



HOLYBROOK PARISH NEWS

Proudly serving the residents of Holybrook since 2000

December 2023



Dear Holybrook Residents

As the year draws to a close, an opportunity is provided to reflect and look back on some of the year's highlights. In our parish, most notably, the 'Picnic in the Park' to celebrate the King's Coronation. This event was fun and so well received by local residents that we are planning something similar for the 80th anniversary of D-Day in June 2024.

We have had a lot of enthusiasm and engagement during the year; for our litter picks, two in the Beansheaf area and two in and around Fords Farm, and for our first bulb planting event in October. Enormous thanks to our councillors, staff, residents, Kennet Valley Free Church and the Friends of Linear Park who make these events happen. And,



special thanks to Dorothy Piennar for providing a fabulous collection of Snowdrops and the Kennet Valley Community Association for its contribution

towards the purchase of the bulbs. Bulbs were planted in strategic places around the Parish and we should start seeing the results from January onwards. Look out for Snowdrops, Winter Aconite, Crocus, Bluebells and Narcissus. If there is a 'community patch' or verge near you that you think would be a good place to plant bulbs and allow them to naturalise please let us know.



The Council is proud to support the Royal British Legion and Remembrance Day by selling poppies at the Parish Office and laying a wreath at the Theale Remembrance Service and on our memorial bench in the Linear Park. We have now also purchased a 'Tommy' which will be located near the memorial bench in time for the D-Day event in 2024.

I am delighted to announce the debut of the 'Holybrook Parish Community Spirit Awards' which will be awarded at the Annual Assembly in March 2024. This is a great opportunity for **you** to nominate those who contribute so much to our community. More on the back page of this newsletter, on our website or you can contact the Parish Office for more information. In addition, the Council will be adopting a policy to enable a Honorary Freeman Award which can be awarded to '*persons of distinction and those who, in the Council's opinion, have rendered eminent services to the Council's area*'.

Council members and staff, at Full Council on Monday 18th December 2023, will be donning their Christmas jumpers to raise funds in support of Save The Children. Do remember council meetings are open to public so viewing you are welcome to join us.



Finally, on behalf of our staff and councillors, I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a healthy, peaceful New Year.

Claire Tull, Chairman

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

www.holybrook-pc.gov.uk 0118 945 4339 or 07704 663397



Friends of Linear Park – Winter's on its Way

Email: hello@folp.com Website www.folp.uk

As the year comes to an end, it's time to reflect on the last 12 months. Early in the year we lost one of our founding members, June Scott, whose early enthusiasm and energy made Friends of Linear Park who we are today. Thank you June.

The coveted Green Flag, awarded to the Park for the 14th time in succession, is flying high by the Beansheaf Centre. Thank you to everyone involved in keeping the Park looking so immaculate through the seasons.

Weather has been a challenge for the volunteers this year with either soaring heat, meaning lots of (manual) watering of recently planted cherry trees and whips to ensure their survival, or otherwise paddling in puddles and mud due to the very heavy rains.

Maintenance around the Park has included cutback along path edges/entrances, leaf blowing in the autumn and bramble clearing. The fence around the car park has been painted and bulbs planted along the driveway (as part of the Spring Bulb Planting Event) and around the Park in readiness for spring.

For those of you receiving hats, scarfs and gloves for Christmas, now is a good time to put them to use with a walk in the Park. **Seasons Greetings to everyone and all good wishes for 2024.**



Have Your Say - Drop In

Saturday 13th January 2024. Beansheaf Community Centre. 10:00am to 11:30am.

An opportunity for local residents to meet their Neighbourhood Police Team and discuss any local policing issues.

Calcot Infant and Junior School

We started the academic year collecting donations for the West Berkshire food bank. Our amazing families' donations weighed in at 205.9kgs, the equivalent of 432 meals for local residents! The teachers and junior school librarians refreshed our junior school library; we are always on the lookout for new books so if you have any unwanted, good condition books that you would like to donate, please contact the school offices (office@c-inf.w-berks.sch.uk or office@c-jun.w-berks.sch.uk). We, particularly, need non-fiction, graphic novels and world record books.



We began the 2nd half of the autumn term preparing for Turn Tilehurst Red and made poppies to turn one of our big oak trees into a remembrance tree. The choir performed at a Remembrance Ceremony, held at the Tilehurst Triangle on the 10th November. They sang beautifully and we are very proud of them. The children are now busy preparing to perform at the NHS Christmas concert to be held at Reading Minster on Friday 8th December.

To round off the term, we had our Christmas Fayre, organised by the PTFA. We also have a pantomime and some nativity performances to look forward to.



We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



We held several fun activities for families over the summer including a Dinosaur Day, Gardening for Toddlers and Craft and Story sessions. We also celebrated World Breastfeeding Week. A first for us was to hold a dad's postnatal session on a Saturday morning with bacon butties; look out for future dates, we plan to do more!

Coming up next year:

Time Out for Parents: Handling Anger in the Family: for parents of children aged 5-16. The aim is to recognise the problem of anger in our lives and the importance of handling anger safely and to promote healthy relationships with our children and family members. Starts 12/01/2024

Parents Forum Coffee Morning: for parents and carers with children who have additional needs. First Monday of the month. Catch up for a coffee, a chat, information and support.

Postnatal Group: for new parents starts 20/02/2024

Regular groups: Stay and Play: Theale Village Hall, Thursdays 10:00 - 11:30 and Calcot Hub, Wednesdays 10:00-11:30. **Newbies** (for parents and babies under 1 years) in Burghfield and Calcot.

To book our groups online:

https://booking.westberks.gov.uk/family_hubs_events.html

East Family Hub, Curtis Rd, Calcot RG31 4XG
0118 9456 157



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Did you know that stamps without a barcode attached can no longer be used?

However, you can Swap Out your old, unused, stamps by completing Royal Mail's Swap Out Form (which can be found easily on-line) and sending the old stamps to 'FREEPOST, Swap Out'.



It was 'H' for Halloween at the Phonics with Robot Reg Halloween special.

We made spiders to help

strengthen those little fingers, chatted about the colours and textures, and, of course, counted their legs! We danced to some classic Halloween tunes and had lots of fun learning together through play!

For more information please contact me, Sam, at: <https://www.robotreg.co.uk/find-a-class/newbury-and-thatcham/>



HOLYBROOK *Community Spirit* Awards 2024

Categories

Please submit nominations to the
Parish Office by Friday 1st March 2024.

- 1) **June Scott Award for Best Environment Champion(s):** Awarded to groups or individuals for small or large projects which have improved the environment of Holybrook.
- 2) **Young Person(s) of the Year:** For person(s) under the age of 25 years who have achieved something exceptional for or brought credit to the community of Holybrook.
- 3) **Good Neighbour of the Year:** An individual award for an exceptional neighbour who makes a difference and/or improvement to your or your street's life.
- 4) **Service with a Smile:** Awarded to an individual who always provides you 'service with a smile' and/or someone who goes above and beyond their usual job in the Parish of Holybrook.
- 5) **Unsung Hero:** Awarded to an individual, who is silently engages in community services under their own initiative.



HOLYBROOK *Community Spirit* Awards 2024

Nomination Form

To be submitted by Friday 1st March 2024

Category: _____ Name of nominee: _____

Contact address of nominee: _____

Brief description of why your nominee should receive an award:

Your name and contact details: _____

1. Councillors and staff can be nominated for awards. However, councillors and staff may not nominate one another.
2. Nominations may not be made where the work/task completed was paid work (except the Service with a Smile category).
3. If your nominee is under the age of 18, please obtain parental or guardian consent before making the nomination.
4. Anyone under the age of 18, who is attending the Annual Assembly, must be accompanied by a parent/legal guardian.
5. Nominees must live within the Parish of Holybrook or within three miles of the Parish boundary and must have made a contribution to the Parish within the last year (March 2023-March 2024).
6. All entries to be submitted to the Parish Office either by e-mail, post or by hand. The Council may provide nomination form drop-off points and will advise via the noticeboards if it does so.
7. Nominations will only be accepted when the correct nomination form has been used. Copies are accepted.
8. You can submit more than one nomination in each category.
9. You can only nominate the same person/group once in each relevant category.
10. The Council reserves the right to withdraw a category if no appropriate nominations are received.
11. Further information can be found on the Parish Council's website from 15th January 2024 when nominations formally open. Nominations close at 13:00 on Friday 1st March 2024.