school and trying to sell products through a door-to-door catalogue service.

"Going for interviews has been good experience," Becky said. "My advice would be you should find out what you can about the company and the work, to show you have prepared for the interview. The biggest thing is to practise by getting a parent or a friend to pretend to interview you, just to get that interaction.

"I suppose the message is 'never give up'."

* Becky's real name has been changed for reasons of privacy.

One scheme that might help...

**Latest news from
Job Centre Plus**

jobcentreplus

Work Experience - 'Offering greater insight into the world of work'

- **Are you aged 18 - 21?**
- **Have you been claiming Jobseekers Allowance for more than thirteen weeks?**
- **Do you need up to date work experience to help you get a job?**

If you answer yes to these questions then you need to speak to your Jobcentre Plus adviser.

The new 'Work Experience' initiative can offer a two to eight weeks work placement with an employer in your area.

You will have the chance to develop new skills and gain a reference to add to your CV.

You will continue to get your benefit and we can even pay your travel costs.

For more information visit:

▶ Jobcentre Plus Offices
Jobsearch helpline
08456 060 234

benefit & council tax tweets



Help us save your money by reporting benefit fraudsters - phone 0800 0851 737 or visit www.sholland.gov.uk/benefitfraud.



If you're committing benefit fraud, we will catch you and then you could go to prison! Is it worth the risk?



The easiest way to pay your Council Tax is by Direct Debit - just call our DD line on 01775 764691 to set it up.



Please tell us within 21 days of any changes that may affect your Council Tax - if you don't, we may impose a penalty of £70.



Are you paying too much Council Tax? There's a wide range of discounts and exemptions available - check our website for details.

recycling tweet



Recycle your furniture and save yourself money. Why not donate your unwanted household items by calling South Holland Community Furniture Recycling Project on 01775 711171.

democracy tweets



District elections will be held on May 5 in 2011.



You can't vote in any elections if you aren't registered, so if you move house make sure you register. Call 01775 761161 for more information or go online to sholland.gov.uk.

ayscoughfee tweets



Fairytale Wedding Festival, Sunday 5th June at Ayscoughfee Hall Museum and Gardens, PE11 2RA. www.ayscoughfee.org to find out more.



Friends of Ayscoughfee concerts 2011. Six fantastic performances in Ayscoughfee Gardens. FREE entry! www.ayscoughfee.org to find out more.



Ayscoughfee Hall is now on Facebook- follow us to find out what's going on and to keep up with the latest news!



Check out Ayscoughfee Hall's photographs on Flickr. They're from the collection, and feature local people and places- you might recognise your ancestors!



Did you know that Ayscoughfee's education programme is free and on our website? It's great for all sorts of groups to use and makes a visit even better.



Ayscoughfee has just received the Visit England Quality Assurance Badge for the 5th year running - a mark of our commitment to customer service and a great visitor experience.



Every month there's a new art exhibition in the Geest Gallery so it's always worth coming to have a look. You might get inspired.



Look out for Ayscoughfee's 'Egg-straordinary' Easter events at www.ayscoughfee.org

Details of council and community events across the district

For details and for a full listing of events across the district, call or go online:

South Holland District Council
Tel: 01775 761161 www.sholland.gov.uk
South Holland Centre Box Office
Tel: 01775 764777 www.southhollandcentre.co.uk
Ayscoughfee Hall Museum
Tel: 01775 764555 www.ayscoughfee.org

Listing your Community Events

For listings of your community events visit www.sholland.gov.uk click on 'Leisure and Culture' and 'What's On' where local events and opportunities for getting your event listed are shown.

Using the 'Get your event listed form', you can electronically submit your event to us for listing on our website.

Contacting South Holland District Council

Telephone: 01775 761161
Fax: 01775 711253
Email: info@sholland.gov.uk
Web: www.sholland.gov.uk

Address:
Council Offices,
Priory Road,
Spalding, Lincs.
PE11 2XE

South Holland Now for the Blind and Partially Sighted

We can provide this magazine in large print form or on tape. If you, or any of your friends or family, would be interested please call us on 01775 761161 and let us know.

This magazine has been produced by South Holland District Council and printed by Classic Printers, on environmentally friendly paper. It costs under 15p per copy to produce and distribute.

The Love Food Hate Waste guide to saving money around the kitchen

Lovely leftovers

Being creative with leftovers is a clever way to save money and make what's in the fridge go further. Sunday's roast leftovers can be used in many dishes from cheeky curries to cracking risottos.

LOVE
FOOD
hate waste

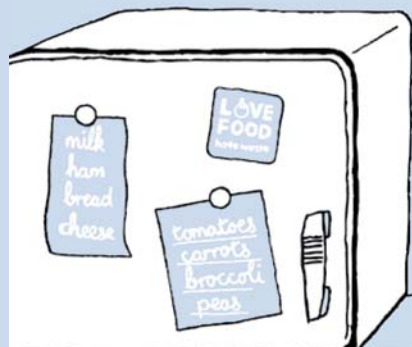


Cook from the cupboard

With canned and dried foods in the cupboard and some fridge and freezer basics, you can pull together a quick meal to make the most of any leftovers.

Perfect portions

It's very likely we've all got the perfect thing for measuring a portion of rice, pasta or potato in our kitchen. A regular mug works for rice. A mug of uncooked rice is the right amount to feed four adults. Try the Portion Calculator at lovefoodhatewaste.com



Know your dates

Checking dates saves money. Food can be eaten right up to a 'use-by' date or frozen. 'Best before' dates are for quality so there is no need to throw out food on the stated date - eggs being the exception.

It pays to plan

A great way of saving time and money is to check what's in the cupboard, fridge and freezer and make a list before going shopping. Planning like this removes the hassle of thinking about what to eat every day and lets us enjoy food at its freshest.



Visit lovefoodhatewaste.com for loads more handy ideas like these and great recipes for leftovers.

Collections over Easter and May Bank Holidays 2011

All other collections will be as normal

refuse

recycling



If your refuse / recycling collection would have been due on:

Fri 22nd April Good Friday
 Mon 25th April Easter Monday
 Fri 29th April Royal Wedding Bank Holiday
 Mon 2nd May May Day
 Mon 30th May Bank Holiday Monday

Leave out for collection on:

▶ Fri 22nd April
 ▶ Sat 23rd April
 ▶ Fri 6th May
 ▶ Mon 2nd May
 ▶ Sat 28th May