



HOLYBROOK PARISH NEWS

Proudly serving the residents of Holybrook since 2000

February 2024



Dear Residents,

As the newsletter goes to print, the spring bulbs planted in October are beginning to emerge. Hopefully, by the time of receipt, these harbingers of spring will be in bloom. My sincere apologies for not crediting Pip Piennar's contribution in facilitating the snowdrops in the December newsletter!

West Berkshire Council has approved 19 locations for dropped kerbs and some additional footpath/footpath extensions in the Parish, as part of our access and footpath improvement programme. The works were due to commence on 25th January so should be completed by the time this newsletter reaches you.

The Parish has received several complaints relating to planning, the enforcement of conditions and the management of development sites. Whilst the Parish Council is only a consultee for planning and has neither responsibility nor powers for enforcement, residents are encouraged to contact us at the earliest opportunity so that we may: assist in establishing communication with the appropriate authority such as Planning Enforcement, District Councillors and, possibly, site managers, and follow-up on responses and proposed actions. We also received reports of anti-social behaviour at one of the development sites. If witnessed, please report it, as it is happening, directly to Thames Valley Police. Social issues can also be brought to the Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG); a multi-agency group which meets every 6-weeks. Please contact Cllr Clive Littlewood for more information and details of the next meeting (councillor contact details on the back page of this newsletter).

Do not forget, there is still time to send in your nominations for Holybrook Parish's first ever 'Community Spirit Awards'. The categories are: *Community Champion, Young Person(s) of the Year, Good Neighbour of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, Service with a Smile and Unsung Hero*. The winner of each category will receive a trophy and a £50.00 voucher in recognition of their achievements. Details of how to nominate and criteria can be found on the council's website: www.holybrook-pc.gov.uk or contact admin@holybrook-pc.gov.uk.

We are very much looking forward to Holybrook's Annual Assembly on Monday 25th March 2024 where the winners of our Community Spirit Awards will be announced. We look forward to seeing you there!

Claire Tull, Chairman

Friends of Linear Park – Water, Water Everywhere

For many of you, it will have been the first time that you have seen the Linear Park flooded even though it is flood plain. The Park (East and West) has balancing ponds which, when it rains, takes the excess water from the neighbouring estates. In relation to the balancing ponds, on the west side, they take the storm water from Tilehurst which subsequently flows down into the culvert at the back of the Beansheaf Community Centre and into the balancing ponds but, on this occasion, these were overwhelmed by storm Henk causing the overflow of the ponds along with the Holybrook into the Park. At least the cherry trees don't need watering at the moment! The Friends were not daunted and sought work on higher ground, above the flood levels, enabling Cow Lane to have a good clean and tidy up. Once the flood levels recede, there will be plenty of work clearing the debris created by the rising waters. In the meantime, take care when using the Park and, where possible, keep to the footpaths to allow the grass and surrounding areas to recover.



If your New Year's resolution is to exercise more or just take in more fresh air and you would like to join us, you would be very welcome. We can be contacted at: hello@folp or through our website : www.folp.uk.

Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day 2023



Council members and staff, at the council meeting on Monday 18th December 2023, donned their Christmas jumpers to raise some funds for Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day, which we have been doing at the December meeting for a number of years now. Regular hirers of the Beansheaf Centre were also invited to join us in our fund raising. With £71.75 raised we thank everyone who took part and particularly the members of 1st Reading YMCA Beaver Scouts and Walk for Health.



Kennet Valley Primary School

was delighted to receive a donation from Dr Ellerton's Charity, which supports schools and families in the Theale and Holybrook area. The School has used this money to buy some excellent equipment to develop the children's physical strength including a set of monkey bars that will support children in their gross motor skills of reaching, swinging and hanging to develop their arm muscles. This development will also have a positive impact on their fine motor skills like writing. The School has also purchased a long-lasting, two-wheeled bike that will improve the children's balance skills.

The bike has larger wheels than a normal children's bike which will increase the support to help keep the bike upright whilst the children are learning to cycle for the first time.



1st Theale & Calcot Scouts

1st Theale and Calcot Scouts continue to provide an exciting and varied programme. Since the launch of Merlin Squirrels (age 4-6) in September, our Squirrels have undertaken their first adventures including a camp fire and visit to a low ropes course.

This term has seen Scouts from Pegasus and Concorde Troops set off alone to complete an expedition. A small group from each troop were remotely supervised across a weekend whilst navigating their way to the New Forest. We are so proud of the Scouts and have loved hearing the stories from their weekend adventure!

All 1st Theale and Calcot sections took part in Theale's Remembrance Day Parade in November. It was lovely to see the whole Scout Group and community come together for such an important event to remember those that have fallen.

To find out more about Scouting with 1st Theale and Calcot, please contact GSL.1sttandc@gmail.com.

Calcot Infant and Junior School

has a textile bank where good-quality textiles are distributed across Eastern Europe to be loved again. Calcot schools PTFA gains a small income from this which is used to enrich the curriculum for all pupils. **WE TAKE:** clothes, shoes, bed linen, accessories (such as belts, hats, gloves, scarves, handbags) as well as soft toys. **WE CAN'T TAKE:** duvets, cushions, offcuts, used underwear/socks, carpet or curtains. The clothing bank can be found at the front of our junior school office and is easily accessible 24/7.

During spring term the children will litter pick the school grounds; we are running very low on litter pickers and would happily take donations if anyone has any spare.

We currently have vacancies for a part-time assistant caretaker and lunchtime assistants on a permanent and ad hoc basis. If you are interested in either of these roles, please contact the junior school office.

PANGBOURNE CHORAL SOCIETY MARKS CV STANFORD CENTENARY

Saturday 9th March 2024 at 7.30pm

The concert will be dedicated to the works and seminal influence of Charles Villiers Stanford, marking the centenary of his death. It will also be PCS's Music Director, Sara Benbow's, debut with the Society. The Choir will be joined by the celebrated Tenor soloist, James Gilchrist and the Southern Sinfonia Orchestra.

This performance will take place in the Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel at 7.30pm on Saturday 9th March 2024 at 7.30pm.

Tickets available for £15.00 (£8 for under 18s) from Garlands Organic Shop in Pangbourne, PCS members, on the door or via www.pangbournechoral.org.uk

Tony Maynard – Publicity Officer – Pangbourne Choral Society: 0118 984 5079

WHAT'S COMING UP

Kennet Valley Community Association



Saturdays:



2nd March : Play your cards right

23rd March: Music Bingo

6th April: Quiz



Dates are subject to change or new dates may be added. Please keep an eye on the KVCA noticeboard or social media for changes



Kennet Valley Social Club



kvcaa.uk@hotmail.com



DANCERCISE!

MONDAYS 10:30AM - 11:20AM
TUESDAYS 7:15PM - 8:05PM
THURSDAYS 10:30AM FORTNIGHTLY

BEANSHEAF COMMUNITY CENTRE
CHARRINGTON ROAD CALCOT
READING RG31 7AW



Let's Dance!



A LOW IMPACT DANCE EXERCISE CLASS

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO BOOK
PLEASE GO TO WWW.BOOKWHEN.JWDANCE

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**Don't forget, the clocks
spring forward by one hour
on Sunday 31st March 2024**



NEW YEAR

NEW YOU?

Why not try one of the many classes that are running at the Beansheaf Centre?

There's something for everyone.

Please visit our website for a full list of classes:
www.holybrook-pc.gov.uk

G N MAINTENANCE

No job too big or small



Call today for a free estimate

Contact Gary Nelson

Phone: 0118 954 9347

Mobile: 07774 103492

Email: gjdanelson@ntlworld.com

All types of fencing erected
 Garden decking

Kitchens fitted
 Bathrooms fitted
 Loft ladders and loft boards fitted

Electrics
 Lights changed
 Switches changed
 Wireless burglar alarms
 Professional car valeting service available
 Painting and decorating
 Stud work

Guttering and fascia cleaning and fitting

Patios, paths and walls pressure cleaned – no harsh chemicals
 Patios laid
 Shed erection
 Fences treated
 Outdoor tap installed

Extra radiators
 Leaking taps
 Blocked drains
 Most plumbing

24hr call out for burst pipes

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

Parish Council Events

Holybrook Parish Council is planning a number and variety of events during 2024. The following have been confirmed with more events to, hopefully, be announced throughout the year.

If you would like to be involved and help with the organisation of these or any other events, please do get in contact. We would love to hear from you!

80 year Anniversary of D-Day

Join us on Saturday 8th June 2024 in the Linear Park (RG31 7AW)
From 12.00 until 16:00

Music, refreshments, fun and games for the whole family

Annual Assembly of Holybrook Parish

The Annual Assembly is a meeting for residents to raise any issues within Holybrook Parish and is an opportunity to hear about the work of the Parish Council over the last year.

The Annual Assembly, also marks our first ever 'Community Spirit Awards' prize giving

Monday 25th March 2024

19:00

Beansheaf Room, Beansheaf Centre

Light refreshments available from 18:45 until the meeting starts



Litter Picks

Saturdays 10:00 until 12:00
Light refreshments and equipment provided

2nd March:	Kennet Valley Free Church
11th May:	Beansheaf Community Centre
6th July:	Kennet Valley Free Church
14th September:	Beansheaf Centre
2nd November:	Kennet Valley Free Church

National environmental events you may wish to join in:

24th April:		Stop Food Waste Day
May:		No Mow May
14th July - 6th August:		Big Butterfly Count
22nd September:		World Car Free Day

Claire	Tull (Chairman)	0118 941 8203	Maurice	Moore	0118 941 0027
Mary	Bedwell (Vice Chair)	0118 942 0196	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	Vivek	Sharma	07500 921 236
Clive	Littlewood	07905 816 846	Biyi	Oloko	0118 942 3435

Parish Council meetings are open to public viewing.

Agendas and Minutes can be found on the Council's website:
www.holybrook-pc.gov.uk