



HOLYBROOK PARISH NEWS

Proudly serving the residents of Holybrook since 2000

December 2022



Dear Residents, As 2022 draws to a close, I think that I can safely say that it has been a year like no other and one that future historians will study in some depth! To end the year on a positive note, I thought I would share with you some of the things we can look forward to in 2023.

The Council has received the Community Infrastructure Levy money (CIL) from the Fairfield development at Dorking Way and will be consulting with residents on how you wish it to be spent. By law, CIL money must be spent on infrastructure but, within this definition, there is flexibility and a broad range of facilities to choose from, such as play areas, parks, highways, cultural and sports facilities, some of which may require District Council approval. Please look out for further information and details on this and have your say on how best to use these monies for the benefit of our local community.

2023 is an election year for Parish Councillors. We have 11 Councillors in post and four vacancies. Elected members offer their time voluntarily, for the benefit of the local community. If you are interested in a fulfilling role, where you can make a positive difference to your local community, we would love to hear from you! If you would like to find out more about the election in May, please do contact either the Clerk at the Beansheaf Community Centre, or any of the Council Members, contact details for whom are contained within this Newsletter.

Each November Holybrook Parish takes part in The Remembrance Sunday Service at Holy Trinity, Theale. Please could you let us know if anyone from the Parish has fallen in recent conflicts so that we may properly honour and remember them.

Finally, on behalf of all the Councillors and staff of Holybrook Parish Council, I wish you all a joyous Christmas and a peaceful, happy, and healthy 2023.

Claire Tull, Chairman

Lest We Forget

As part of Remembrance Day 2022, Holybrook Parish Council placed a poppy wreath at the Memorial bench in Linear Park (see photo). The Council's Chairman attended the Remembrance Day Parade in Theale, on behalf of HPC, to lay the Council's poppy wreath at Holy Trinity church.



We remember those who volunteered, sacrificed, served, fought, and died, for our freedom. We will never forget. We thank you and will always remember you.

Photo: Courtesy of Dave Smith

Albury Gardens - survey now open

The wooden play area in Linear Park, at Albury Gardens, is now 21 years old. West Berkshire Council (WBC) is looking to replace it next year with some exciting new equipment.

In order to find out what our residents would like to see instead, we are asking you to please take a moment to complete this short survey and let WBC know your preferences.

SCAN ME!



West Berkshire Council has included some suggestions: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/V8F79S9>

Community Litter Picks in Holybrook Parish



On 24 September, Holybrook Parish Council held its first community litter pick since the pandemic. The event was part of the Great Big Green Week, the UK's biggest call to action on climate change, aimed at making a positive difference for people, climate, and nature across the UK.

Over a dozen residents and parish councillors met at the Beansheaf Community Centre and spread out across the Beansheaf and Chantry Green estates picking up discarded items such as drinks cans and take away food wrappings. We then returned to the Community Centre for some much-needed refreshments! The aim of our litter picks is to clear as much litter as possible from the local area and highlight the importance of respecting our environment and helping keep Holybrook a beautiful place to live.

We hope to have regular community litter picks throughout 2023, moving between different areas in the Parish. We will inform you about all our environmentally friendly events through this newsletter and our social media channels.

The next litter pick will take place on **Saturday 28 January 2023**, meeting at 10am at Kennet Valley Free Church, Carters Rise, Fords Farm, RG31 7YT. We hope to see you for what promises to be a fun event where we can make a positive difference to your local environment. All equipment will be provided, as will light refreshments.



If you would like further details, or have any questions, please email me at charles.croal@holybrook-pc.gov.uk or call me on 07855 749876. Alternatively, please pop into the Parish Council Office in the Beansheaf Community Centre or call the Office on 0118 9454339.

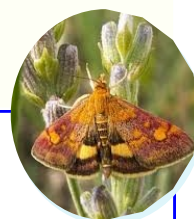
For further information about West Berkshire Council's Climate Change Agenda, please see [Environment and Climate Change - West Berkshire Council](#)

Cllr Charlie Croal

Did you know?

Moth and butterfly populations, particularly in the south of England, are in decline? Holybrook Parish Council has made

a pledge to try and encourage back these important creatures to our environments and ask that you join in and help us. Over the coming year the Parish Council will be providing information and events to help promote action for these beautifully, important insects.



So, what can you do now? During the winter months, we encourage you to provide suitable spaces for the insects to flourish. Moths, and their caterpillars, need fallen leaves, old stems and plant debris to help them hide from predators - could you hold off cutting back old plants until the spring? Avoid using pesticides and herbicides and, if planting, consider a variety of plants that will help the insects thrive: buddleia, lavender, oregano for example. Larval food plants include holly and ivy, and docks or sorrels. The Butterfly Conservation and the RHS websites have much more information on how to get involved.





PARISH COUNCILLORS

CLAIRE TULL (Chairman)	0118 941 8203
MARY BEDWELL (Vice Chairman)	0118 942 0196
CHARLIE CROAL	07855 749 876
RICHARD SOMNER	07836 208 382
CLIVE LITTLEWOOD (LLC for AWE) and NAG Chairman	07905 816 846
HARISH MISTRY	0118 945 5830
ANDREW LENAGHAN	0118 945 3714
SIMON COLLARD	0118 9410 697
OLA SALAU	07737 820 017
MAURICE MOORE	0118 941 0027

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

RICHARD SOMNER	07836 208 382
BIYI OLOKO	0118 942 3435

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Friends of Linear Park – Winter is coming.

The last year has seen the Friends of Linear Park busy making a fairy ring by the Beansheaf Community Centre and a log circle along the Wiggly Path. Several memorial benches and a memorial willow tree have been erected and the Community Garden has had a makeover. Several local residents have donated tools/water wheels for which we are very grateful and say 'Thank You' to them.

Looking ahead, Fritillary bulbs have been planted in the meadow near to Pooh Bridge – look out for them in the spring, but please do not pick them as they are there for everyone to enjoy.

The park was again awarded the coveted 'Green Flag', so thank you to everyone involved in keeping the park looking so immaculate through all the seasons.

If you have any ideas, queries, or would like to lend a hand, the Friends of Linear Park can be contacted at: – folpcalcot@gmail.com

G N MAINTENANCE

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For all those jobs you never have time to do – just ring and ask



Hospital Radio Reading (HRR) is Reading's first local radio station, keeping Reading's hospital patients company since 1957. Staffed entirely by unpaid volunteers, we are on-air 24 hours a day, free of charge, on the bedside entertainment system, with live programmes every evening, on midweek afternoons and during the day at weekends. At other times programming is recorded with news bulletins on the hour.

Our volunteers aim to visit most wards each week but patients are welcome to call in at any time on the free request line by dialling *800 from the phone on their bedside console. Family and friends can call from outside on 0118 322 8508 and can also listen in, via smart speaker ("play hospital Radio Reading"), www.tunein.com or the TuneIn Radio app. **You don't have to be a patient to listen or make a request!**

Requests are played most evenings from 8-10pm and repeated the following morning 8-10am, as well as 5 afternoons per week. Specialist programmes, at other times, include comedy, short stories, interviews, jazz, blues and classical music, as well as our very own commentary on all Reading FC home fixtures.

Requests:

If you'd like a request played for a patient, or a member of staff, please email: requests@hrrreading.org.uk or telephone the 24-hour Request Line on 0118 322 8508, or message us via Facebook or Twitter (@hrrreading). Just tell us:

- their name - their ward - the music track - type of music or artiste(s) you would like - the approximate time, if you have a preference

For more information please head to: www.hrrreading.org.uk



Singing for the Brain comes to Calcot

A singing group for people with dementia and their carers has reopened its doors at Kennet Valley Free Church in Calcot.

The Calcot Singing for the Brain group meets, in person, on the first Tuesday of every month from 10.30am – 12.00pm. A virtual group meets every Monday, by Zoom, at 11am and 3pm. The first session of the New Year will be on Tuesday 3rd January, so why not make a New Year resolution to come along and join the group?

Mary, who attends the sessions as a carer, says "our Singing for the Brain group provides an opportunity for people living with dementia and their carers to come together in a supportive and welcoming space to build new friendships, boost confidence, and have fun."

Annabell Kirby, Alzheimer's Society Dementia Support Worker in Berkshire, says "music memory is often retained when other memories are lost. Singing for the Brain can help people, even in advanced stages of dementia, to tap into long-term memories linked to music and song. Singing together can help encourage positive feelings for people affected by dementia, creating powerful connections."

There are 6,970 people estimated to be living with dementia in Berkshire. To find out more about support available, including Singing for the Brain, please contact Alzheimer's Society on 0118 959 64 82 or email: Berkshire@alzheimers.org.uk



Website: www.holybrook-pc.gov.uk.

Clerk: clerk@holybrook-pc.gov.uk. Bookings: bookings@holybrook-pc.gov.uk

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