



HOLYBROOK PARISH NEWS

Proudly serving the residents of Holybrook since 2000

December 2024



It's been another busy autumn with bulb planting, litter picks and path restoration. We 'bulb bombed' the mound behind the Charrington Road/Cow Lane bus stop, the traffic light triangle at the Fords Farm entrance and the verge on Underwood Road (behind Kennet Valley School). We hope to see a stunning display of spring flowers come March/April.

We restored the pathway from Sandhills Way to the top of Low Lane to its full width. There is still work to do and there are many areas in the Parish that need attention. The more people that get involved the more we can achieve. It's surprising what a small working party can accomplish in an hour! As ever, huge thanks to our councillors, staff, residents, Friends of Linear Park and Kennet Valley Free Church who make these events happen and make them so enjoyable.



CLlr Clive Littlewood attended the Remembrance Day service at Holy Trinity, Theale and laid a wreath on behalf of the Council. Holybrook is proud to be part of the important ceremony that remembers those who gave their lives for our freedoms.



The format for our Biodiversity Survey is taking shape, the details of how you can get involved will be published in the New Year. Finding out what species we have is key to being able to support, protect and improve the natural environment and habitats we have within our urban area.

We had a wonderful response to our first Holybrook Parish Community Spirit Awards and its time to start thinking about who you would like to nominate for contributing so much to our community this year (if someone you nominated was not selected last year, please do nominate them again, this could be their year). The categories:

The Best Environment Champion, Young Person(s) of the Year, The Good Neighbour of the Year, Volunteer of the Year and Service with a Smile.

Details of how to nominate and criteria can be found on the back page of this newsletter, our website or by contacting admin@holybrook-pc.gov.uk. Formal nomination forms will be available from January 2025.

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

Claire Tull, Chairman

"The unselfish effort to bring cheer to others will be the beginning of a happier life for ourselves."

— Helen Keller

Have Your Say: West Berkshire Council's Budget Consultation

<https://www.westberks.gov.uk/balancing-our-budget>

West Berkshire Council is inviting residents to share their views on proposed budget changes for the 2025/26 financial year. The council is proposing service changes and income-generating measures, including:

- Outsourcing Adult Social Care Resource Centre services.
- Discontinuing the mobile library service.
- Increasing certain fees and charges above inflation.
- Reducing winter gritting routes & removing some waste bins.
- Turning off streetlights in residential roads overnight.

Residents are encouraged to review the proposals and share their feedback via the consultation survey. The consultation will inform decisions at council meetings in February 2025. For details and to participate, visit the council's budget consultation webpage.

Please ensure you have given West Berkshire Council your views by midnight on Monday 23 December 2024



Free Bus Travel in West Berkshire: Saturdays 14th & 21st December



Simply board a bus within West Berkshire on the applicable Saturday and travel completely free, all day! The offer applies to all journeys beginning and ending in West Berkshire so, remember to ask the driver for a return ticket when you board.

The Power of Community: Why Litter Picking Matters

Holybrook hosted 6 litter picking events through 2024. We thank everyone who turned up and we hope to grow in numbers for 2025! Dates will be published on our website and noticeboards soon.

Litter picking is more than just tidying up; it's about transforming spaces, protecting the environment and bringing people together.

Cleaner Spaces

Litter spoils our parks, footpaths and general public spaces, whilst also harming wildlife. By picking it up, we restore these areas making them more enjoyable for everyone.

Healthier Environment

Litter, especially plastic, often finds its way into our waterways, harming aquatic life and polluting drinking water. Removing litter prevents these dangers and helps create a more sustainable world.

Stronger Communities

Litter picking events are great for building connections. They unite neighbours and inspire a sense of pride in maintaining our shared spaces. Plus, when others see you in action, they're more likely to do their part too.

With just a bag and some gloves, you can make a difference to your neighbourhood and the planet. One small act can spark lasting change!





Welcome to the
Family Hub

Curtis Rd, Calcot RG31 4XG



What's On this winter

Stay and Play Sessions come and celebrate Christmas at these sessions during December with special Christmas messy play and crafts.

When: Wednesdays at the Hub in Calcot and Thursdays at Theale Village Hall. 10:00 until 11:30.

Coming up in January

Parents' Coffee Morning, for parents with children with SEND: Various professionals and staff from the Hub will be on hand to answer your questions

When: Monday 6th January from 09:30. **FREE**

Twins and Multiples Group:

When: 2nd Monday of the Month (13th January). 12.45pm until 2.15pm.

Introduction to Paediatric First Aid for parent and carer with children under 1.

When: Monday 13th January. £24.00 per person

Unless otherwise stated: **All sessions cost £2.70**

Book online:

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

Friends of Linear Park – winter is coming



As the days get shorter, the Park is bedding down for winter and we have focussed on east Liner Park. The Hawkesbury Drive entrance has been improved, making it easier to open the gate and it is now more buggy/wheelchair friendly. The footpaths have been leaf blown, making them clearer, less slippery and muddy.



Many of the potholes have been filled/repaired; the work will not alleviate the flooding that occurs in winter but, at least, provides a firmer surface for walking on. The whips and orchard have been mulched and the 'Trim Trail' has been trimmed.

New activities have been added to the Children's Corner on our website: www.folp.uk. Have a look for ideas to keep the youngsters occupied on a wet day. Finally, to contact us, please email hello@folp.uk.

In the meantime, we would like to send 'seasonal greetings' to all park users

Calcot Infant and Junior School

We began the school year by collecting donations for the West Berkshire Food Bank. With our generous families contributing 238kgs of food (about the weight of a full-grown dolphin) which provided 500 meals for local families in need. In preparation for the Turn Tilehurst Red competition, the children created poppy displays for the school and we were proud to win 1st place! On November 8th, Mrs Rostron and the choir participated in the Remembrance ceremony at the Tilehurst Triangle. The children sang beautifully. The choir also performed at the Autumn Concert with the Waltham St Lawrence Silver Band and joined the Christmas event at Bucklebury Farm.

The infants took part in a Diwali workshop with the Don Rae Academy and parents had the chance to watch the children's performance. Looking ahead, we have exciting schools trips planned to the Winchester Science Museum and the Imperial War Museum along with a pantomime and nativity performances.



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



HOLYBROOK

Community Spirit

Awards 2025

Nominations open on 20th January 2025

Categories

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 you 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.

Please submit nominations either by e-mail, post, WhatsApp or hand, to the Parish Office by Friday 7th March 2025

A valid nomination must state:

Category entered. Name of nominee. Contact address of nominee. Description of why your nominee should receive an award. Your name and contact details.

admin@holybrook-pc.gov.uk

www.holybrook-pc.gov.uk

07704 663397

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 2024-March 2025).
6. Entries to be submitted to the Parish Office either by e-mail, post or hand. The Council may provide nomination form drop-off points and will advise via the noticeboards if it does so.
7. You can submit more than one nomination in each category.
8. You can only nominate the same person/group once in each relevant category.
9. The Council reserves the right to withdraw a category if no appropriate nominations are received.
10. Further information can be found on the Parish Council's website from 20th January 2025 when nominations formally open. Nominations close at 13:00 on Friday 7th March 2025.