



Proudly serving the residents of Holybrook Parish since 2000

HOLYBROOK PARISH NEWS

October 2025

Dear All

A lot has been happening during the summer months!

Garage Kiosk, Linear Park: The Garage is now officially open and is already proving extremely popular. Check out [@thegaragekioskonlinearpark](#) on Facebook to stay up-to-date on opening times and more.



Solar panels at the Beansheaf Centre: Thanks to a generous grant from West Berkshire Council, under the Levelling Up Fund, and with Community Infrastructure Levy monies, solar panels have been installed at the Beansheaf Centre. This step not only reduces our carbon footprint but, importantly, reduces our running costs; allowing us to continue to support our community groups by keeping hire fees as low as possible whilst maintaining the Centre to a high standard.

Improved Park Access: By the time you read this, the pathway from the Linear Park car park to the Fairfields development should be complete. This will provide better access to Otter Drive, Bainbridge Road and Balfour Drive. At Otter Drive the path will connect naturally to the Park through an informal walking route.

Community Safety: The summer has been glorious in many ways but, sadly, the Parish has experienced several criminal acts of arson, damage and graffiti. CCTV footage and evidence from several incidents are in the hands of Thames Valley Police.

Upcoming Public Meeting: There are many questions around the proposals to create a large unitary authority, The Ridgeway Council, and Reading Borough Council's proposal for a boundary change. To give residents a chance to hear directly from council leaders and ask questions, a public meeting will be held on **Monday 13th October 2025** at the Beansheaf Centre, Linear Hall. The doors will open at 6pm with formal sessions taking place at 6.30pm and 7.30pm. More details will be published on our website and in the noticeboards nearer the time.

Drop-in sessions: An informal session for residents to share views, ask questions, or drop-off their completed questionnaires (enclosed and available on our website) will be held at Kennet Valley Free Church on: **Saturday 25th October 2025 from 2.00pm until 4.00pm** (*please note no District Council representatives will be present at this session*).

Remembrance Sunday: It will be an honour and privilege to represent the Parish on Remembrance Sunday (9th November) at Holy Trinity Church, Theale, where a wreath will be laid on behalf of Holybrook Parish. Everyone is welcome.

Best wishes for a colourful and bountiful Autumn.

Claire Tull, Chairman



Calcot Infant and Junior School

Children returned to school excited to learn and ready for a new term. We are looking forward to exciting school trips to Rushall Farm and Winchester Science Museum, winter school productions and community events including our choir singing at The Hexagon.

Calcot 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. The clothing bank can be found at the front of our Junior School Office and is accessible 24/7.



Dads Hub: Last Tuesday of the month, 5.30—7pm

A relaxed group for dads to meet, share experiences and seek advice. Babies and toddlers welcome. Snacks provided. Next meeting: 28th October, Halloween theme.



Stay and Play: Wednesdays 10—11.30am at The Hub and Thursdays 10—11.30am at Theale Village Hall
Fun playtime for parents/carers and children up to 4 with crafts, stories and singing.

Newbies: Thursdays 1.00—2.30pm

For non-mobile babies under 1 and their parents/carers. Enjoy activities, meet new friends and take some time out. Breastfeeding support available. Tea and teacakes included.

For more information call **01189456157** or email familyhubs@westberks.gov.uk.
To book, scan the QR code. We look forward to seeing you soon!



Our Community United for a Cleaner Beansheaf

Thank you to everyone who joined our Beansheaf litter pick on Saturday 13th September.

Together, we collected six bags of litter and cleared several fly-tipped items, making a real difference to our community spaces. Your support and effort are greatly appreciated—let's keep Beansheaf clean and welcoming!



Friends of Linear Park – Autumn's Here...

After an unusual summer, everything has ripened early and leaves are turning to lovely autumn hues, though unpredictable weather has made work in the Park challenging. Maintenance has been our priority, with areas around benches upgraded and the willows in the playing fields 'skirted'. Also, have you visited the kiosk and seen the noughts and crosses game created by one of our members for youngsters to play on the wooden stumps in the mushroom ring?



Please take a moment to step out and enjoy the Park as it changes with the seasons. Watch for wildlife as they, too, prepare for autumn. And, if you'd like to get involved, we'd love to see you — contact hello@folp.com, visit www.folp.uk, or come along on a Tuesday morning.

Free energy advice from Cosier Homes to keep homes warmer

Cosier Homes is a free energy advice service from the Centre for Sustainable Energy that helps people stay warmer and healthier at home. We're a team of expert energy advisors offering support to people in West Berkshire. This includes advice on energy bills and energy debt, heating, cold and damp homes, and saving energy.

As winter approaches, now is a perfect time to ensure your home is ready for the colder weather. Draughts, damp, and broken boilers make winters cold and uncomfortable and can even be dangerous to your physical and mental health. Speak to one of our friendly advisors today for a warmer winter.

We can help with...

- Making cold, damp, or draughty homes warmer and healthier.
- Access to funding and grants to make homes more energy efficient.
- Saving money on gas, electricity, or water bills, or help with supplier debt.
- Fixing or upgrading heating systems.
- Energy saving advice and benefit checks.
- In-depth support for people in complex situations.

Call us on 0800 038 6345 or visit www.cse.org.uk/cosier-homes to fill in a self-referral form. If you work in social care, you can fill out the referral form on someone's behalf.

Hedgehogs, Hibernation & Halloween

Hedgehogs typically hibernate between October/November and March/April. To endure the colder months, they build up fat reserves during autumn. Since hedgehogs may give birth as late as September, providing supplementary food helps young hoglets gain enough weight before winter. Continue offering food and fresh water throughout hibernation, when natural sources are scarce. Kitten biscuits with meat as the first ingredient are ideal.

After the recent dry summer, other wildlife will also benefit from shallow containers of clean water in gardens. Hedgehogs may change nests during hibernation and sometimes wake to eat or drink. If a nest is found, cover it back up immediately and contact a local rescue centre; do not touch or move it. Hedgehogs seen in daylight may need urgent help. Observe from a distance, record details and seek advice from a rescue centre straight away.

Meet Daisy

Daisy was hand-reared from two days old by a local centre. Released at seven weeks, she is now 12 weeks old and thriving in her new environment.



Finally, remember pumpkins left outdoors after Halloween are harmful to hedgehogs, causing severe digestive issues. Please compost them, donate them to wildlife centres, or hang them for birds.

www.holybrook-pc.gov.uk

Clerk: clerk@hollybrook-pc.gov.uk General Enquiries: admin@hollybrook-pc.gov.uk

Or, call the Parish Office on 0118 945 4339 or 07704 663397

Local Government Review

Community Feedback & Insights Questionnaire

Your voice matters to us!

Please complete and
return this form so
we can represent
your views.

Background

Closing Date Saturday 25th October 2025

The Government is reviewing local councils to:

- Reduce the number of local council 'tiers' (West Berkshire currently has two tiers; West Berkshire Council and your Parish Council. In other parts of the country there are three tiers; County Council, District Council and Parish Council).
- Create District Councils serving a population of about **500,000 residents**.

Two proposals may affect our area:

Proposal 1 "Ridgeway" Council: Join West Berkshire, South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse into one larger council.

Proposal 2 "Greater Reading": Move Calcot, Holybrook, Pangbourne, Purley on Thames, Theale, Tidmarsh and Tilehurst into a Greater Reading area.

More details on these proposals can be found on Reading Borough and West Berkshire Councils websites.

Q: Full Name: _____

Q: First Line of your address and post code: _____

Q: How concerned are you about the new proposals? (1 = not at all , 5 = extremely): 1 2 3 4 5

Q: Which proposal do you prefer (please tick):

Ridgeway	<input type="checkbox"/>	Greater Reading	<input type="checkbox"/>
No Preference	<input type="checkbox"/>	Undecided	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q: How important are the following to you? (1 = most important, 5 = least important):

	1	2	3	4	5
Keeping local identity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quality of Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Council tax levels	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local planning control	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ease of access to council services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If other (specify):

Q: How important is the role of the Parish Council to you? (where 1 = not at all, 5 = extremely): 1 2 3 4 5

Q: Any further comments (please attach a separate sheet if needed):