

south holland now



WINTER 2011



Oscar & Madeline Haunch (3 & 6) having fun at the Spalding Pumpkin Festival in October

Help to drive down energy bills

A major drive to help people save money on their fuel bills is being spearheaded in South Holland

SOUTH HOLLAND District Council is offering an energy assessment service which will help you work out how you can cut your costs.

temperatures. Not only could residents benefit directly by saving money on their energy bills, they would also be making a valuable contribution towards the reduction of our district's carbon footprint."

A partner organisation, Street Energy, will be calling at residents' homes offering to install cavity wall and loft insulation, under the HELP scheme.

The council's energy officer will be supplying a questionnaire to residents to determine whether they could benefit from an energy assessment.

“ Not only could residents benefit directly by saving money on their energy bills, they would also be making a valuable contribution towards the reduction of our district's carbon footprint. ”

Cllr Roger Gambba-Jones, SHDC Portfolio Holder for Carbon Management

Councillor Roger Gambba-Jones, SHDC Portfolio Holder for Carbon Management, said: "I would certainly urge residents to take advantage of this service before this year's cold weather arrives, especially as it is again forecast to bring us below average winter

If you are spending more than 10% of your income on gas, electricity or oil there are various schemes available to help you cut the costs.

Under the HELP (Home Energy Lincs Partnership) scheme, cavity wall and loft insulation are free for people on benefits or those who are over the age of 70.

For more advice contact or visit:

- ▶ Riga Jansons, energy officer
- ▶ tel: 01775 764832 ▶ www.sholland.gov.uk
- ▶ email: energysurvey@sholland.gov.uk



▶ Our priority: To Have Pride In South Holland

Lifeline for vulnerable residents

VULNERABLE residents throughout South Holland are being offered a round-the-clock lifeline

Personal alarms are available to give people, with disabilities and health or domestic issues, peace of mind and reassurance.

The service works by connecting users, issued with an electronic pendant, to a care centre which operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

If you have an emergency you can press the pendant and an operator will help and advise you.

If you need someone to come to help you the operator can contact a member of



SHDC's Supported Housing Team to assist if family and friends are unavailable, from Monday 8.30am until Friday 4.45pm inclusive, including evenings and during the night.

Alternatively, if necessary, they will call the emergency services.

Lifeline alarms are installed quickly and easily and all that is needed is a modern telephone socket and a nearby electric plug socket. A small charge of £2.85 is made a week for the equipment and service.

More information about this service is available in the Lifeline support leaflet, available on-line or from our Priory Road Office Reception, or contact our Supported Housing Team, details below.

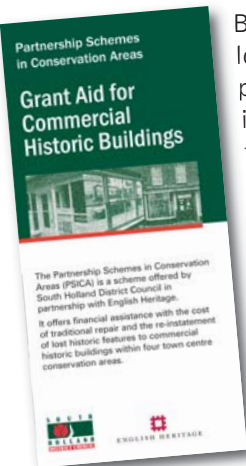
▶ Our priority: To Enable Our Communities

For more advice or to download a Lifeline support leaflet contact:

- ▶ SHDC Supported Housing Team,
- ▶ tel: 01775 764461
- ▶ email: supportedhousingteam@sholland.gov.uk
- ▶ www.sholland.gov.uk/housing/news/Lifeline+Support

Grants to revamp historic buildings

CASH help is on offer to help revamp and renovate historic shops and offices in South Holland.



Buildings which have lost their glory over the passage of time could be in line for vital funding to resurrect architectural gems throughout the district.

Four town centre Conservation Areas in Spalding, Crowland, Holbeach and Long Sutton have been earmarked under the scheme.

Traditional repairs and work to reinstate the authentic look of commercial properties could be part paid for through the Partnership Schemes in Conservation Areas (PSICA).

A survey of the external condition of all historic buildings, which are used commercially, has already been undertaken. To find out whether your building might be eligible for grant aid please contact South Holland District Council Conservation Grants Officer Julie-Anne Middleditch.

Since 2007, more than £600,000 has been spent on improving commercial properties under the scheme which is run by South Holland in partnership with English Heritage.

Councillor Roger Gambba-Jones, SHDC Portfolio Holder for Conservation, said: "The PSICA scheme is a wonderful opportunity for those who own buildings that are valued by our communities, to seek help to restore them to their former glory."

► **Our priority:
To Support Our Local Economy**

For more information contact:

► Conservation Grants Officer
► tel: 01775 764551

Volunteer trio form the Dig Society

THREE community-spirited volunteers have created their own "Dig Society" to help transform a patch of land and help fill the larders at a housing complex.

Roland Munton, George Isaac and "Brush" Wright have been cultivating the land outside their Spalding homes to grow vegetables and flowers.

They have embraced the spirit of the Big Society concept with their own "Dig Society", volunteering their time to produce fresh potatoes, spring cabbages, cauliflowers, tomatoes, cucumbers, radishes and onions.

They are even lining up a crop of Brussel sprouts for the dinner table this Christmas.

The trio are all residents at Nene Court, off Thames Road in Spalding, which is owned and managed by South Holland District Council.

Roland (67), who has spent half a century in horticulture, has been leading the way with his expertise and is ably assisted by retired site agent George (78) and Brush, who has spent 45 of his 62 years as a plumber.

Brush said: "This patch of land was a complete mess and needed a lot of attention. The council cuts the grass and we have been working on the beds and verges to put a bit of community spirit into the job."

SHDC Portfolio Holder for Housing, Councillor Christine Lawton, said: "As a veg gardener myself and a helper and weeder for Spalding in Bloom, I really think these diggers of the Dig Society deserve our respect.

Councillor Nick Worth, Portfolio Holder for Big Society and Localism, said: "It is really inspiring to see these three people using their knowledge and



(L-R) "Brush" Wright, George Isaac and Roland Munton

expertise in growing vegetables to give their local community access to locally grown food. A great example of Big Society in action."

“ It is really inspiring to see these three people using their knowledge and expertise in growing vegetables to give their local community access to locally grown food. A great example of Big Society in action. ”

Cllr Nick Worth, Portfolio Holder for Big Society and Localism

Nene Court Scheme Manager Alison Conroy said: "I'm hoping it might encourage other tenants to do something similar where they live. What they have been doing is really smashing."

► **Our priorities:
To Have Pride In South Holland,
To Develop Stronger
Communities**

For more information contact:

► South Holland District Council
► tel: 01775 761161



(L-R) PCSO Ben Harrington, Volunteer Mechanics Andy Hunt and Stuart Coote. Team Members Martyn Kennett, Daisy Kilbon and Sam Bacon.

Photograph courtesy of Lincolnshire Free Press



Youngsters geared up to help charity

YOUNGSTERS have been working hard to rebuild a Land Rover to be used by a charity providing holidays for deprived children.

The team, in Sutton Bridge, rebuilt the "battered and bruised" vehicle - in a workshop provided by South Holland District Council - ready for it to be delivered to its new owners.

The council teamed up with police and other partners in a project for young people in the 13 to 17 age range and help keep them off the streets.

Police Community Support Officer Ben Harrington said: "There have been problems with anti-social behaviour in Sutton Bridge so we were looking for something specific for the kids to do."

“ This has given me new skills... working as a team and getting on with a different variety of people. ”

Anthony Hughes (15)

The team included mechanics Stuart Coote and Andy Hunt, PCSO Ben Harrington, Pc Laura Griggs, County Youth Development Worker Sarah Coote, SHDC Anti-Social Behaviour Officer Abigail Cooper and Annie Best from Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue.

Stuart said: "I am proud of the group and would work with them anytime and do what I can to support them."

The mainstays of the team were 16-year-olds Karl Tear, Sam Bacon and Martyn Kennett, Daisy Kilbon (14) and Anthony Hughes (15). Teenagers Matthew Fuller and Ryan Gowler were also involved. Their work is accredited with an Asdan qualification.

Anthony said: "This has given me new skills in working on a Land Rover, working as a team and getting on with a different variety of people."

The vehicle will be used by The Second Chance Children's Charity, which works with children from difficult and complex backgrounds.

Councillor Nick Worth, SHDC Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, said: "This project has given these young people something to focus on that has used and further developed their skills and qualifications. It has provided them with a real achievement that will help disadvantaged children. Well done!"

The project was a partnership between SHDC, Police, Lincolnshire County Council, the Lincolnshire Criminal Justice Unit and the Community Volunteer Service.

► **Our priority: To Develop Stronger Communities**

For more information contact:

- Anti-Social Behaviour Team
- tel: 01775 761161

Rent a Room scheme

RESIDENTS in South Holland who are struggling with the cost of living but have a spare room in the house are being urged to rent it out.

The Government's Rent a Room scheme encourages households to take in a lodger and earn an extra income of up to £4,250 a year tax-free.

The scheme is available to both home owners and tenants - with the landlord's permission - letting furnished rooms in their home.



South Holland District Council's Housing Advice team provides information to would-be landlords about the scheme and can refer future tenants.

SHDC Portfolio Holder for Housing Christine Lawton said: "We acknowledge that in the current economic climate many people are living on reduced incomes while enduring higher costs but the Rent a Room scheme could help give you a vital extra income."

For more information contact:

- Council's Housing Advice team
- Tel: 01775 761161
- www.direct.gov.uk

Changes to housing benefit

HOUSING benefit claimants in South Holland are being warned that help towards their rent is likely to be reduced from next year.

Government changes to housing benefit legislation were introduced in April this year, which saw a reduction in the amount of Local Housing Allowance that some people were eligible to receive.

To see how these changes may affect you contact:

- Council's Housing Benefit team
- Tel: 01775 761161

National Theatre Live at the South Holland Centre



National Theatre Live

Best of British theatre broadcast live to cinemas around the world

THE SOUTH HOLLAND CENTRE'S new digital technology means they can now show special satellite screenings of National Theatre Live productions.

Larger than life Lenny Henry stars in *The Comedy of Errors* by William Shakespeare which will be screened at the Centre on Friday 2nd March at 7pm. Tickets are just £12.50 or £11 concessions.. a fraction of the price of London tickets and right on your doorstep!

Join the Centre's mailing list or visit their facebook and website for more National Theatre Live spring dates.



► **Our priority: To Support Our Local Economy**

For more information visit:

- Box Office
Tel: 01775 764777
- www.southhollandcentre.co.uk



Community Payback

OFFENDERS have been paying back to the community by helping to tidy up areas of South Holland and sprucing up Spalding's riverside.

Lincolnshire Probation Trust, in partnership with South Holland District Council, has been supervising teams of workers under the Community Payback scheme.

Some of the work has been part-funded under the council's designated members' budget scheme, which gives individual councillors a sum of money to pay for grassroots community projects.

The Community Payback teams have been operating in a number of parts of the district including Sutton Bridge, Long Sutton, Weston and Spalding. Work has included gardening and tidying up communal areas on SHDC sheltered housing schemes.

On the riverbank, in Spalding, the teams have been renovating and replacing benches and have been praised for doing a good job.



Councillor Gary Taylor, SHDC Portfolio Holder for Internal Services and ward councillor for Spalding Castle, said: "Residents in my ward have raised concerns with me regarding

the condition of certain parts of the riverbank, in particular the condition of the wooden benches. We have now sought the services of the Community Payback team from the Probation Service to carry out work in this area.



“ Residents want to see offenders giving something back to their community. It's vital that the public see that we are taking action and justice must be seen to be done... ”

Cllr Gary Taylor, Portfolio Holder for Internal Services

“Residents want to see offenders giving something back to their community. It's vital that the public see that we are taking action and justice must be seen to be done and this should also be a deterrent to would-be offenders.”

► **Our priority: To Have Pride In South Holland**

For more information about Community Payback or to nominate a project, please visit:

► www.lincolnshireprobationtrust.org.uk

David posts lasting legacy

Back (L-R) Cllr Chandler & Cllr Creese. Front (L-R) Doug Sim, Beryl Roberts, David Roberts and Pat Sim of Holbeach Senior Link



Ensuring that senior residents in and around Holbeach are kept informed by post will be just part of the lasting legacy of Holbeach Seniors' Link Chairman David Roberts.

The organisation is one of the first to receive cash under South Holland District Council's Designated Members' Budget scheme.

It has been awarded a total of £400 - £200 each from the budgets held by Whaplode and Holbeach St John's ward Councillors Malcolm Chandler and Bob Creese - to help pay the organisation's annual postal bill.

The organisation and its sister group Welland Seniors' Forum have been

keeping South Holland's over 55s up to speed by sending out information on services for nearly 10 years.

Sadly Mr Roberts passed away in October but prior to his death he joined councillors at the council's Priory Road offices in Spalding to collect the money.

Speaking at the time he said: "We are anxious that nothing should stand in the way of older folk coming to our meetings. Because of the increasing cost of postage we took the decision to send out a diary of forthcoming meetings just once per year but this has not proved successful.

"To re-introduce mailings for each meeting was beyond our financial limits so we decided to ask two of our councillors to help us out from the "pots of money" allotted to each ward. I was delighted to hear that our Whaplode and Holbeach St John's Councillors were prepared to cover the whole cost. This is just one more example of how SHDC is supportive of our work with older people."

► **Our priority:**
To Enable Our Communities

For more information visit:

► www.sholland.gov.uk/council/councillors/Designated+Councillor+Budgets

Tribute from Douglas Sim, Vice Chairman and Treasurer Holbeach Seniors' Link

David's sudden passing will leave not just a void, but a huge chasm in many people's lives.

Those who worked with him in the many organisations in which he played major roles and those who benefitted from his help and advice over the years have lost a stalwart activist in the field of getting the best from people to assist the over 55s in our local area.

David had been looking forward to joining us for the next anniversary to be celebrated by the H.S.L in February next year when it will be our 50th open meeting.

Our thoughts go out to Beryl, his wife and all his family in this time of loss.

David, so many people will miss you.

The Designated Member Budget scheme, as voted for by SHDC, provides £5,000 for each ward member to help fund community projects throughout a financial year.

As the scheme came into force partway through 2011/12, the budget this year is **£4,000.**

We want to hear from YOU!

YOUR Big Society ideas can now be uploaded onto the web in a new on-line initiative from South Holland District Council

Join the Civicrowd page on the council's website to get your views across on how you would like to see a real difference being made in the community where you live.

"The Big Society concept is about

people in the area where you live helping themselves to get things done rather than relying on services simply being provided by the local council", says SHDC Deputy Leader Nick Worth.

If you live or work in South Holland you can join in the debate to get things sorted out in your community.

It doesn't matter how big or small your idea is or how much it costs, we want to hear from. We can't guarantee that every idea suggested will be used but at least you'll be able to get it off your chest.

When your idea has been published, it will appear on Civicrowd web page where others can vote on it. There you

can vote and rate an idea. You can also give feedback, thoughts and ideas by adding a comment.



► **Our priority:**
To Enable Our Communities

To access the Civicrowd page:

► <http://sholland.civicrowd.com/>

Smartphone users, use the camera to scan the code above and you will be taken to the Civicrowd page.

benefit & council tax snippets



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?



Looking forward to the New Year? Why not make a resolution to pay your Council Tax monthly by Direct Debit? Simple, convenient and secure.



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



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.

leisure snippet



Don't miss the 12th Open Arts Exhibition at the South Holland Centre 29th February - 6th March 2012. Deadline for entries is 30th January 2012. For further details contact the SHDC Community Development team on tel: 01775 761161.



Are you one of the South Holland Centre's facebook friends or twitter followers? If so you will be the first to know about new events and offers as they happen.

ayscoughfee snippets



Take part in a paranormal event Saturday 3rd March 2012 at Ayscoughfee Hall Museum with the team from UK Ghost Hunters. For more details call 01775 764555 or email museum@sholland.gov.uk or go to www.ayscoughfee.org



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



Ayscoughfee is hosting Act II theatre group's Flint St Nativity at the end of December - come along and celebrate Christmas with us! For more information, please contact the Museum.



In conjunction with 4 and 20 blackbirds, we're holding a Victorian Valentine on Sunday 12th February 2012. There'll be lots to learn and have a go at, for more information please contact the Museum.

night out snippet



Make sure you get home safely by using a licensed taxi. Ensure the vehicle has a current license plate and the driver is wearing a badge.

flood alert snippet



Get advice and warnings on flooding by calling the Environment Agency Floodline on 0845 988 1188. Residents can find out about such issues as preparing a flood kit and planning for an emergency.

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 District Council - Satellite office at Long Sutton
Market House, 9 Market Street, Long Sutton. PE12 9DD
www.longsuttonmarkethouse.org

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.

Translation available



доступный перевод



Tłumaczenia dostępne



a tradução disponível



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.

I'm dreaming of a Green Christmas!

Here are our top tips to help you have an eco-friendly yuletide...

Make a New Year's resolution to try and Recycle more and to waste less in 2012!

Make a shopping list - although it's a time when we all enjoy indulging, none of us like waste. Try using a shopping list, as this can help to reduce impulse buying, avoid waste and save money.

Please do not put into your green bag:

Shopping bags - taking your everyday bags with you when you go Christmas shopping will help to reduce the amount you have to throw away later.

Recycling your Christmas Waste is easy - use your green bag to Recycle:

Look for products made from recycled material - this helps to make sure that there is a market for all the recycling we all work hard to collect.

Try not to use throwaway plates, cups and serviettes. It's nice to avoid the washing up, but it does add to waste that needs to be disposed of.

Christmas decorations
Christmas tree lights
Broken toys
Batteries

PLEASE recycle - even on the happy day. Using a recycling bag for all that wrapping paper and packing will avoid the need to sort it out later!

Wrapping paper
Christmas cards
Large Sweet tins
Bottles and jars
Used crackers
Catalogues

Try to buy a Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) approved tree or one that is potted with roots, as you can use it again in years to come.

If you are buying a real Christmas tree this year, one of your New Year's resolutions could be to recycle it once the festivities are over.

After removing your tree's decorations, you can take it to the Household Waste Recycling Centre in Spalding, or please contact us for more details of temporary containers around the district.

Don't forget to put vegetable and fruit peelings from your Christmas dinner in your home compost bin

Collections over Christmas & New Year

All other collections will be as normal

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

Leave out for collection on:

refuse
recycling



Monday 26th December ▶ Monday 2nd January
Tuesday 27th December ▶ Tuesday 3rd January

All other collections return to normal as of Monday 2nd January