



# HOLYBROOK PARISH NEWS

*Serving the communities of Fords Farm and Beansheaf Farm*

**June 2022**

## *Dear Residents*



I have been a Parish Councillor since 2003 and have chaired this council for the past 12 years.

It is now time for someone else to lead Holybrook Parish Council into the future so, at the Holybrook Parish Annual Meeting which took place on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022, I did not stand for re-election.



I have enjoyed being at the helm, helping residents and trying to ensure that Holybrook is a very pleasant place to live. I have maintained a good relationship with our District Councillors and the staff at West Berks Council and working with them is the way forward. My sincere thanks to all Councillors past and present, and to the Parish Clerk for guidance and support over many years.

Claire Tull, who has been Vice-Chairman of the Council for over 12 years, has now been elected as Chairman. With her experience and knowledge, I know that the Parish Council is in good hands and I look forward to continuing to serve the Council as Vice Chairman.

*Cllr. Mary Bedwell*

Holybrook Parish Council held its Annual Assembly on the 16th May 2022. We would like to thank everyone who took the time to come along and hear about what has been happening in the Parish over the last year and from the groups that the Parish has supported. Please check out our website if you would like to review the report.

Please remember that the Annual Assembly is a great opportunity for residents to raise any issues they have with the Parish Council. Next year's Annual Assembly will take place on Monday 27th March 2023 and we would love to see you there.

## **Investiture Ceremony**

The Scout Association has recently launched a brand new section for 4-5 year olds called Squirrels.

1<sup>st</sup> Reading YMCA Sea Scout Group, whose Beaver Scout and Squirrel Scout sections meet at the Beansheaf Centre, is proud to have one of the first Squirrel Drays to open in Reading.

To mark the investiture ceremony of both the Leader and the Squirrels, Mary Bedwell was invited to the ceremony, firstly as Chairman of the Holybrook Parish Council and, less well known, as a former Leader with 1<sup>st</sup> Reading Cubs back in the 1970's!

Mike Davidson, our Group Scout Leader, invested Jennie Whitehead before she then invested the Squirrels.

We celebrated with a squirrel cake afterwards

For more information on our groups, please contact Jennie Whitehead at [jenniewhitehead79@gmail.com](mailto:jenniewhitehead79@gmail.com)



## Kennet Valley School Choir

Kennet Valley School Choir  
Performance – a report by Lucas de Sa and Chloe Golding

On 26th April 2022 the Kennet Valley Choir travelled to Wembley Arena in London to perform in a Young Voices Concert with over 4,500 other children! We started by attending a three-hour practice of all the songs we have been learning for the past few weeks, which was really fun but tiring. The main performance started at 7pm and it included songs in Latin, songs from films and lots of different medleys. We also watched professional street dancers, beatboxers and other singers. The beatboxers were especially brilliant and we loved it when they got the parents to join in. It was really special being part of this concert, although we were all really tired when we got home!

The Choir and Music Lead at the school, Miss Alexandra Smith, said 'What a wonderful occasion this was! I couldn't be prouder of the school choir. They joined in all the rehearsals with enthusiasm and knocked our socks off during the actual performance, after a long day! We very much enjoyed their company and the positive attitude they showed towards the event and each other. Thanks also to the parents for their warm support.' Our choir will next be performing for parents and pupils at the school's celebration for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.



West Berkshire Council (WBC) is currently undertaking a number of exciting projects in the Linear Park which include:

1. A cricket wicket in Linear Park;
2. Installation of a Pump Track which will be for all ages and all abilities. The location that has been potentially identified is the little paddock from the playing field towards the M4;
3. Upgrade of the Albury Gardens play area: Unfortunately the current wooden park has reached the end of its life;
4. Kissing gates at Burghfield Road and Mill Lane entrance;

Further information that maybe of interested:

WBC can provide sponsored recycled benches for a donation of £500, which includes a bench and plaque. A suitable location is agreed between the sponsor and WBC and WBC will complete the installation.

WBC is in the final year of the Grounds Maintenance contract. Therefore, they are retendering the district grounds maintenance contract this year with the new contract starting in January 2023.



### Look at your home security in a new light as clocks go forward

As we enjoy the longer days it is important that people remain mindful of their home security.

With the weather improving, more people leave windows open and doors unlocked whilst they are out in their gardens, putting them at a higher risk of being burgled.

There are a number of simple steps that can be taken to minimise the risk to your home:

1. Lock your doors while working in the garden;
2. Close your windows in areas that are accessible to a thief, such as a flat roof or rear window next to garden furniture that can be used as a climbing aid;
3. Close the downstairs windows or doors after they have been opened in hot weather;
4. Keep an eye on neighbours' homes when they are on holiday. Consider opening and closing their blinds for them and collecting their mail.

For more information on how to keep your property safe please visit the 'Crime Prevention Advice' section of the Thames Valley Police website at <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/search?q=crime+prevention+advice>.

## Beansheaf Pre-School



Beansheaf Pre-school, based in the Beansheaf Centre, has a "GOOD" Ofsted rating. We welcome children from 2 yrs and are pleased to offer up to 30 hrs funded childcare for eligible families. Our highly qualified team of staff ensure that children are safe, secure and nurtured during their time with us. As an inclusive setting, we offer a range of fun activities in-line with the EYFS and Covid-19 secure regulations. We are now taking registrations for September 2022.

**Contact:**

**Mobile:** 07504 956 168

**Landline:** 0118 9454312

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## Bird Cherry Ermine Moth



You may have seen the caterpillar infestation on the trees in Linear Park. There is nothing to be alarmed about, it is the bird cherry ermine moth back for another year. The trees are likely to recover in time for the adult moths to lay their eggs on the new leaves.

For more information, please go to <https://scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/2020/06/bumper-year-for-bird-cherry-ermine/>

## G N MAINTENANCE

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## Slimming World taste the freedom

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9:30am, 11am, 5:30pm & 7pm

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WhatsApp/call/text Sharon  
on 07808 272966  
for more information

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### YOUR HOLYBROOK 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)	07905 816 846
HARISH MISTRY	0118 945 5830
ANDREW LENAGHAN	0118 945 3714
SIMON COLLARD	0118 9410 697
BIYI OLOKO	0118 942 3435
OLA SALAU	07737 820 017
MAURICE MOORE	0118 941 0027

### DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

RICHARD SOMNER	07836 208382
BIYI OLOKO	0118 942 3435

### **Friends of Linear Park – Whatever the Weather.**

After the wild wintry weather, we are busy watering the cherry trees, young oak trees, crab apple and goat willow planted over the autumn/winter and mulching the whips due to the dry weather we are now experiencing!

Maintenance continues and all entrances to the park have been cleaned/swept, trimmed back, including Cow Lane which had a Friends of Linear Park makeover!



Thames Valley Police – Pangbourne  
Neighbourhood Police Team  
The team relocated to Theale  
Community Fire Station in November  
2021 and are now fully operational  
from that new site. This allows us  
close access to the Holybrook  
community and, currently, we have a  
team of 9 Officers covering all of our  
local Parishes.



May we remind residents that if you witness an incident it would be best to contact TVP directly on 101 (or 999 if it is an emergency.) We have recently received some reports, via the Holybrook Parish Office, that would have been more effectively dealt with if they had been reported to us in the first instance as the incident is occurring. You can also make a report online at the TVP website at <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/>

There are two new gates into the park – Mill Lane and Burghfield Road entrances now have key access for motorized wheelchairs.

The park holds the prestigious Green Flag and, this year, the park will be inspected 'Unannounced' which means we have no idea when the inspector will call. Please help us to keep the park clean and tidy by picking up after your dog and taking your litter home.

Hard work in the community garden is making it an oasis within the park where people can sit quietly on the duck seat, take time to think and reflect and enjoy the Friendship stones.

Enjoy the Jubilee weekend – maybe take a walk in the park or

enjoy a picnic - there are benches near to several of the play areas or just take a blanket and sit under a shady tree. Whatever you do over the bank holiday weekend – enjoy!

If you have any comments or like to contact us the email address is: – [folpcalcot@gmail.com](mailto:folpcalcot@gmail.com)



### **Parish Council Meetings:**

**June:** 20th - Full Council meeting  
**July:** 4th - Finance meeting  
25th - Full Council Meeting

Meeting dates are subject to change and a full list of Parish meetings, including any date changes, can be found on our website: [www.holybrook-pc.gov.uk](http://www.holybrook-pc.gov.uk). Alternatively, please contact: [admin@hollybrook-pc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@hollybrook-pc.gov.uk) for more information. You can also find the Council's agendas and minutes on our website.