



HOLYBROOK PARISH NEWS

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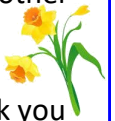
April 2024



It gives me great pleasure to announce that councillors agreed unanimously to confer the title of Honorary Freeman of Holybrook Parish on Mr Brian Bedwell for his work during his time as a councillor, district councillor and school governor. This award is the highest honour the Parish Council can bestow. The recipients of our Community Spirit Awards were announced at the Parish Annual Assembly on Monday 25th March 2025 (after the newsletter went to print) and will be relayed in the June newsletter. Thank you to everyone who took the time to make a nomination.

Access and pathways remain high priority projects. The Council is currently working with West Berkshire Council on the creation of a path from the culvert in Linear Park to Bainbridge Road. We are also engaging with the relevant agencies to potentially create a new footpath from Pooh Bridge to the railway line. As this is a formal Right of Way this particular project may take some time! A portable hearing loop system has been purchased for use in the Beansheaf Centre to further improve access for all.

At the start of 2024, the formal 'warden' scheme was replaced with a more, targeted, measurable and visible service which will provide a more agile response to parish maintenance issues. To supplement this, the Council is considering joining The Community Payback Scheme which will help provide another level of and greater capacity for ground maintenance works.



Our litter picking events continue to be successful, despite the inclement weather. A very big thank you to everyone for making these events so successful and fun. Sadly, I must mention the huge number of dog litter bags being left on verges, paths, shrubs and in hedges. A sincere thank you to all responsible dog owners who properly dispose of their dog foul and a plea to all those leaving their dog's mess behind to use the bins or, ideally, take it home and not leave it for someone else! The Parish owned dog /litter bins are emptied at least once a week and some twice depending on location. The next litter pick is scheduled to take place on 11th May 2024 leaving from the Beansheaf Centre. We hope to see you there!

To end on a happy note, the organisation of the event to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of D-Day is well underway. Please put Saturday 8th June, 12.00-4.00pm in your diaries and invite your friends and family to join us (more details on the back page and keep an eye on our social media and noticeboards for updates). We will also be unveiling our 'Tommy' in the Linear Park Memorial Field on Thursday 6th June where we will take a moment to reflect on the people who gave their lives to give us our freedoms today. With the help of Friends of Linear Park, this field (over Pooh Bridge) has been flooded with poppy seeds.

Until then, best wishes, *Claire*



Website: www.holybrook-pc.gov.uk

Clerk: clerk@hollybrook-pc.gov.uk.

Beansheaf bookings: bookings@hollybrook-pc.gov.uk General enquiries: admin@hollybrook-pc.gov.uk

Or, call the Parish Office on 0118 945 4339 or 07704 663397

Friends of Linear Park – Spring is Springing



Over the last few months the Park has taken a battering with the heavy rains and flooding. As a result, the Park has become very muddy and slippery. Luckily, it hasn't stopped the spring flowers, planted in the autumn, from managing to burst through with snowdrops, crocuses and daffodils showing their resilience.

The Friends have been busy on dry ground making a 'Bug Hotel' using an old playgroup unit as its base and filling it with wood, twigs, canes and other recycled things from the Park. The hotel has been named 'Four Seasons Bee & Bee'. Have you found it yet? There is a second one being built in the woods and this will be called 'FOLP Plaza'.

Work continues to improve access to the Park from the new Fairfield's estate with the green path being widened and the overhang cutback making it more user friendly.



Four more benches for the Park, three in the West Linear Park: one on the playing field, one along the Wiggly Walk and one along Willow Walk. East Linear Park has one at the bottom of Albury Gardens.



As spring arrives and (hopefully) the water has receded, you can enjoy the Park and maybe take time to sit and enjoy all the Park has to offer.

If you would like to join us, or have any comments, we can be contacted at:- hello@folp.com or through our website :- www.folp.uk



Hedgehogs Post Hibernation

March/April is typically when hedgehogs emerge from hibernation, searching for food to rebuild their depleted reserves ahead of the June mating season. Simultaneously, this is when we get our gardens ready for spring/summer. During this time be extra vigilant looking out for hedgehog nests. Despite providing accommodation, some hedgehogs might choose natural habitats, areas with stored items awaiting disposal, under/in outbuildings or even clusters of plastic bags instead!

Carefully/gently check all round the garden before starting any work. Garden strimmers, lawn mowers, garden forks etc can cause serious injury to hedgehogs; if you find a hedgehog nest do not disturb it, the hedgehog will relocate by itself.

To help any hedgehogs in your garden you can "support feed" with meaty kitten biscuits & plenty of fresh water in shallow bowls. Wet cat food is discouraged for oral hygiene. Ensure ponds have a safe place to climb out. Avoid using pesticides/chemicals or slug pellets.

Hedgehogs out during the day indicate illness and will need to be taken to a hedgehog rescue centre. For further, useful, information you can visit websites such as The Wildlife Trusts, or The British Hedgehog Preservation Society, amongst others online.

Say hello to Peppe!



Article and photo with thanks to Karen Wilkinson-Flood

News from Calcot School

Last term, at Calcot Schools, we celebrated Reading Week and World Book Day. Mrs Dent organised a fantastic week with support from Mrs Settle and Mrs Smith. The whole school enjoyed stories around the fire in forest school; the Junior children read to the younger children and they all took part in story trail quizzes. The children and teachers had so much fun dressing up and taking part in the school parade to showcase their outfits. Can you guess the books below?



The children took part in a number of workshops over the week; we had authors Teresa Heapy and Ben Lyttleton visit, the Corn Exchange held a poetry workshop, we watched a performance from Watermill Theatre in the Juniors, the Infants enjoyed a puppet show, and friends and family came to read to the children. Thank you to everyone who gave up their time to make this week a success.

Our school choir has been very busy rehearsing with 14 other schools to take part in Rainforest Rumble, the West Berkshire Junior Music Festival at the Hexagon. The performance was on 18th March and everyone sounded amazing! We can't wait to hear the children perform again!

Kennet Valley Club

Holybrook Centre, Carters Rise, Calcot, Reading, RG31 7YT

Opening Hours:

Mon: 7pm-10pm

Tues/Thurs: 7pm-11pm

Fri: 4pm-12am

Sat: 12pm-12am

Sun: 12pm-8pm



Events coming up:

Saturday 18th May: Music Bingo

Saturday 15th June: Play Your Cards Right

Saturday 3rd August: Quiz

(Dates are subject to change or new dates added)

We would love to welcome new families from around the community; please pop in if interested in joining! We offer Single and Family Annual Memberships (£22-£37).

As the weather starts to warm up, why not join us for a cold beverage?

Membership drink prices:

Draught beers from £3.70-£4.65/bottles from £3.50 as well as wines, spirits available from £2.00. We also have a selection of soft drinks and snacks.

We offer two sides of the bar, both with dart board, juke box and 1 with a pool table. We show all mainstream sports on 2 TVs and have a lovely family friendly pub garden to enjoy as well.

Our 2024-2025 diary is open for party bookings for the hall and lounge bar (size dependant). All enquiries: 0118 942 8771/kvca.uk@hotmail.com

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80 year Anniversary of D-Day

Saturday 8th June 2024

Linear Park

12.00 -16:00

Music, refreshments, Fish 'n' Chips and **FREE** activities for the whole family including junk drumming and spotters trail.

Joining together as one community

Stop Food Waste Day: Wednesday 24th April



We encourage our residents to take part in Stop Food Waste Day. What top tip will you try? Wasting less food can come from small, simple actions such as making a list to ensure you do not over shop (also save you ££s) and getting into the habit of freezing items such as leftovers, bread, vegetables and fruit. Or, why not try reviving your veg by plunging it in ice water for 5– 10 minutes! Leftovers from a roast? You could cook them into a good, hearty soup.

How about trying one of the fantastic recipes from the FREE cookbook on: <https://www.stopfoodwasteday.com/>. If you have a go, we would love to hear how it goes.

Claire	Tull (Chairman)	0118 941 8203	Maurice	Moore	0118 941 0027
Mary	Bedwell (Vice Chair)	0118 942 0196	Harish	Mistry	0118 945 5830
			Andrew	Lenaghan	0118 945 3714
Charlie	Croal	07855 749 876	Ola	Salau	07737 820 017
Richard	Somner	07836 208 382	Vivek	Sharma	07500 921 236
Clive	Littlewood	07905 816 846	Biyi	Oloko	0118 942 3435

Parish Council meetings are open to public viewing.

Agendas and Minutes can be found on the Council's website: www.holybrook-pc.gov.uk