



# HOLYBROOK PARISH NEWS

*Proudly serving the residents of Holybrook Parish since 2000*

**April 2025**



As we wrap up another council year, I'm delighted to share some fantastic news! After years of discussions with West Berkshire Council, and a determined battle with the Highways Department, we now have official road name signs, at the entrances to the Parish, proudly displaying the Holybrook coat of arms! While we didn't get the 'welcome gates' we had hoped for, this is still a wonderful achievement and another step in strengthening our parish identity.

Spring has certainly put on a beautiful display this year! It's been a joy to see the flowers we planted returning in full bloom; including some that didn't appear last year. We've also planted circles of snowdrops around the Covid-19 Memorial Cherry Trees on Underwood Road, creating a lasting tribute and symbol of our resilience.

Meanwhile, the Council's Community and Environment Committee has been hard at work on a range of exciting projects, from mapping biodiversity to working with agencies to improve the condition of The Holy Brook. On 1st April, we proudly launched our Biodiversity Citizen Science Initiative in collaboration with Beansheaf Pre-School! This is a fantastic opportunity for everyone to get involved; simply download a habitat tick sheet from our website (or pick up a copy from the Parish Office), record the flora and fauna you spot in your garden, or any local green space, and return it to us. Your input will help shape a long-term plan to protect and enhance our natural environment.

We are incredibly grateful for our amazing volunteers who generously give their time to plant bulbs, litter-pick, take part in speed watch and so much more. Spending time outdoors and connecting with others is proven to be great for our well-being—so why not join us at an event that interests you? You'll be amazed at what we can achieve together in just an hour!



## Looking ahead...

2025 marks the Silver Anniversary of the Parish Council starting with the Council's Annual Meeting, taking place on Monday 12th May, at the Beansheaf Centre. We are seeking new Councillors to join us! If you're passionate about your community and want to make a difference, why not come along to one of our meetings and find out what it means to be a Parish Councillor? And we'll be celebrating this milestone with a special Jubilee event later in the year; stay tuned for details!

Finally, mark your calendars for an event not to be missed; our Picnic in the Park in celebration of the 80th Anniversary of VE Day will be held on Monday 5th May, from 2:00pm – 5:00pm. Check the back page for details and keep an eye on our social media and notice boards for updates!

Until then, best wishes

*Claire Tull*, Chairman

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

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**West Berkshire Countryside Society: Guided Walk    Thurs 8th May    19:30**



Warbler Walk at Hosehill Lake, Sheffield Bottom.

*Join Cathy McEwen to hear and look for newly returned spring migrants, particularly Nightingales, in this nationally important area. Bring binoculars and wear stout footwear. Please car share if possible and consider patronising the pub. Meet and park at the Fox and Hounds. SU650 699 W3W: noisy.doll.roof*

## Friends Of Linear Park - Upwards and Onwards...



Just as East Linear Park begins to shake off the winter deluge, the skies have opened once again! The rain keeps coming, but we're making the most of it, even turning a downpour into an impromptu breakfast meeting. Through it all, nature proves its resilience; the daffodils and crocuses are now standing tall, glowing in the recent bursts of sunshine.

Exciting things are happening in the Park! We've planted 200 new whips, given the existing saplings some TLC with fresh mulch and wood chips, and pruned the orchard to help it flourish. Meanwhile, over by the Community Centre, a brand-new 'dead hedge' is taking shape, crafted

from natural poles and park debris. Have you spotted it yet?



Wishing all our park visitors a very Happy Easter! Keep your eyes peeled; how many real Easter bunnies can you spot while exploring?

We always welcome new volunteers to our Tuesday workdays. If you'd like to get involved, drop us a line at [hello@folp.com](mailto:hello@folp.com) or visit [www.folp.co.uk](http://www.folp.co.uk). While you're there, be sure to check out our Children's Corner, packed with fun and educational activities for little nature lovers!

## Community Litter Pick: Another Successful Effort, But Challenges Remain

Once again, our wonderful community has come together to tackle the growing problem of litter on our streets. We are delighted to report that our latest community litter pick was a great success, with over 20 dedicated volunteers, including families, turning out to help keep your parish clean. Thanks to their hard work and commitment, over 25 bags of litter were collected from the Fords Farm/Underwood Road areas, making a real difference to our shared spaces.

However, despite this success, we are saddened to see that littering continues to be an increasing issue. It is disheartening to find that, despite the efforts of so many, some still choose to discard their rubbish irresponsibly. We urge everyone to do their bit; please use the bins provided and help us maintain a cleaner, safer environment for all.



**A particularly important reminder:** Glass must never be disposed of in the bins provided for dog waste. This poses a serious hazard to the contractors who empty these bins, and we must all take responsibility to ensure their safety. Please dispose of glass in the appropriate recycling bins.

On the subject of bins, we would also like to remind residents that, while our parish council employs a contractor to empty our litter and dog waste bins, there are several additional bins throughout the Parish that are the responsibility of West Berkshire Council. If you notice an issue with an unemptied bin, please ensure that it is reported to the appropriate authority. Please see our website for details of our assets: [www.holybrook-pc.gov.uk](http://www.holybrook-pc.gov.uk).

Thank you once again to all who participated in the litter pick and to those who continue to dispose of their waste responsibly. Together, we can make a real difference! The next litter pick will meet at the Beansheaf Community Centre at 10:00am on Saturday 7th June 2025.

**COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH: MAKING OUR ROADS SAFER**

Monitoring speeding through our Parish isn't about seeing who is breaking the law; it's about keeping our roads safe for everyone. That's why our volunteer **Community Speed Watch** team has been out recently keeping an eye on the traffic.

During a recent morning session on Charrington Road, over 70 vehicles passed by, and the speeds of 51 of those vehicles were recorded. The average speed was 27.9mph, but 11 drivers were over 30mph, with three reaching speeds of 35mph.

While most drivers are responsible, even a small number of speeding vehicles can pose a risk—especially to pedestrians, cyclists and local wildlife (we sadly saw a few deceased hedgehogs on our roads over the winter). A few extra miles per hour might not seem like much, but it can make a big difference in avoiding sudden hazards, from crossing pedestrians to pets unexpectedly running into the road. Sadly, several residents have reported either losing a pet or having a much loved pet injured on our roads.

The good news? **The Community Speed Watch team is making a difference!** But we need more volunteers to keep up the momentum. If you'd like to help make our roads safer, we'd love to hear from you.

**Join us and be part of the solution!** Contact the clerk for more information ([clerk@holybrook-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@holybrook-pc.gov.uk)).

**COMMUNITY  
SPEED WATCH  
AREA**

THAMES VALLEY  
POLICE

**Learn how to Enhance Your Cyber Security**  
with Thames Valley Police

- ✓ Non-technical delivery
- ✓ Inclusive for all skills and abilities
- ✓ All ages and backgrounds welcome

**Saturday 17th May 2025**  
**2pm - 3pm**  
**Beansheaf Centre**

**Book your space by e-mailing**  
[admin@holybrook-pc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@holybrook-pc.gov.uk)  
Or call the Parish Office: 0118 9454 339

**New Projects on the Horizon!**

**New Bus Shelters – Coming This Spring!**

Six new bus shelters are set to pop up along the existing route, making waits more comfortable at Kettering Close (x2), Pemberton Gardens, Ledbury Drive, Swanholm Gardens and Sutherland Grove. This fantastic upgrade is fully funded by a grant we secured through West Berkshire Council's Bus Services Improvement Plan, backed by the Department for Transport.

**LEVELLING UP**

**Solar Power for the Beansheaf Centre!**  
Pending planning approval, the Beansheaf Centre will soon be powered by 50 solar panels, cutting energy costs and boosting sustainability. The total cost? £32,724.25—but, thanks to a successful funding bid, we've secured £18,528 from West Berkshire Council's Rural England Prosperity Fund under the Village Hall and Community Building Grant Scheme.





please join us for a

# VE DAY 80

*celebration*

MAY **5** 2 - 5PM

**FOOD | LIVE MUSIC | FUN ACTIVITIES**

Linear Park



**Monday 5th May 2025    2.00pm to 5.00pm    Linear Park**

Come together, as a community, to celebrate 80 years since the end of World War II in Europe whilst remembering and giving thanks to those millions that gave so much to achieve the freedom that we all enjoy today.

This event offers a chance for all to enjoy music, food and have fun taking part in **FREE** activities that are suitable for the whole family to enjoy. Please do bring along your own picnic or enjoy 'Britain's Favourite Dish' - Fish and Chips.

### **Line-Up includes:**

Live Rock music  
VE Day speech from Council Chairman  
Moment of silence and reflection (2 minutes)  
Last Post  
Silvertones Choir (30 minutes)

### **Activities Include:**

Organised 5-A-Side Football  
Junk Drumming  
Mel's Face-painting\*  
Giant family games (Jenga, Connect 4)  
Traditional races (egg & spoon, sacks etc)

### **Food & Drink:**

Prosecco & Beer Tent\*    Ice-Cream\*    Fish and Chip Van\*    Refreshments\*

\* = charges apply