



HOLYBROOK PARISH NEWS

Proudly serving the residents of Holybrook Parish since 2000

April 2026



Whilst carrying out some spring cleaning, I came across a copy of the Parish Plan, published in 2005! It instantly distracted me from my task and made for some interesting reading. What were our desires and goals back then? Did we achieve them? What has changed and what remains?

Unsurprisingly, speeding traffic, illegal motorcycle (and now e-scooters) use, graffiti, dog foul and litter remain issues of antisocial behaviour. However, much has improved and been implemented to lessen their impact: we have many more bins throughout the parish, our regular litter picks are well supported and along with the Community Payback team and residents who litter pick, our environment is well looked after. The Community Speed Watch team is growing and gathering data.

There have been many economic and social changes over the intervening years yet the parish has grown and developed positively. We have welcomed new residents to The Lawns, The Hawthorns, Fairfields and recently Friends' Place Care Home.

We continue to invest and develop our community amenities, the much longed for kiosk in the park is open!

Whilst the Parish Plan no longer exists, our visions and goals to make Holybrook a great place to live remains. A pot of CIL monies is still to be used for community and environment enhancing projects. If you have an idea of how it can be used, we'd love to hear from you.

We look forward to celebrating the council's silver anniversary with you in the park on Monday 4th May!

Claire Tull, Chairman

Contact Us: www.holybrook-pc.gov.uk

admin@holybrook-pc.gov.uk

clerk@holybrook-pc.gov.uk

bookings@holybrook-pc.gov.uk

0118 9454 339 0770466339



Community Speed Watch Update

Our Community Speed Watch team has had a busy start to the year, already carrying out several monitoring sessions during the first part of the New Year. These sessions help remind motorists to observe the speed limits through the village and play an important role in improving road safety for everyone.

The team will continue to run sessions throughout the coming months at different locations around the parish. The aim is not simply to record speeding vehicles, but to encourage safer driving habits and raise awareness of the importance of keeping speeds down on our local roads.

Community Speed Watch is a partnership with the police that allows trained volunteers to monitor vehicle speeds using approved equipment. Details of vehicles travelling above the speed limit are passed to the police, who then send warning letters to the registered drivers.

We are pleased to see the team continuing to grow, but more volunteers are always welcome. Even a small amount of time helping at occasional sessions can make a real difference in supporting this important community initiative.

If you would like to join the Community Speed Watch team or find out more about what is involved, please get in touch with the Parish Council: clerk@holybrook-pc.gov.uk.



Friends Of Linear Park - Spring is Here

There is an old proverb regarding the weather for March; '*March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb*'. This year it has come in like a lamb, giving the Friends' a chance to 'catch up'. The contractors have been in the park clearing a tree that had fallen behind the garden, and tree felling/pollarding around the football field leaving debris behind which needed clearing, including wood chippings which have been used to further the path leading to the Fairfields estate, and making clean walkways to some of the nearby dog bins.

Eighteen small apple/fruit trees have been purchased by the Friends' and planted alongside the already established orchard in East Linear Park.

Our talented crafters continue to make decorative things with the hazel. What have you found/seen?



As always, our contact details are:- email: hello@folp.uk website: www.folp.uk

Community Litter Pick

A big thank you to everyone who joined the recent community litter pick at Fords Farm. 10 dedicated volunteers came together to help keep our neighbourhood looking its best.

Over the course of the event, the team collected an impressive 15 bags of litter from streets, footpaths and green spaces across the area. The effort made a noticeable difference, and it was fantastic to see residents working together with such enthusiasm and community spirit.

Events like this show how small actions can have a big impact when people come together. Keeping our environment clean not only improves the appearance of the area but also helps protect local wildlife and makes our shared spaces more enjoyable for everyone.

The Parish Council would like to extend its sincere thanks to all those who gave their time to help. Your efforts are greatly appreciated and make a real difference to the community.

If you would like to take part in future litter picking events, please keep an eye on the Parish Council website and noticeboards for upcoming dates. New volunteers are always very welcome.



Kennet Valley Club (Carters Rise, Fords Farm (RG31 7YT)

The Kennet Valley Club, continues to be a welcoming hub for local residents looking to socialise, stay active and enjoy community events. Memberships offer excellent value with annual membership costs being: £38 for families, £23 for single members, and just £8 for those aged over 70!

Members can enjoy our pool tables and dart boards, along with live sport shown via TNT Sports, making it a great place to relax and catch up with friends.

Regular weekly activities also take place at the Club. Bingo is held in the hall every Thursday, bringing together players for a sociable and entertaining evening. And, Pilates classes run every Wednesday in the hall (additional charge applies).

For enquiries about membership, please contact: kvca.uk@hotmail.com

News from Calcot School

Last term, at Calcot Schools, we celebrated Reading Week and World Book Day. Mrs Settle and Miss Wood organised a fantastic week for us all.

The whole school enjoyed taking part in a range of activities. The junior children read to the younger pupils and took part in a book-themed quiz. Some of our infant children read with Poppy, our school dog, and they all took part in a scavenger hunt on the field.

We also held our very first 'Reading Festival'. The children and their parents spent time enjoying activities across the school, including pebble painting, a family story trail, s'mores by the fire, and live storytelling performances. On World Book Day, the children and teachers had great fun dressing up and taking part in the school parade to showcase their outfits. Can you guess the books below?

We ended the term with productions in Year 1 and Year 3. The children put on fantastic performances for their parents, and we are very proud of them all.

This term, we have Sports Week to look forward to, as well as school trips to Paultons Park, Cotswold Wildlife Park, and Englefield House, along with the Year 6 residential. There will also be a choir concert and the Year 2 and Year 6 productions.



1st Aid at Work Course

I attended the First Aid at Work course with residents and members of the Holybrook Parish Council.

The course was excellent, I learned many new valuable life skills. We practiced our CPR technique, and clarified where our nearest defibrillators are on the estate. There are free phone apps available that show them all over the country. I have already implemented changes in my workplace as a result of the course and the up-to-date guidance given.



It was lovely to meet some new local faces and learn in a safe environment. I now feel more confident to offer first aid in a variety of situations. The trainer was engaging and had lots of real life experience to share with us during the day. We also enjoyed a delicious lunch from the Garage! Thank you so much for sharing this opportunity.

Do you know who to call in an emergency?

999 — Life Threatening Emergency

112 — Life Threatening Emergency (this number works in over 100 countries across the World)

Did you know that you can register to text 999? — simply, text the word 'register' to 999.

111—Urgent medical advice **101**—Non-emergency Police matters

HOLYBROOK PARISH COUNCIL'S

SILVER ANNIVERSARY
FUN DAY

Monday 4th May 2026

1pm - 4pm

