



Proudly serving the residents of Holybrook Parish since 2000

HOLYBROOK PARISH NEWS

June 2025



This edition of our newsletter is dedicated to two truly remarkable individuals, Mr Prior and Councillor Andrew Lenaghan, whose recent passings has left a void in our community. Their unwavering commitment, kindness and spirit of service have shaped Holybrook which will be cherished for generations to come.

Honouring Mr Prior's Daily Dedication

For over four decades, Mr Prior faithfully unlocked and locked the playground gates at Underwood Road every single day since the park first opened in the late 1970s. His dedication helped ensure that generations of children had a safe and welcoming place to play, while also keeping a watchful eye to make sure they behaved themselves! But his contributions didn't stop there. He was known for offering tea, coffee and the occasional slice of cake to our hardworking contractors, and local dogs loved to pass his house as he was often there with a treat for them too!

It's these everyday kindnesses and community spirit that leaves a lasting mark. We're deeply grateful to his family, who have kindly chosen to carry on this daily act of service in his memory.

A Councillor Who Gave His All

Councillor Lenaghan served Holybrook Parish Council for 10 years. His impact was felt across all our committees and events. Whether applying his talents as a professional chef at the Holybrook Festival barbecue, championing the Community Speed Watch programme, or helping to develop and enhance our parish buildings (such as The Garage and the kitchen in the Beansheaf Centre), he was always at the heart of our efforts. Even while managing a life-limiting illness, Andrew continued to attend meetings and chair the Planning Committee. Andrew's dedication to the Council, humour and friendship will never be forgotten.



To the families of both gentlemen, we extend our heartfelt condolences. We have been profoundly fortunate to have known them and shared in their spirit of selfless giving.

VE Day 80th Anniversary Celebration

On Monday 5th May, we were delighted to see so many residents join us to honour the occasion. The sense of community and togetherness truly captured the spirit of VE Day. Led by Councillor Karen Albanese, the picnic in the park, was a resounding success and worthy tribute to this important moment in history.

A special thank you goes to the choir, Julio, Julie, the dancers and HHR for their fabulous entertainments. All, despite the weather being a nuisance at times, creating both an uplifting and moving atmosphere which made the day truly memorable. We also extend our gratitude to the vendors who delighted us with delicious food and drink, and to the dedicated volunteers, especially Cllr Albanese, whose hard work made the event possible.

A particularly poignant moment was the haunting sound of *The Last Post* and *Reveille*, played by our bugler Andrew Willis. His performance reminded us of the courage and sacrifice that brought peace to our nation, leaving a lasting impression on everyone present.

Finally, we're excited to announce that the Council will be hosting a Silver Anniversary Event in the Park during the early May bank holiday next year. Please save the date!

CONTACT: Parish Office: 0118 9454 339 or 07704 663 397

Email: clerk@holybrook-pc.gov.uk admin@holybrook-pc.gov.uk bookings@holybrook-pc.gov.uk

All parish councillor contact details can be found in the noticeboards or on our website: www.holybrook-pc.gov.uk

Local Family Hub: What's on - summer edition:

PEEP Learning Together

A great opportunity for parents, carers and children to learn and have fun together! These friendly sessions support your child's learning and development through play and shared experiences.

- **Baby PEEP:** Starts 17th June
- **Outdoor PEEP (for parents and children aged 2-4 years):** Starts 23rd June

Baby Massage : Starts 20th June

Gentle sessions to help you bond with your baby, support their development and relax together.

Coffee Morning: Monday 4th July

For parents and carers of children with special educational needs (SEN).

Meet other families and professionals, ask questions, share experiences and find support. *Children under 5 are welcome to attend.*

Stay Connected

Follow us on Facebook: **@Familyhubeast**

Join our WhatsApp channel for updates and reminders.

We'd love to see you at any of our groups!

East Family Hub

Calcot Infants School

Curtis Road, Calcot

0118 9456 157

Friends of Linear Park - After the storms ...

With dry and warm weather, the Park is taking on its summer hue. The Bird Cherry Ermine Moth is back with a vengeance this year attacking several trees and, although it seems devastating to see the branches covered in cobwebs and caterpillars, the trees will recover.

On a (slightly) dull and cold day we attended the Parish Council's VE Day celebrations in the Park with our gazebo and stand, with information and a history of how FoLP was formed.



Our recent tasks have included: -

- Assisting the landowner to spread several tonnes of aggregate over the footway next to the horses' field.
- Back-filling the holes that had appeared on Pooh Bridge on a temporary basis and now awaiting a more permanent repair by WBC.
- Continuing to trim round and mulch the trees and saplings.

We welcome new members and any comments. Contact us at hello@folp.com or visit our website at www.folp.uk. Don't forget to check out our Children's Corner for activities for the youngsters.

HOLYBROOK
Community Spirit

Award Winners

Congratulations to our Community Spirit Award 2025 winners who were given their prizes of a £50 voucher and trophy at the well-attended Annual Assembly on Monday 30th March. All very worthy winners:

June Scott Award for Best Environmental Champions: Friends of Linear Park

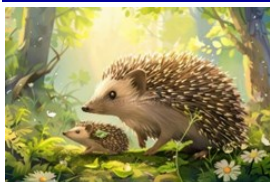
Good Neighbour: Andrew Lenaghan

Young Person of the Year: Emily Lander

Service with a Smile: Caroline Booth

Unsung Hero: Jim Tull

Several Parish councillors and a member of staff were also honoured with long-service pin badges.



Hedgehogs – The Mating Season & Babies!

Hedgehog mating season begins shortly after hibernation, usually late April. They reach sexual maturity in their second year and can breed annually. Courtship is noisy and lengthy, with males circling females, huffing and chuffing—often attracting rival males and sparking confrontations. Strange night time garden noises may well be hedgehogs!

Breeding occurs from April to September, with peak activity in May and June. After a 32-day gestation, most births happen in June or July. Litters average four to five hoglets but can be as many as seven. If disturbed shortly after birth, mothers may abandon or eat their young. Later disturbances may prompt her to move them. At around four weeks old, hoglets begin foraging with their mother and become independent within two to three weeks.

If you suspect hedgehogs are nesting in your garden, avoid disturbing potential sites or using gardening equipment nearby. Support them with shallow bowls of water (not milk) and meaty kitten biscuits. Encouraging neighbours to create “hedgehog highways” between gardens also helps.

A hedgehog seen during daylight may be in trouble. Don’t pick it up, observe from a distance and contact your local rescue ASAP for guidance.



Miss Bette having an early evening drink, thriving after her first hibernation!

Article and photo credit to Karen Wilkinson-Flood

Want to be involved in helping our local wildlife? Help protect our biodiversity by spotting and recording wildlife in your area. Visit our website (www.holybrook-pc.gov.uk) to download free biodiversity tick sheets and start exploring today. Every sighting counts; join us in safeguarding the nature we all share.

Community Speed Watch Update: Monitoring Efforts on Calcot Place Drive and Mill Lane

Over the past few weeks, local volunteers have been helping to keep our roads safer through Community Speed Watch (CSW). Thank you to everyone who stops to chat to the team or shout encouraging words from their cars, but please remember, the team are volunteers. Sessions can only be held within the guidelines of the scheme. More volunteers are welcome to help cover more of the Parish and more times of day. Community Speed Watch is about raising awareness of speeding and improving road safety through education.

Calcot Place Drive: Encouraging Speeds, Concerning Incidents

During a one-hour monitoring session (3.00pm to 4.00pm), on Calcot Place Drive, volunteers observed approximately 65 vehicles. Encouragingly, the typical speed recorded was in the mid-20s (mph). However, the team witnessed three near-miss incidents in that short timeframe. These occurred as cars travelling down the road navigated around parked vehicles without noticing oncoming traffic. Vehicles, with the right of way, were then forced to either swerve into a side road or up the kerb to avoid collision. These incidents highlight that driver awareness is just as important as speed when it comes to safety.

Mill Lane: A Busier, Faster Route

Over the course of one hour (3.00pm to 4.00pm), more than 330 vehicles were observed highlighting how busy this route is. Unfortunately, here, the speeds were notably higher, with some vehicles registering up to 40mph. This is a serious concern. The risk of fatal injury for a pedestrian struck at 40mph is approximately 90%, compared to around 10% at 20mph. These figures, (UK Department for Transport data), underscore the importance of slowing down in residential areas. Remember, children play out on our streets and there are many animals out and about.

Speed	Thinking Distance	Braking Distance	Total Stopping Distance
30 mph	9 metres	14 metres	23 metres
40 mph	12 metres	24 metres	36 metres

News from Calcot School

This term at Calcot schools we have been busy planning for Sports Week, Creative Arts Week, SATs, school trips and end-of-year productions, which we look forward to sharing with you soon.



We marked the 80th Anniversary of VE Day with a whole school special assembly, learning about VE Day, its significance and why we spend time to remember and celebrate this anniversary together. Grandparents of nursery and reception children were invited for tea and cake in the morning and, in the afternoon, the school gathered to hear Derek (volunteer musician) play "The Last Post" on the trumpet before holding a one-minute silence. The children then enjoyed a picnic and traditional games on the school field.

Our year 6 children completed their SATs exams; we are very proud of them all. They also took part in fun activities throughout the week, finishing with the much anticipated SATs water fight! Some of the teachers also joined in!

Did you Know?

Following a recent enquiry from a resident, the Council is pleased to share the answers to the questions as many maybe of wider interest. Here's a summary of two answers (for full details, please visit our website: www.holybrook-pc.gov.uk to view the document).

Solar Panels: Saving money & supporting sustainability

We reported, in the last newsletter, that solar panels will be installed on the Beansheaf Centre. This move helps reduce rising electricity costs and supports our goal of greater environmental sustainability. While the panels won't generate much income, due to an export limit, they will cut on-site energy bills. These savings can then be reinvested into the Centre keeping hire rates affordable, which helps support community groups, and maintenance of the facilities. Reinvestment has real community impact with 9 of the Centre's 25 regular user groups already receiving discounted hire rates, saving between £2.50 and £9.00 per hour. And, despite rising costs elsewhere, the Council has kept rental charges stable since 2022 to ensure the Centre remains accessible.

Funding Facts: CIL vs Precept

The Precept is the portion of council tax allocated to parish councils (£143,357 for 2025/26). It helps fund ongoing operations and services. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is different. It's a fund paid by developers to help local areas manage the demands that come with growth such as improving infrastructure, parks or facilities. CIL funds cannot be used for day-to-day running costs but are, instead, earmarked for specific improvement projects across the Parish.

Thank you to the residents who ask questions. Your input helps shape a stronger, more transparent community. If you have any questions please contact the Parish Office, a councillor directly or come to a Council meeting.

Community Spirit Shines Through After Youth Shelter Fire



We're saddened to report an arson attack on the youth shelter at Holymead recreational ground in early May. While no one was hurt, the shelter was badly damaged and is beyond repair. CCTV footage has been shared with police, who are now investigating.

In a heartening response, local teenagers Faith Murphy and Chloe Golding, took it upon themselves to clear the site of debris and litter. Their thoughtful, self-driven act has been warmly praised by councillors, who commend their example of responsibility and community spirit.



Plans are underway to replace the shelter with a stronger, more durable structure.