



HOLYBROOK PARISH NEWS

Proudly serving the residents of Holybrook Parish since 2000

August 2024



Dear All,

Thank you to all who attended the D-Day 80 tribute reading and unveiling of our Tommy which is sited next to the World War memorial bench in Linear Park. It was a very moving event and one that brought into sharp focus the sacrifices made by so many; the picnic in the park, which followed on the Saturday, beautifully demonstrating our freedoms. It was such a joy to see so many families enjoying the park, hula-hooping, skipping, playing rounders and so much more. Thank you to everyone involved for their hard work in making our community events so successful. Energised



and enthusiastic, we are putting ideas and plans in place for VE Day 80, May 2025! So, please, keep an eye out in future editions of the newsletter for more information.



We also paid tribute to the late Andy Alleyne, a Holybrook resident and the first black player for Reading FC, with the unveiling of his memorial bench in the east section of Linear Park. We were delighted that the event was so well attended and attracted media attention.

Parish updates, projects and progress: Quite simply, the Speed Watch initiative cannot progress or be implemented unless more people take part. We need at least 10 people to cover both Beansheaf and Fords Farm. Training and equipment will be provided. To find out more please do contact the Clerk or Cllr Lenaghan.

The dropped kerbs are now installed. They are not to make parking on the pavement and verges easier. Parking on the pavement is a traffic offence which is becoming an increasing problem in the Parish.

Under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, and reinforced under the Environment Act 2021, there is a duty on public authorities in England, including Parish Councils, to have regard to conserving biodiversity as part of their policy or decision making. Conserving biodiversity can include restoring or enhancing a population or habitat. To help fulfil that duty, the Council will be undertaking a biodiversity audit which is a huge undertaking so we will be needing and asking for residents to get involved. Any residents with environmental study expertise or simply a keen interest please do get in touch as we'd like to start our first study in the Autumn. This is probably a good place to mention the (overgrown) verges. Whilst re-wilding and no-mow May is welcome, the vegetation in places, during June and July got out of hand and created a hazard. This, and several other issues, are on the Council's priority list and are under discussion with WBC officers and leaders.

As always, if you have any questions or issues you would like to raise please do take the opportunity to speak at the open forum at the start of all council meetings or contact the Parish Clerk.

Claire Tull, Chairman

Let's all be more aware of litter

Holybrook Parish Council has now been running regular Community Litter Picks for two years. As well as improving the environment in itself, the aim is to make residents more aware of litter and the need to take their rubbish home, preventing it from ending up on our streets and in the Holybrook River. Not only is litter unsightly but it is also damaging to our wildlife.

Our July session was held in Fords Farm, based from Kennet Valley Free Church. We are delighted that 10 volunteers came along and we thank the Church for, once again, providing refreshments.

Our next session will be on **Saturday 14th September** at the Beansheaf Community Centre from 10am to 12noon. There will be instruction to help you pick litter safely and light refreshments will be available.

Unable to make an organised session? No problem, you can also borrow litter picking equipment on a casual basis to do some litter picking in your own small groups. Please contact the Parish Office for details.



Two of our keen local residents with our new sack trolley

Friends of Linear Park Waving the Green Flag/ Children's Corner

We are delighted to announce that the Park has been awarded the coveted 'Green Flag' for the 15th year running!

As the Park was inspected 'unannounced' we had no idea when the inspector was coming.

With adverse weather conditions throughout the year, this award has been richly deserved by the volunteers, the two councils, Holybrook and West Berkshire, and the parishioners who have tirelessly worked keeping the Park in tiptop condition so everyone can enjoy it at its best. Thank you.



Looking for something to do in the school holidays? We have just set up a dedicated 'Children's Corner' section on our website. It has free activity sheets to download and print for your children to enjoy –

<https://www.folp.uk/in-the-park/childrens-corner/>. There is also a QR code that can be downloaded. You can also find them in the noticeboards around the Park. The activities are centred around the Park. Why not take a picnic whilst exploring; there are several picnic benches, or just take a rug and sit in the shade.

As always, if you have any comments, queries or would just like to get in touch, the Friends can be contacted at:- hello@folp.uk or through our website:- www.folp.uk

www.holybrook-pc.gov.uk

Clerk: clerk@holybrook-pc.gov.uk General Enquiries: admin@holybrook-pc.gov.uk

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

Follow us on Facebook: [@HolybrookParishCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/HolybrookParishCouncil) X: [@HolybrookPC](https://twitter.com/HolybrookPC)

Calcot Infant and Junior School

This term we celebrated Sports Week and Creative Arts week, both are important weeks in our school.

Highlights from sports week included visiting athlete Sean Conway, an ultra-endurance athlete. Another highlight was our cave; lots of children overcame their fears and showed great determination to get through.



Opportunities during Arts Week included drama workshops, music workshops and dance workshops with external professionals. Our infant children also spent time learning the Gamelan. Children created their own collaborative art pieces and visited our own on-site Art Gallery. The week ended with our whole school Carnival, and we ended the day with a colour run arranged by our PTFA

Thank you to all the providers, professionals and coaches who came in to give our children these wonderful opportunities.

We have also said goodbye to our lovely year 6 pupils, they ended their time with us by putting on an amazing performance of the specially written production “Clockwork Moon”. We wish them all the best

A Message from West Berkshire Council

Firstly we both want to thank everyone involved with the General election in July, whether you took the time to speak to the various candidates and their supporters on the doorstep, or hopefully to place your vote, it remains an important part of our democratic process and congratulations to those that were successful.

We have been contacted regarding the placement of a camera in Underwood Road and can reassure all residents in the area that this is in fact a new addition to the technical abilities of West Berkshire Councils Highways service. This is a road temperature sensor that was installed earlier in the year and will inform our winter maintenance operation in the area. WBC received funding from the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and are leading on a project across Berkshire to use real -time information to inform when we need to grit; it won't record any images.

Appropriate use of Linear park has always been a concern for those living close and those using it. Both Holybrook Parish Council and WBC have made it clear that unauthorised use of motor vehicles, predominantly motorbikes is not authorised and is not acceptable. I have recently made contact with Thames Valley Police and had a very supportive conversation with Officers. We urge all residents that are adversely impacted by the use of bikes to log a call with TVP, either by phone to 101 for non-emergency matters or via their web-site.

Thanks
Cllrs Richard Somner and Biyi Oloko



'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'

Follow the trail through the Linear Park Woods run by Beansheaf Pre-School

Have fun following the bear hunt trail and seeing if you can find the bear's cave!



16th – 22nd September



It's time for a Macmillan Coffee Morning and you're invited!

Let's do whatever it takes to support people living with cancer

Please do come and join us in the Beansheaf Centre for a drink and a snack in support of Macmillan Cancer Support; what a great excuse to be one community, spending time with our friends and neighbours!

Where: Beansheaf Room, Beansheaf Community Centre

When: Saturday 28th September 2024

Time: 10:00am until 12:00mid-day



Spring Bulb Planting

October this year

Details will be confirmed on our social media pages and noticeboards nearer the time.



Your Parish Councillors

CLAIRE TULL: 0118 941 8203
(Chairman)

MARY BEDWELL: 0118 942 0196
(Vice Chairman)

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 **MAURICE MOORE: 0118 941 0027**

CLIVE LITTLEWOOD: 07905 816 846 **KAREN ALBANESE: 07854 804 616**

VIVEK SHARMA: 07500 921 236 **BIYI OLOKO: 0118 942 3435**

Meetings

Parish Council meetings are open to the public*. All meeting dates are published on the Council's website:

www.holybrook-pc.gov.uk and in the Council's noticeboards.

**subject to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meeting) Act 1960.*