



# HOLYBROOK PARISH NEWS

*Proudly serving the residents of Holybrook since 2000*

June 2023



## Dear Holybrook Residents

A lot has happened since the last newsletter, not least the super Picnic in The Linear Park to celebrate the Coronation. An enormous thank you to all the staff and volunteers who made it possible and debuts by Calcot Cricket and St Anthony's Gaelic Football Clubs.

All eleven councillors, nominated in the May Election, are now uncontested elected members; we are delighted to welcome one new member, Vivek Sharma who, undoubtedly, will make an excellent addition to the Council. Following elections there are currently 4 remaining vacancies. If you are interested in joining the Council and would like to find out more please do contact the clerk or one of the councillors.

Thank you to everyone who completed the CIL questionnaire. Although, sadly, the uptake was relatively low, the results will be published in due course. Responses and comments from residents are valuable in helping the Council utilise the money received from development, whether from a single house or a large development. The Council welcomes ideas and suggestions at any time so please don't think that you must wait for a survey in order to put your views and ideas forward. Most of the projects and ideas the Council would like to take forward for the Parish have to be approved by West Berkshire Council and some are outside our remit entirely. Unfortunately, this makes working through the regulations and responsibility hierarchy a frustratingly slow process but progress is being made.

Best wishes for the summer.

*Claire Tull*, Chairman

## YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

**CLAIRE TULL: 0118 941 8203**  
(Chairman)

**MARY BEDWELL: 0118 942 0196**  
(Vice Chairman)

**HARISH MISTRY: 0118 945 5830**

**ANDREW LENAGHAN: 0118 945 3714**

**CHARLIE CROAL: 07855 749 876**

**OLA SALAU: 07737 820 017**

**RICHARD SOMNER : 07836 208 382**

**MAURICE MOORE: 0118 941 0027**

**CLIVE LITTLEWOOD: 07905 816 846**

**GEOFF MARSHALL: 07988 546820**

**VIVEK SHARMA: 07500 921 236**

**Councillors were duly elected in an uncontested election: May '23**

**Parish Council Meetings:** Parish Council meetings are open to the public\*. All meeting dates are published on the Council's website: [www.holybrook-pc.gov.uk](http://www.holybrook-pc.gov.uk) and in the Council's noticeboards.

*\*subject to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meeting) Act 1960.*

## **A post-election message from your District Councillors**

*Following the Local Elections, held on 4<sup>th</sup> May, Cllrs Biyi Oloko and Richard Somner are very happy to have been re-elected to represent Tilehurst South and Holybrook Ward. We are very proud of our area and look forward to representing it and you over the next four years. Our thanks go to everyone that took the time to talk to us during the campaign and to vote on the day, regardless of where your crosses went. Thanks also to the other candidates that stood locally.*

*We are looking to re-instate our previously held Ward Surgeries in the near future and, with the help of the Parish Council, will communicate further as soon as possible.*

*Many thanks Biyi and Richard*



Left to right: Jim Tull (Chairman), Sue Roddy (Membership Sec), Karen Baldwin (Trustee) and Melvyn Nuccoll (Secretary)

## Kennet Valley Community Association

The Kennet Valley Community Association was proud to present a cheque for £2,000 to the Sue Ryder Duchess of Kent Hospice, Liebenrood Road. This donation is to compensate for “lockdown” which prevented KVCA from holding its usual, annual fundraising events. Additionally, the Kennet Valley Club has collection containers in the bar, and Thursday Bingo also make regular donations to the Hospice.

Other news: due to a recent cancellation by a regular group, we now have Wednesday evenings available for regular hire in the Holybrook Centre by Community Groups (reduced charges) or private hire (£15 per hour). If you are interested in Weds evening hire, please email: [kvca@fordsfarm.plus.com](mailto:kvca@fordsfarm.plus.com) Jim Tull, KVCA Chairman

## News from Calcot School

Last term, at Calcot Schools, we celebrated reading week and World Book Day. The Junior children spent time reading to the younger children; they took part in story trail quizzes and visited the school book fair. They thoroughly enjoyed dressing up and participating in the whole school parade to showcase their outfits: can you guess the book in the picture?



During Spring Term we had over 40 Junior children taking part in a cross-country event in Newbury. There were over 1500 children in attendance and we had 7 runners in the top 100 finishers in their respective races. They showed fantastic sportsmanship and modelled great team behaviour.



Our school choir has been very busy performing with 16 other schools at The Anvil Theatre, then performing in the Let's Sing 2023 competition at the Hexagon on 24<sup>th</sup> March where we won the Junior Choir section. Following this, the choir has been invited to perform at Reading Minster on December 8<sup>th</sup> and performances later in the year.

We are always looking for local people to help in our lovely school by volunteering in a number of ways. If you can support us, please contact our school offices on: 0118 9428727 or [office@c-jun.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:office@c-jun.w-berks.sch.uk). **On 5<sup>th</sup> July we will be holding our school carnival and summer fayre, if you would like a stall at our fayre please contact the school PTFA by email: [chairman@calcotschoolptfa.co.uk](mailto:chairman@calcotschoolptfa.co.uk)**

## Friends of Linear Park

The King is Crowned and to celebrate Holybrook Parish Council arranged a Picnic in the Park. The Friends put up their gazebo and newly acquired banner, and ran a 'spotters trail' competition which consisted of questions, the answers being found around the Park. Coronation medals were given out to all who took part. If you would like to still take part, the questions (and answers) can be found on our website: [www.folp.uk](http://www.folp.uk).



Summer is coming and the Park is springing to life with the trees bursting into leaf, the grass is recovering after all the rain and flooding of several of the meadows. Soon the wildflowers will be showing; how many different types can you find? The footpaths are receiving attention at the moment and are being patched up at points where puddles have been forming after the heavy rains.

Please be aware of the wildlife in the park; Monk Jacks have been seen and dog owners are asked to keep their dogs under control and not to chase them.

As always, if you have ideas, queries or would like to lend a hand, the Friends can be contacted at: [hello@folp](mailto:hello@folp) or through our website.

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**CALCOT EVENING WI**

Does the old joke ‘jam and Jerusalem’ apply? Well, we do sing a verse of Jerusalem once a year at our AGM, and jam will be very much on the menu at two of our upcoming outings: a post Coronation cream tea at Englefield tea room in May, and our summer boat trip and cream tea on The Thames in August.



But why not come along to one of our monthly meetings, from 7.30pm to 9.30pm, held on the second Wednesday evening of every month at Kennet Valley Free Church, Fords Farm, Calcot, RG31 7YT. We are a friendly, supportive group and you would be most welcome to come and meet us to find out what we are all about. We have a speaker or activity at every Wednesday meeting. Here is an example of some future meetings:

**July 2023: Tales of a 40-year teaching career, September 2023: Games Evening, October 2023: The History and Restoration of the Kennet and Avon Canal**

As well as regular meetings, we organise events and regular ‘spin-off’ activities such as walks in the local area with a different focus or, if you like reading, we have a book club; if craft, knitting or flower arranging is your interest, we have held demonstrations at past meetings. At the end of the year, we will hold another Quiz Night. If you would like to find out more, or would like to see our Programme for the Year, contact our Chair, Anne, by email: [ucomp1@aol.com](mailto:ucomp1@aol.com). We look forward to hearing from you, or better still, welcoming you one Wednesday evening.

**HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB 2023...**



Come and join us at Kennet Valley Free Church this Summer for Holiday Bible Club: *The Outlaw Saloon!* We’ll be going on a Wild West Adventure, with an action packed week of Bible stories, crafts, games, songs and much more! It runs from Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> July, 9:30am - 12:15pm and is for any children aged 4 - 11. For more information or to sign up, visit our website ([www.kvfc.org.uk](http://www.kvfc.org.uk)) or email [Charlie-kvfc@hotmail.com](mailto:Charlie-kvfc@hotmail.com).

# Picnic in the Park

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Picnic in the Park in celebration of King Charles III's Coronation on Sunday 7th May. We were blessed with good weather, with the sunshine coming out just in time for the event which took place in the Linear Park from 12:00 noon until 3.00pm. We were thrilled to have so many of you join us for a relaxing afternoon of music, fun and games but, most importantly, a wonderful community atmosphere.



There are many people to thank for helping us with the event, including Hospital Radio Reading for providing the music, Beansheaf Pre-School who put on a tremendous refreshments stand, Lucky Cloverleaf Ice-cream van, Louise Turner for running a very popular craft stall where some fantastic toilet roll Charles and Camilla's were produced! The Friends of Linear Park for their fun and engaging Spotters Trail; could you have answered some of their questions? For example, where is the water pump located? Calcot Cricket Club who gave the opportunity to try out cricket and St Anthony's Gaelic Football Club who stepped in at the very last minute to help us following the cancellation of a different organised activity. Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue who brought along an ever popular attraction; the fire engine. There are also those who helped to get the event ready: our Parish Wardens, the caretaker for the Beansheaf Centre who ensured that the toilets were well stocked and the Park kept in a clean and tidy condition and, of course, our Parish Councillors who set up and organised the event and made sure that everyone was kept safe whilst having fun.

We do hope that we can bring our community together again for future events.



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

**Clerk: [clerk@holybrook-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@holybrook-pc.gov.uk)**

**General Enquiries: [admin@holybrook-pc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@holybrook-pc.gov.uk)**

**Beansheaf bookings: [bookings@holybrook-pc.gov.uk](mailto:bookings@holybrook-pc.gov.uk)**

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

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