



# HOLYBROOK PARISH NEWS

*Proudly serving the residents of Holybrook Parish since 2000*

## February 2025



### **Celebrating Our Community Spirit at the Annual Parish Assembly!**

As we settle into the new year, we are thrilled to invite everyone in the Parish to this year's Annual Parish Assembly on Monday 31st March 2025, a key event in our community calendar. Join us, in the Beansheaf Centre at 7.00pm, as we celebrate a significant milestone; our Silver Anniversary, with a special focus on recognising the achievements and tireless efforts of our wonderful volunteers. An inspiring evening with reflections on past accomplishments and an exciting look ahead to future projects.

The Assembly will mark the start of a series of celebratory events commemorating our 25 years of community spirit and progress. Let's come together to applaud those who make a real difference in our parish (don't forget to get your nominations in by Friday 7th March 2025) . Stay tuned for details on other anniversary celebrations to follow!

### **VE Day Commemoration Event in the Park — Monday, 5th May**

Don't miss our VE Day in the Park celebration on Bank Holiday Monday, 5th May! This community event will be a day of remembrance, fun, and family-friendly activities, honouring the courage and sacrifice of those involved in the war. With music, historical displays, activities and more, it's a perfect way to come together in gratitude and reflection. Bring a picnic, your family and your friends for a day to remember.

### **Path Restoration, Planting, and Green Space Projects**

We are working hard to enhance our parish's beauty and accessibility. Restored pathways and new plantings have improved our green spaces, and we appreciate everyone's help so far. You can do your bit by ensuring garden foliage isn't encroaching on footways; if it is, kindly trim it back. Watch for upcoming, further path restoration dates. Many hands make light work!



### **Community Speed Watch**

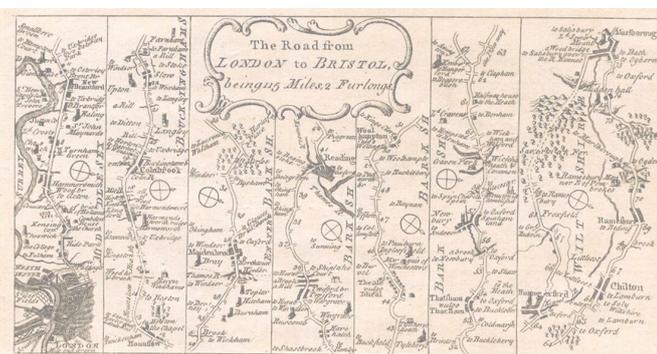
At the time of writing, our long-awaited Community Speed Watch signs are going up around the Parish and speed surveillance is imminent. However, more volunteers are needed to join the Community Speed Watch initiative. Speeding has been highlighted as a community concern. Therefore, if you care about making a difference and can spare just a little time through the year, please step forward. Training and support are provided.

### **Join the Parish Council — 4 Vacancies to Fill**

Are you over 18, passionate about our community and eager to make a positive impact? We currently have four vacancies on the Parish Council and we're looking for dedicated individuals to fill these important roles. This is your opportunity to shape the future of the Parish and represent the interests of everyone who calls it home.

### **Help us Build a Historical Timeline**

We are creating a historical timeline of our parish and we need your help! If you have any photographs or stories from before the first occupation or during the early stages of development, please share them with us by 27th



February 2025. Your contributions will help preserve our heritage and create an engaging display for the whole community to enjoy.

Together, we can continue to build a vibrant, connected, and caring community. We look forward to seeing you at the Assembly and throughout our Silver Anniversary celebrations!

*Claire Tull, Chairman*



## Connect, Learn and Play with Family Hub! We're here for you!

### Postnatal Group – Starts Late February

Welcoming new parents and babies! Join us to connect with others and chat about life with your little one. Topics include sleeping, feeding, relaxation, and minor illnesses.

### First Aid for Parents and Carers – 31st March, 10:00-11:30

A must-attend session to boost your confidence and skills in child safety.

### Play in the Park – 26th February & 26th March

Outdoor fun at Linear Park, 10:00-11:30. Parents and carers with children under 5 are welcome!

For more information and to book: [https://booking.westberks.gov.uk/family\\_hubs\\_events.html#/event\\_list](https://booking.westberks.gov.uk/family_hubs_events.html#/event_list). Or follow our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/familyhubeast>. Or Call: 01189456157

Visit the Hub for friendly support on early years funding, breastfeeding, SEN advice, sleep tips, toilet learning, school readiness, behaviour and more. Drop in anytime!

**East Family Hub, Curtis Rd, Calcot, RG314XG**

## Spreading Holiday Cheer for a Great Cause!

A huge thank you to our amazing staff, Councillors, and Centre



hirers for supporting Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day in December! Together, we proudly raised £90 to help make a difference.

Our Parish Councillors and team brought festive spirit to the December full Council meeting, showing off their joyful Christmas jumpers.



Meanwhile, the 1st Reading YMCA Beaver Scouts turned their Beansheaf Centre session into a holiday

extravaganza! They crafted Christmas jumper themed art, raced to find hidden jumpers and played "Steal the Teddy" featuring, of course, a festive jumper-wearing teddy!

Thanks to everyone who participated and made this a success. Your generosity is appreciated!

## Calcot Infant and Junior School – Spring Term Update

This spring term is packed with exciting activities, including sporting events, choir concerts, and productions in Years 1 and 3. We're also preparing for our Sports Week in May. If you run a local sports club and would like to offer a taster session, please contact the school office. Any sport is welcome, as we aim to provide children with new and exciting opportunities.

Did you know Calcot Junior School has a textile bank? Good-quality textiles are distributed across Eastern Europe to be reused, and the Calcot Schools PTFA earns a small income to enrich our curriculum. The bank, located at the front of the junior school office, is accessible 24/7.

We're also looking for volunteers to support our school, whether by listening to children read, helping in infant forest school sessions, or sharing experiences of historical events.

### Contact Us:

Infants: 0118 941 8189 | [office@c-inf.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:office@c-inf.w-berks.sch.uk) Juniors: 0118 942 8727 | [office@cjun.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:office@cjun.w-berks.sch.uk)

## Daylight Saving

Don't forget; the clocks go forward by one hour at 1am on 30th March



**Contact Us:** [www.holybrook-pc.gov.uk](http://www.holybrook-pc.gov.uk)

[admin@holybrook-pc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@holybrook-pc.gov.uk) [clerk@holybrook-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@holybrook-pc.gov.uk)  
[bookings@holybrook-pc.gov.uk](mailto:bookings@holybrook-pc.gov.uk) 0118 9454 339 07704663397

## Friends of Linear Park – New Beginnings

The Friends of Linear Park are dedicated to promoting, enhancing and protecting the Park and its wildlife.



After a winter of flooding, frost and ice the Park is showing signs of spring: buds are emerging on trees, hazel catkins are appearing and daffodil bulbs are bursting through the woods. Wildlife is also reawakening; rabbits near the railway line, molehills scattered across the Park and birds busy nesting.

Please keep pets, especially dogs, under control to avoid disturbing ground-nesting birds like ducks.



### Recent activities include:

- Repairing the June Scott bench, using recovered timber from Pooh Bridge, located by the Community Garden.
- Completing a 15-metre footpath connecting the Farmers Field at the far end of Linear Park West, including installing a new bench.
- Clearing and making safe a few fallen trees and branches brought down by high winds.

We welcome new members and value your feedback. Contact us at [hello@folp.com](mailto:hello@folp.com) or visit our website at [www.folp.uk](http://www.folp.uk). Families don't miss our Children's Corner for fun and educational activities!

## Thank you for supporting Linear Park; a haven for both people and wildlife.

### January Litter Pick Success!

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to the amazing volunteers who participated in our first litter pick of 2025!

Despite the January weather, 15 dedicated community members came together to help keep our parish clean and beautiful. Your energy, enthusiasm, and commitment made a real difference and we are incredibly grateful for your time and effort. Together, we collected approximately 10 bags of litter. Every piece of litter removed helps create a safer, more pleasant environment for everyone. It's a true testament to the power of collective action and community spirit. We couldn't have done it without you!



### Save the Date: Next Litter Pick

We are excited to announce that our next community litter pick will take place on Saturday 1st March 2025, heading out from Kennet Valley Free Church (who kindly let us use their facility) at 10:00. Mark your calendars and join us to continue making a positive impact! As always, all necessary equipment will be provided.

Thank you once again for being such wonderful ambassadors of our environment and we look forward to seeing familiar faces and welcoming new participants at the next event.

**Together, we're making a difference; one piece of litter at a time!**



**ADVANCE WARNING (National Highways)**  
**M4 junction 12 (Theale interchange bridge repairs)**

**FULL WEEKEND CLOSURE: from 9pm Friday 28th February to 6am Monday 3rd March**

Visit: [nationalhighways.co.uk/se-maintenance](http://nationalhighways.co.uk/se-maintenance) for more information



# HOLYBROOK

## Community Spirit

## Awards 2025

### Categories

**Nominations are open until Friday 7th March**

#### 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 '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 silently engages in community services under their own initiative or someone who has served the community selflessly for a long period of time.

### Exciting Plans for Linear Park: Old Tractor Shed to Become Refreshment Hub

The Council is thrilled to announce that, in December 2024, planning permission was granted to transform the old tractor garage in Linear Park into a dual-purpose refreshment kiosk. This project marks an exciting step forward in enhancing our community facilities and providing a welcoming space for residents and visitors alike.

Originally acquired from WBC in 2021, the tractor garage will undergo a comprehensive refurbishment. Forest Builders has been awarded the contract for the works, with a total project cost of £41,100 plus VAT. Key upgrades will include vital internal improvements (necessary regardless of its use), installation of heavy equipment (however no extractor units, ducts or other mechanical plant shall be installed) structural modifications to accommodate a serving hatch and the renovation and upgrade of the existing pergola.

Funding for this initiative comes from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies—contributions from local building projects—and a generous £9,000 grant from WBC. This investment not only enhances the Park's amenities but also creates a vibrant hub for volunteer groups and a new gathering point for the entire community. The Garage will remain the property of the Parish Council.

We look forward to sharing more updates as the project progresses and can't wait to welcome everyone to enjoy this fantastic new facility in Linear Park!

