



HOLLAND ON SEA  
RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION  
established 1926

# Community Magazine

AUTUMN 2025



# Holland Residents Association Community Magazine

is delivered **FREE** in print form to every home in Holland-on-Sea.

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We thank all our loyal advertisers who support the production of this magazine. Committed to providing the best information in your local area, our own dedicated members are fully involved in every step of this process.

*Articles for the Autumn edition of the HRA Magazine are to be submitted to Mo Cochlin ([littlemaur199@gmail.com](mailto:littlemaur199@gmail.com)). Final date for submission is the 5th of November 2025.*

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The HRA Magazine is printed by Dolphin Artwork, Walton-on-the-Naze.

*The Holland Residents' Association is by its constitution a non (party) political organisation. That said we are always happy to engage constructively with duly elected representatives – MP/Councillors (irrespective of any political groups to which they may belong) to keep them informed on matters of local interest, to seek their assistance in representing the interests of residents at their respective levels, and to hold them to account for their actions, or inactions. To this end we offer them space in this magazine to give a (short) report on their activities over the past three months.*

*Their names and contact details appear on the HRA Committee Members page.*

# Welcome to your Community Magazine

Dear Residents,

Welcome to the Autumn edition of the HRA magazine.

Mother Nature has always amazed me and in recent weeks we have had heatwaves, very wet days and we won't forget in a hurry the swarm of ladybirds that paid us a visit. I was still finding them throughout the house for over a week!

Luckily the weather gods allowed the garage sale and summer fete to take place. Both events attracted lots of residents and visitors and we have had some lovely feedback which makes the effort all worthwhile.

The committee are now looking ahead to a potential new event for Christmas and new ways to celebrate our centenary year in 2026. If you have any ideas, please let us know.

We would love to hear about any resident who will be 100 years young or more in 2026 - please provide their details to either myself or the HRA Secretary.

Change is happening all around us with regards to the Unitary Authority and also the potential for us to have a Parish Council. The HRA encourage you to be involved and give your views and we will do all we can to provide relevant information as it becomes available.

Hope to see you at the next public meeting on 17th October.

**Tracey Hunt**  
Chairperson of HRA

## Fly-Tipping in Holland on Sea

If you notice fly-tipping rubbish, please can you report it direct to the Council using the link below. Please give as much information as possible as to the location of the rubbish, so it can be easily located and removed, thank you.

[https://tending-self.achieveservice.com/service/Report\\_an\\_Issue\\_with\\_Fly\\_Tipping](https://tending-self.achieveservice.com/service/Report_an_Issue_with_Fly_Tipping)

## HRA Public Meeting

The next public meeting will be held at the Holland Public Village Hall on Friday 17th October at 2pm.

We have invited a representative from the Essex Wildlife Trust as our guest speaker and have, of course, invited our local Councillors to give updates.

This meeting is open to all residents of Holland on Sea and to Associate members.



HOLLAND ON SEA  
RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

*Keep up-to-date with your community  
Visit [www.hollandresidents.co.uk](http://www.hollandresidents.co.uk)*

*This magazine can also be viewed online*

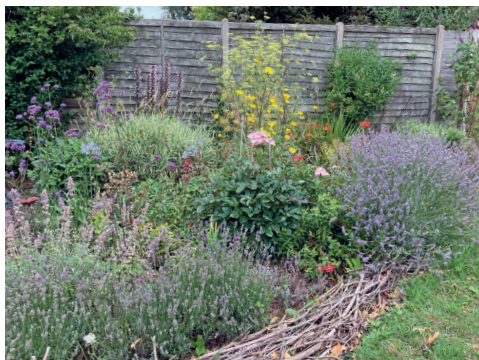
# The Ipswich Road Garden

Despite the prolonged periods of dry weather, the plants managed incredibly well along with some TLC from the volunteer gardeners.

At the beginning of the year a much-needed bench which already belonged to the HRA was installed.

Next year the new village sign will be in place. The previous sign, which had been at the public hall, was removed owing to deterioration at its base. The new sign will be made of a stronger material and will be situated behind the hedge which runs parallel with the main road.

As ever we do need more volunteers as we rely on a basic core of just a few helpers. We meet most Saturdays for one hour at 10am. Although our volunteers are committed, there may come times when some may step aside. We hope this won't be for some time yet. Sadly, if we don't get more helpers, we will run the risk of eventually losing the gardens. The volunteers receive many



complimentary comments and it would be a shame if the gardens do not become a permanent feature. If you can spare the time, enjoy basic gardening and want to give something to the community please get in touch.

Thank you for reading this.

To help, please contact:  
[membershipsecretary.of.hra@gmail.co](mailto:membershipsecretary.of.hra@gmail.co) or  
call 01255 483321.

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## Holland on Sea Public Hall

August is generally a quiet month at the Public Hall as some of our regular groups take a break, although most of the exercise classes are carrying on throughout. This year however there are two new groups beginning in August and there is also a theatre production to look out for.

From 6th August a new meditation group with Pedro will be meeting every Wednesday from 7-9pm. From 29th August dance fitness with Lisa will also start meeting each week on Fridays 5.45-6.45pm. Both groups are ready to welcome everyone who would like to come along.

We hope that you may also have been able to enjoy some of the events that have been held at the Public Hall recently. Vicki, our booking clerk has been working hard to encourage various activities to use the Public Hall. We have been pleased to host dog training while their usual venue is having major work carried out. Another event very new to us was a wrestling show. It was so good to see so many young people involved, a lovely, lively, friendly evening and one likely to come back again later in the year. Do look out for it, it's all good fun.

We must end with a heartfelt thanks to everyone who supports us, those who run the clubs and events and above all those of you who come along and join in. With very best wishes from the Holland on Sea Community Association.

# Summer Fete

After many sleepless nights and lots of crossed fingers, the weather gods smiled down upon us and the 2025 Holland Residents Association fete was alive and kicking.

Many thanks to all those committee members and volunteers who gave up their valuable time and worked tirelessly to make the day a success.

From the feedback we received on the day, it would appear all our efforts were not in vain, judging by the community who came out in force to support us, making it a great family day out.

Special thanks to our main sponsors, Holland Motors (pictured right) and The Equity Release Advice Centre and the local businesses for their generous raffle prizes. Without your goodwill we could not have made it so successful. I must mention everybody who contributed from Blake & Thickbroom for their advertising boards, also the local charities for donating raffle prizes. The arrival of the Clacton Carnival queen and her princesses was very welcomed.

Thanks also to the charity tombola stalls, who all seemed busy on the day, the Model Flying Club, and the Holland On Sea Blue Tits. And the intrepid Police Community Support Officer, who risked a pelting with wet sponges in the stocks, and our local Councillors, Andy Baker and Adrian Smith and the up-for-it HRA chair Tracey Hunt. A special thank you to Christine Shepherd who kindly provided the marquee.

Our catering teams, Grandma Lilly's hot dogs and burgers and Blossoms cakes and cream teas and Colin's famous 99s, all went down a treat. Without a cake to be seen by the time we were ready to pack up.

Our fairground attraction really went with a bang, especially the bucking bronco ride, which gave the proprietors little time to draw breath such was the demand for the oldens



to show the young whipper snappers their John Wayne rendition (and the bruises they sustained as their badge of honour).

Out on the park, Pauline put her Pink Flamingos through their paces, as they went through their entertaining (Pan's People) dance routine (for all those under 30s who are intrigued, best ask your Dads)!! Along with the Aces majorettes group, Rewind the Ukulele band, the Thai Chi group who gave a graceful and rhythmical demonstration with DJ Ken doing what DJs do.

I'm sure there are others I may have missed, but be reassured without you and everybody else's support we couldn't have had the day happen.

We are looking forward to next year as it's the HRA centenary year with loads of events being planned now.

**Shaz Pritchard**  
Events Organiser

# Under Canvas in Little Holland

Camping came early to Clacton and Little Holland, long before any real thoughts of either place being a possible holiday destination. As part of the war against France, in the spring of 1795 a Major Hay, inspecting the local coast, wrote: *"The communication at Clacton Wick might be disputed by a Redoubt"*. And it was at the lower end of this communication – namely Wash Lane – that earthworks were immediately put in hand to contain a gun battery. At the same time other batteries were commenced on the mound beyond Holland Gap, to command the sluice.

With the fear of a possible French invasion increasing, in May 1798 a large military camp was established along the cliffs at Great Clacton and Little Holland where up to 3,000 men from various regiments, militia and fencibles, were stationed on detachment from Colchester over a period of some years.

Remains of a cooking range which they used were found near York Road. Certain roads were reserved for military movement and various directives were issued for the evacuation of live and dead stock, the latter including at Great Clacton 100 gallons of spirits, 33 gallons of gin, and 100 barrels of beer. Up to three thousand troops were eventually encamped, in tents which extended westward beyond what later became Kings Avenue.

The climax came on 30 September 1801 when Prince Frederick, Duke of York, the Commander in Chief, visited the Clacton battery on his way from Colchester to Harwich, accompanied by the Marquess Cornwallis. The following day peace preliminaries were agreed with the enemy, and Cornwallis proceeded to France where he signed the treaty of Amiens, which brought a short respite to the war.

But a little while later, in May 1803, Britain



*Early holidaymakers to Little Holland pose by their bell tents.*



*The campsite at Brighton Road. What appears to be two black smudges on the picture are, in fact, two model parachutes being pulled along by a couple of young lads, both wearing school caps.*

renewed the war against France, knowing that invasion threatened and in belief that the coast from Clacton northward was favourable for attack. The invasion scare was indeed at its height. Weeley was immediately selected as a centre for the defending troops, and extensive barracks were built there, but for some four years the large encampment was maintained along the cliffs at Little Holland. Do remember, all the above happened long before any thought



*All dressed up and plenty of places to go! Buckets and spades, tennis rackets and a model yacht help to form a happy holiday group photo at the campsite.*



*Holland Brook and what is now Holland Haven Country Park. Back in the 1960s this would be home to a Boys Brigade camp, once the cows had been moved elsewhere.*

of turning the farming land that made-up Little Holland into any form of residential settlement.

There was, however, little joy to be had by the many soldiers camping along the coastal strip and after the real threat of hostilities ended then Little Holland was to return to a more peaceful way of life. One hundred years later, with Clacton establishing itself as a holiday destination, and Little Holland beginning to develop as a residential area, potential was seen for visitors to set up camp; one such site being near Hazlemere Road, and another up at Holland Haven.

An area of land that proved particularly popular for camping was between Primrose Road and Brighton Road, land that formed part of Bennetts Farm in York Road, owned by Henry Bridger of Little Clacton but farmed by the tenant Mr W. R. Sparrow. He designated an area for organised camps specifically focusing on groups such as the Boys Brigade and Scout packs. In the 1930s this form of holiday, reasonably priced and simple, appealed to many 'inland' organisations; allowing young people the opportunity for a week or two at the seaside, away from the built-up cities and more densely populated suburbia.



*An early holiday campsite near Hazlemere Road, run by Mr. A. S. Harman who also took the opportunity to sell refreshments to both campers and passing walkers.*

As Holland on Sea saw the growth of residential accommodation, and the formal ownership of both the greensward and Brighton Road open space going to Clacton Urban District Council, so the available 'rough and ready' camping sites disappeared. This didn't stop the Boys Brigade from pitching their tents, but just a little further away in the fields that now make-up Holland Country Park, and it wasn't uncommon to hear the bugle cry "come to the cook-house door boys" still wafting over the area in the 1960s.

**Richard O. Walker**

# Clubs

## Holland-on-Sea 129 Ladies Club

Holland 129 Club is a friendly Ladies Club and has met in Holland-on-Sea for 60 years – when it began as a Young Wives Club in 129 Fleetwood Avenue.

We meet at Holland Public Hall, Frinton Road on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Doors open for members at 7 pm for a 7.30 pm start. Membership is **£28** for a full year (from April). Visitors are welcome and pay £5 for the evening.

We will be celebrating our Diamond Anniversary during this year. Our main celebration evening was at our 129 Club Meeting on **Thursday, 12 June 2025** when we had a memorable evening with Bryan Thurlow entertaining us with Music Hall memories followed by Tracey Moorhouse singing 60's hits and music for members to dance the evening away – some in their 60's outfits. We were really delighted to welcome three visitors who had been past members – an original member from 1969 and two previous Chair Ladies from between 1974 – 1988 who shared many memories of their 129 Club years. All present were given an anniversary gift to treasure

Our **Autumn/Winter** Programme is as follows:

Thursday, 11 September 2025	Light-hearted Musical Evening – Martin Simmonds
Thursday, 9 October 2025	Harvest Supper – Fish and Chips An evening of Burlesque with Lindsay Burrell
Thursday, 13 November 2025	Working with stained glass – Lisa Nelson Craft Stalls
Thursday, 4 December 2025	Christmas Party – Disco and Refreshments

*Registered Charity Number 1099182*



## TENDRING DISTRICT U3A UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Tendring District U3A is an independent group and part of the national Third Age Trust which aims to provide social learning opportunities for people in older age who are no longer in full time employment.

We have been operating for over 30 years with monthly speaker meetings and separate interest study groups. There are around 30 such groups, using both Holland Public Hall and members' homes, meeting on a wide range of subjects from Art Appreciation to playing Scrabble.

Our monthly speaker meetings are held at Holland Public Hall on the first Friday of each month with doors open from 1.45pm for a 2.15pm start including refreshments. Our Autumn programme for 2025 is as follows:

September 5th	'Great British Gardens' with Andrew Babicz.	
October 3rd	'The History of Thames Sailing Barges'	John Rayment
November 7th	'Richard III, Saint or Sinner?'	Joanne Larner

The membership fee is very reasonable at £14 yearly from 1st January.

For more information, please contact Margaret Lamdin on 01255 421862.



## Calling All Future Adventurers!

### A Brand New Squirrel Scout Drey is Opening Soon in Holland-on-Sea

Are you looking for an exciting and engaging experience for your 4 or 5-year-old? Look no further. Squirrel Scouts are the youngest members of the Scouting family, and our new Drey is opening soon to welcome your little one to a world of fun, friendship, and discovery.

#### What Do Squirrels Do?

Squirrels get to embark on amazing adventures every week! They'll enjoy:

- Outdoor Exploration: Discovering nature, playing games, and learning about the world around them.
- Creative Activities: Getting crafty, telling stories, and expressing their imaginations.
- Teamwork & Friendship: Making new friends and learning to work together in a supportive environment.
- Skill Building: Developing independence, confidence, and new abilities through exciting challenges.

It's all about playing, learning, and growing in a safe and stimulating setting.

#### We Need You! (Volunteer Opportunities)

To make this new Drey a roaring success, we're also looking for enthusiastic adult volunteers to join our team. No prior Scouting experience is necessary – just a willingness to have fun and help young people thrive. Whether you can spare an hour a week or a few hours a month, your contribution will make a huge difference. Full training and support are provided.

#### Get Involved!

Interested in signing up your child or becoming a volunteer?

Contact us for more information:

**Email:** [tendring@essexscouts.org.uk](mailto:tendring@essexscouts.org.uk)

**Phone Julie on:** 07557 530662

Join the adventure today – for your child, or for yourself!



# Kennedy Way Community Garden

What a summer it has been so far! We have had a gloriously sunny spring and start to the summer. The plants and the gardeners have enjoyed soaking up the warmth of the sun!

We want to say a huge thank you to everyone in the community who supported our May Day this year. The interest and response were phenomenal. We saw the highest number of visitors to the garden with everyone snapping up plants that the gardeners grew. Visitors also enjoyed watching Bob do his pyrography and Nicky and Alan do their woodcarving. With the support, we will be able to make the area surrounding the raised beds more wheelchair accessible as well as developing the site. Our next Open day is Harvest Day on the 24th September. Thank you!

By the time you are reading this, the young people and the gardeners will have finished creating the 'Upcycle through the generations' living wall. The letters CVST have been made into bug hotels- they are most definitely penthouses for insects! Drought tolerant plants were chosen to tolerate the full sun. This has given us more ideas about doing more living walls on site.

We have also started the 'Meet Mo and have a cuppa' session on Wednesday mornings. If you are not able to garden or just would like a chat, you will be made most welcome over a cup of tea or coffee.

A new session has opened in the Men's Shed on Monday mornings. At the rate it is becoming popular, we will need to open in the afternoons! If you have woodworking experience and would like to pass this knowledge on, why don't you think about



becoming a volunteer. It is very rewarding when you see someone you have helped gain confidence.

If you would like to take part in any of these projects at the garden, please pop in for a tea or coffee to chat to our lovely volunteers. Or alternatively give Lynn Reed-Golden a ring on 07759 128447 or email her on [lynn.reed-golden@cvstendingring.org.uk](mailto:lynn.reed-golden@cvstendingring.org.uk).

For more information about all the CVST ongoing activities and projects visit [www.cvstendingring.org.uk](http://www.cvstendingring.org.uk) or visit us on Facebook: CVSTendingring or on XTwitter at cvstendingring.

## Seated Yoga at Kennedy Way

Day: Thursday

When: 1.15pm – 2.15pm

Cost: £4 per session

## Mind the Music

Last Friday of every month. 1pm -2.30pm

Singing with dementia

## Sports & Leisure

# Get Cycling!

Free and Easy

A leisurely hour long cycle ride along the traffic free National Cycle Route 150 taking place on the second and fourth Sunday of every month, weather permitting. We never cycle on the road.

The 'meet' is outside the Kingscliff Hotel at 10:30 am



Trending Winner  
of Active Essex  
Award



KINGSCLIFF



## Holland Table Tennis Club

Anyone is welcome, regardless of ability.

It's on Thursday evenings – 19.00 to 21.00 pm.

We are a very friendly group and happy to teach anyone to play.

We have tea and biscuits at 20.00 pm.

It's held at the Holland Baptist Church Hall, Frinton Rd, CO1 5UR.

Any information can be obtained from Dave at

email: [davejw23@btinternet.com](mailto:davejw23@btinternet.com). Telephone: 07759795292.

# Surgery News



I last wrote a piece for the magazine back in January and a lot has happened since then.

We now have 11 GPs working across our Primary Care network (Kennedy Way, Green Elms and Ranworth). In addition, Dr Maria Parsons joined the team to manage the housebound and care home patients as well as carrying out some GP surgeries. We are now struggling for space and the idea previously floated of reconfiguring the rooms has proved prohibitively costly. We are therefore having to work with what we have.

The phones have now been upgraded (it only took BT a year). Patients will now be told where they are in the queue and can request a call back if they don't want to wait.

It seems to be helping.

ASKMYGP is now open daily until 5 pm. For the month of June Drs Shamshad and Qurban carried out all of the triaging to assess how the system was working. On most days we were told there were still appointments available. The other GPs will now be trained to operate the triaging system. Urgent requests should be lodged from 8 until 10. Non urgent cases will be dealt with after this time. If appointments are available that day they will be allocated. If not, an advance appointment will be offered. The long-term aim is for patients with on-going issues to be allocated appointments to the same GP each time (if possible).

In the autumn the surgery will be organising a men's clinic. Not sure of the details yet but it is likely to be in the evening. This has come about because although the surgery does run other clinics they are predominately for female issues.

We had a meeting with the prescription team and one of their requests was that if patients have queries they are most easily dealt with by email using [Clacton.kennedyway@nhs.net](mailto:Clacton.kennedyway@nhs.net), and heading it prescription query, it is also easier for them to deal with regular repeat prescriptions if they are sent electronically. The telephone prescription query line is still in operation (just press button 1). They will not necessarily be able to reply immediately but will get back within a day or two. If the query is urgent patients may visit reception to speak to a prescription clerk.

**Rita Garnett**

(Chair Patient Group)

# From Holland on Sea Baptist Church



## Activities at Holland on Sea Baptist Church

Sunday – **Family Worship** service 10:30am approx. 1 hour everyone welcome.

Tuesday – **Prayer meeting** 10:00am.

Tuesday – **Friendship club** 1st Tuesday of month 14:00 (2 hours).

Fun, Quizzes, Games, Speakers, Friendship and refreshments.

Wednesday – **Care group**, discussion and friendship. 10:00am (90mins).

Thursday – **Lunch Club** (12:30pm) all welcome. Booking necessary 4 course lunch.

Thursday – **Care group**, discussion and friendship. 19:30pm (90mins).

Friday – **Care group**, discussion and friendship. 10:00am (90mins).

With various other activities throughout the month – Brownies, Guides, martial arts, fitness, Dancing, Choir, Knit 'n' Natter, Ukulele, table tennis etc.

### ***You are all very welcome***

Feel free to contact us on **01255 814617**. Website: [hollandonseabaptistchurch.com](http://hollandonseabaptistchurch.com)

Or email – [ecarpenter54@hotmail.com](mailto:ecarpenter54@hotmail.com)

Hall hire, Weddings and Funerals **07761119308** or email: [daveandmegmiddleditch@aol.com](mailto:daveandmegmiddleditch@aol.com)

# From St. Barts



Over the late summer/early autumn the outside of the building is undergoing some much needed maintenance work but we remain open as usual.

Our regular events are...

Sunday's 9.30am Parish Communion

Friday's 2.00pm Carpet Bowls

Saturday's 2.00pm Bart's Buddies (alternate weeks)

Feel free to come along any time and for those who like to plan ahead the date of the annual Christmas Market is the 22nd November.

# Clacton Arts & Lits at The Princes Theatre on Monday Nights

Monday 6th October 2025 – 2nd March 2026

*Come, See & Hear*

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For more information please contact Mavis Stephens on 01255 426151

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**Contact me for more information on how I can help you**

**Lucille Cowell N.D Naturopath, Homeopath, Gut Health Specialist**

**[gutandwellnessclinic@gmail.com](mailto:gutandwellnessclinic@gmail.com) / 07720385068**

# Ivy Grace Home Care

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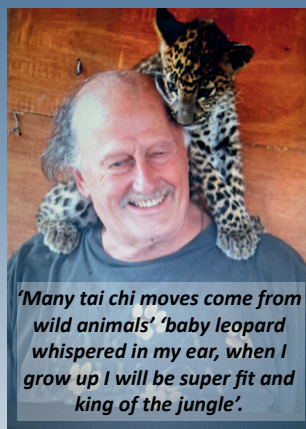
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[www.ivygracehomecare.com](http://www.ivygracehomecare.com)

# Tai Chi

Tai chi is a slow moving exercise covering muscle recovery, breathing exercise to increase lung capacity, flexibility for balance against falling, Mental wellbeing etc.

Tai Sul Tai Chi is unique, learnt in China, India and Thailand which not only incorporates the tai chi form but also teaches acupuncture and chi Kung where tai chi originates.

Venue: Brotherhood Hall, St Osyth Road, Clacton on Sea – 10am every Tuesday morning. Also, Holland on Sea beach practice every Monday 10am (if not raining).



*'Many tai chi moves come from wild animals' 'baby leopard whispered in my ear, when I grow up I will be super fit and king of the jungle'.*

Top York Road left to meet cliff top white flats.

Established over forty years. Support Born Free wild animals and others, Tear Fund and Sally Army also Reiki.

## DID YOU KNOW THAT WOMEN CAN BE FREEMASONS



Freemasonry is one of the oldest and largest, non-political, non-religious, Fraternal and charitable organisations in the world. There are many reasons why women have become Freemasons. If you like making new friends, helping others and believe that Integrity is an important value in life, then maybe Freemasonry could be right for you.

We meet at Kirby Cross, by the Railway Station, April to September, 2 Thursday afternoons a month.

Interested?? Contact the Secretary, Rita Sutton at [rsttn4@aol.com](mailto:rsttn4@aol.com) or Shirley Twaites at [shirley.primrose@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:shirley.primrose@yahoo.co.uk)



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Companionship – sharing company with others brings a new lease of life.



Personal Care – support to help you take care of yourself with dignity and respect.



Dementia Care – being proactive in living well with dementia.



Live-in Care – peace of mind that there's always someone there to support you.

Home Instead – Clacton, Frinton & Walton  
Suite 5, 145a Connaught Avenue  
Frinton-on-Sea  
CO13 9AH



01255 672 269

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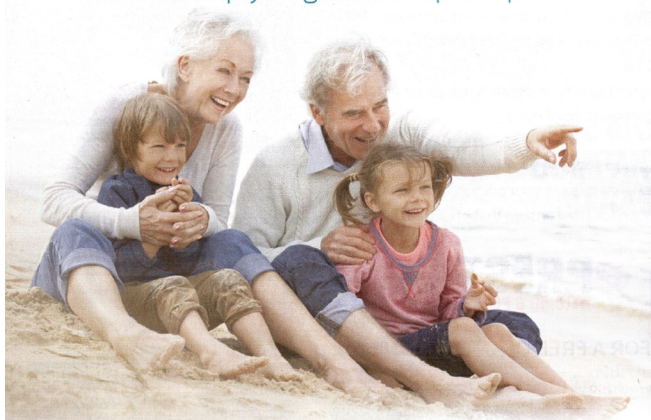
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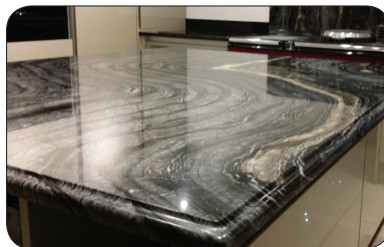
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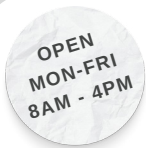
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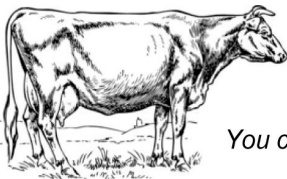
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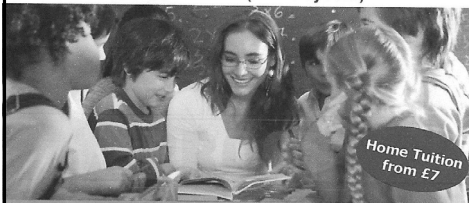
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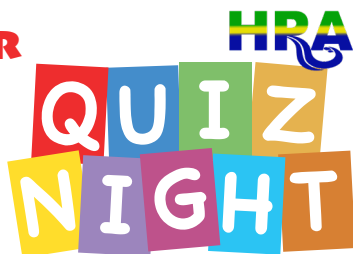
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At the Public Hall, Frinton Rd, Holland

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You are very welcome to join our group exploring different methods and mediums of creative art. Also a cup of tea or coffee and a chat.

On the 13th Oct, 10th Nov and 8th Dec.

On the 27th at our AGM we talk of plans for next year.

Contact - Steve Howell, club Chairman on **07952 343424**

or Email: [hollandartsociety@email.com](mailto:hollandartsociety@email.com)

# Meet the

---

## Committee



Hello, my name is Lynette Brown and I have recently taken over the position of Secretary of the Holland Residents Association.

I have lived in Holland on Sea for just over 37 years, and have supported the HRA, via membership, since it was the Ratepayers Association and subscriptions were collected on the doorstep.

I have two grown up daughters, both of whom attended Holland Haven Primary School, and was an active member of the Home & School Association charity, taking on various roles including Honorary Secretary and event co-organiser.

I was also a Parent Governor at the school for five years, holding the positions of Head of a Committee and Vice Chairman. I have one grandchild attending the school who, in September, will be joined by her sister, and a third at CCHS.

I have experience in both admin and finance, as a volunteer, and as an employee at Clacton Tile Centre where I was Office Manager for 17 years until my early retirement in 2018. During this time I was also self-employed helping my husband, Mick, run our successful garage door maintenance company.

My hobbies, when I have the spare time, are yoga, drawing, painting, and spending time with my family.

I am looking forward to supporting the new HRA committee and helping them achieve their aims for the residents of Holland on Sea.

**Lynette Brown,**  
Secretary



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# Your County Councillor

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## Should Holland-on-Sea Have Its Own Town or Parish Council?

You might have heard people talking about the idea of Holland-on-Sea getting its own town or parish council. It might sound like one of those dry political things – but actually, it's about something really important: how much say we have in what happens in the place we live.

I'm the one who put forward the idea of asking your views, so I wanted to take a moment to explain why – and what it might mean for you. Some of what I'll share is my opinion, and I'll make that clear, but most of this is based on facts about what's happening locally and across Essex.

To help make sense of this, I need to explain three changes that are all happening at the same time:

1. A big change called Devolution, which affects all of Essex.
2. Something called Local Government Reorganisation, which affects our local council (Tendring).
3. And finally, the idea of creating a town or parish council for our area – that's the part we can influence most directly.

### **1. Devolution – A New Mayor for Essex**

The Government has decided that Essex, will soon get a new regional Mayor – a bit like what Greater Manchester or London already has. This Mayor will take on some powers from Westminster, including responsibilities for things like economic development, transport and infrastructure, housing along with policing and fire services.

At first, the Government will cover the costs, but you will see a 'Mayoral' charge (called a precept) on your council tax bill in place of the current lines for the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner to fund the policing and fire services.

There was only one public event held about this – in Chelmsford – and most people across the county didn't have the chance to give their views.

### **2. Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) – Changes to the Councils Themselves**

This is a more complex change. At the moment, and including itself, Essex has 15 councils. The plan is to scrap them all and replace them with a small number of "unitary" councils that will be several times larger than Tendring's area/population. These new councils will be responsible for everything, rather than splitting tasks between district and county councils as we do now.

As an Essex County Councillor, I voted against LGR when it was first suggested, because I don't think it's right for our area – but I was in the minority. Now, like it or not, I have to help shape the best outcome for Tendring residents.

Different proposals are being developed. One version would merge Tendring, Colchester, Braintree and Uttlesford into one large council (four times the size of Tendring). Another option would group us with just Colchester and Braintree (three times the size of Tendring), probably putting the decision-making centre in Colchester.

That might not sound like a big deal now, but if all the key decisions are made further away, our area risks being further forgotten or deprioritised.

### **3. A Town or Parish Council for Our Area – What It Could Mean**

This brings us to the idea of setting up a town or parish council just for our community. This would be our town or parish council, run by local people, with a small budget (called a precept) to spend on local priorities.

What might surprise you is that the rest of Tendring already has this. There are 27 town and parish councils in the district – including Harwich, Brightlingsea and Frinton & Walton. Most of these were set up in 1974, and not one has been removed since. That tells me that they must be doing something worthwhile.

In my opinion – and I'll be honest here – I think it's time that Holland-on-Sea, Clacton and Jaywick Sands had the same opportunity as other communities. Especially now, with Tendring District Council possibly being dismantled, having our own town or parish council would give us a stronger voice if the bigger decisions are being made somewhere like Colchester.

### **Where We Are Now – A Public Consultation**

Right now, there's a public consultation open. It's a very simple question: Do you think we should have a town or parish council in our area?

You can take part by:

- Filling in and returning the letter that may have come through your letterbox
- Or by going online and visiting:

[www.tendringdc.gov.uk/consultations/community-governance-review](http://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/consultations/community-governance-review)

This consultation runs until 30th September 2025, and it's important to know that this is not a done deal. If most people say no, we won't go any further. My main goal was to give you the chance to decide, not to force a change.

But if most people say yes, then there will be a second consultation in November to ask what kind of council structure people would prefer. This consultation will be more technical to help draft a legal document to potentially bring into being:

- One council covering the whole area?
- Or separate ones for Holland-on-Sea, Jaywick Sands and Clacton?

You'll get the chance to answer that next, and you'll be able to change your mind between the two consultations if you wish.

## What Will It Cost?

This is one of the biggest questions I've been asked – and it's a fair one. If we set up a town or parish council, there will be a small extra cost added to the council tax bill. But here's what that looks like in real terms for a Band D property as it currently stands compared to Clacton which has no council:

Area	Extra Cost (Precept)	Total Council Tax
Clacton	£0 (no local council)	£2,137.41
Harwich	£37.79	£2,169.98
Manningtree	£103.12	£2,198.86

Even though Manningtree adds over £100, their total bill is only about £61 higher than Clacton's. That's because when local councils take on jobs that the district council used to do, things are adjusted accordingly.

Across all 27 town and parish councils in Tendring, the average precept is about £75 per year.

### A few more points:

- Most town/parish councillors are unpaid. Some receive a small allowance, but it's rare.
- There are no expensive executives. These councils are often run by one or two staff members like a clerk or finance officer.
- Nearly all of the money raised is spent on local projects and services chosen by the community itself.

## In Summary

A lot is changing in Essex – from the introduction of a regional Mayor to the possible removal of our Tendring District Council. That's why I think now is the right time to talk about creating a town or parish council that gives you a stronger voice.

You don't have to agree with me – but please make your voice heard.

Take part in the consultation before 30th September 2025 by visiting:

[www.tendringdc.gov.uk/consultations/community-governance-review](http://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/consultations/community-governance-review)

If there's support, we'll move on to the next step. If not, depending on the outcomes for Jaywick Sands and Clacton, the matter ends there. But at least we will have made the decision ourselves – not had it made for us.

## Mark Stephenson

County Councillor  
Clacton East

# Your District Councillor

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By the time you are reading this it will almost be autumn, but what a wonderful summer we have had. I hope you have enjoyed the warm sun, whether that be sitting in your garden, on the beach or possibly in the gardens of a local hostelry!

The Annual Air Show will have been and gone and I hope as many of you as could watched this fabulous free event.

You may even have been fortunate enough to attend the Village Fete on 2nd August and managed to throw some wet sponges at me in the stocks!!

As always, I have been dealing with a host of different issues affecting residents, which include reporting issues around fly tipping and pothole/pavement problems, as well as my Portfolio Holder responsibilities for Housing and Planning, which do take up much of my time during the week, as well as the myriad of meetings that Councillors need to attend, to deal with the business of the Council.

I have also attended a number of Remembrance events at Clacton War Memorial, which I consider to be most important, as well as a Veterans breakfast as often as possible, to support our veterans.

Together with Adrian and Carrie, your Councillors for St. Bartholomews Ward we have attended the HRA's public meetings and continue to hold Councillor Surgeries, the next being on Saturday 20th September and the last of the year on Saturday 15th November, always at Holland Village Hall, between 10am and 12noon.

We will review the numbers attending over the year, and make a decision as to whether we continue with these, bearing in mind that we are contactable by other means.

The Community Governance Review into whether there should be a Town/Parish Council started on the 1st July, and a presentation about it all was given at the last HRA meeting, and a further public meeting on the same subject will have been held on 31st July at the Village Hall.

As I said in the June edition, NO decision has been taken, and there is an initial public consultation underway which ends on 30th September. All households within the review area will hopefully have received a letter, encouraging people to have their say and provide their views. I would encourage everyone to provide their views, whether that be by letter, the QR code, phoning the council (01255 686575), email ([consultations@tendringdc.gov.uk](mailto:consultations@tendringdc.gov.uk)) or via TDC's website.

As always, if you need to contact me, my email details are elsewhere in the magazine or I can be contacted on 07773 008077. Stay safe and keep well.

**Andy Baker**  
District Councillor  
Eastcliff Ward

# Your District Councillor

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Hello, it's that time again for an update from me so here goes.

It has been a particularly busy summer so far, with lots going on across Tendring and equally here in our village of Holland on Sea.

I have been supporting residents with a number of concerns around anti-social behaviour which may detrimentally impact on our health and well-being, as I said in my previous magazine update, this is a lovely place to live, and we are very privileged to reside in this part of the world, and it is made all the better by considering how our actions can have a significant effect on others. I have to add that this is only ever a few people and in the main, we are a very kind and caring community.

The Holland garage sale and the Summer fayre were both fantastic events, and I totally enjoyed the opportunity to be out and about meeting residents and connecting. It was brilliant to hear so many groups of our people sitting in their front gardens talking with neighbours about many different topics, interestingly devolution and its potential benefits and possible challenges was a constant theme along with the consultation regarding parish and town councils, which I know so many of you are engaging with.

This month I have attended the Community Leadership and resource scrutiny committee where we identify issues of concern for our residents, this often means liaising with the NHS, police services, education and third sector providers to see how they are addressing/resolving /improving these issues. Over the last year we have looked at dentistry services, education and familial violence all of which significantly impact on the lives of people in Holland on Sea. Solutions are often not quick fixes and just as these issues may have taken a good period of time to manifest, so too will they take time to resolve.

Nationally the Assisted Dying for the Terminally Ill Bill passed through the House of Commons with the passing of the second reading, it will now go through the House of Lords, this is a controversial bill with many people having strong views one way or another, this had also been a topic of debate at the Clacton debating society last year, if there is an appetite for a debate/respectful discussion around this, or you just would like to know what the bill will actually mean in reality, I would be happy to host an event just let me know and I can arrange.

Anyhow that's me for now, as always should you need to contact me, please do so via my council email address.

**Carrie Doyle**  
District Councillor  
St. Barts Ward

# Your District Councillor

---



On Sunday 2nd August, Holland Residents' Association (HRA) hosted a delightful community fête that brought neighbours together in celebration. Joined by fellow Councillors, I was heartened to see the strong turnout and genuine support – a reflection of the civic pride that defines Holland-on-Sea.

Alongside Cllr Baker and local environmental advocate Michael Wadham from The Big Green Internet, we've been monitoring the spread of Sea Buckthorn along our beaches. This invasive plant has already overtaken over 10 acres from Jaywick to St Osyth. Fortunately, we managed to remove a small patch near Gunfleet Sailing Club and will continue protecting native coastal flora like sea cabbage and sea poppies.

Digital Essex training sessions hosted at Grandma Lilly's have now wrapped up. A sincere thank you to the venue and all residents who took part. I've requested that training return next year if funding allows. In the meantime, residents can get ongoing support with digital devices at CVST on Rosemary Road and at Citizens Advice Tendring.

Occasionally, questions surface on Facebook that either don't need replies or require more clarity. We do sometimes respond online, but I strongly encourage residents to reach out via email – we can't promise resolution for everything, but we will do our utmost to get answers.

Lastly, a reminder that our next councillor surgery is on Saturday 20th September, 10–11:45am at Holland Hall. It's a great chance to chat with us face-to-face – no appointment or email needed!

## **Adrian Smith**

District Councillor

St. Barts Ward

# HRA Committee Members

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Chairperson	Tracey Hunt	<a href="mailto:traceyhunthra@hotmail.com">traceyhunthra@hotmail.com</a>
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It will of course still be possible to make payments by cash or cheque at Kings Avenue or Stratford Road Post Offices. Alternatively, cheques (no cash) can be sent to: The Membership Secretary, HRA, 37 Ingarfield Road, CO15 5XA.

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## HRA MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the HRA has been steadily increasing. However, some of you may not have provided an e-mail. If you are a member and not receiving e-mailed information, please let me know.

Stephen Collitt – [membershipsecretary.of.hra@gmail.com](mailto:membershipsecretary.of.hra@gmail.com)



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*Closing date for the Winter edition is 5th November 2025.*



Articles for the Winter edition of the HRA Magazine are to be submitted to Maureen Cochlin ([littlemaur199@gmail.com](mailto:littlemaur199@gmail.com)).

*Final date for submission is Wednesday 5th November 2025.*

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