



# HOLYBROOK PARISH NEWS

*Proudly serving the residents of Holybrook since 2000*

**October 2023**



## Dear Holybrook Residents

The late spell of lovely warm weather in September was a welcome extension to our summer but we are now into autumn and thinking of spring! With this in mind, please come to our Spring Bulb Planting Event; we'd love as many residents to get involved as possible. More details about this can be found on page 4 (the back page). And, if you are a local business and would like to donate some bulbs to the event please contact me.

We have received a lot of positive feedback on the completion of pathways at Sharnwood Drive and Deerhurst/Mill Lane. A big thank you to West Berkshire Council for their contribution to both projects.

**Coming soon:** a new noticeboard and bin at Underwood Road and a bin at the Dorking Way/Charrington Road junction. And, we have arranged, with West Berkshire Council (WBC), for the 30mph speed limit to be painted on all entrance roads to the Parish off the A4 which includes Dorking Way, Charrington Road and Mill Lane. This will highlight the change of speed limit to motorists. We have also arranged with West Berkshire Council for the road markings along the A4 to be renewed including the yellow box junction at Langley Hill.

### Actions and progress:

We have been working with WBC on our Accessibility Project and 19 locations for dropped kerbs have been identified: two in Fords Farm, the remainder throughout Beansheaf. Each one will include tactile surfacing on both sides. This is, of course, subject to final authorisation but we hope that the work will be completed within this financial year.

The bark has been topped up in our playgrounds in accordance with our maintenance plan as well as necessary repairs to the edging boards in the Underwood Road playground.

To support Calcot School's Park and Stride scheme, parents and guardians are welcome to use the Beansheaf Centre Car Park for school drop-offs and pick-ups.

We continue to improve the Beansheaf Centre to bring the building up to modern standards and improve energy efficiency. The main internal fire doors are to be replaced this autumn as well as solar film being applied to the Linear Hall's park facing windows.

We have taken the first step to convert the former tractor garage into a refreshment kiosk by applying for pre-planning advice.

*Claire Tull*, Chairman

As long as autumn lasts, I shall not have hands, canvas and colors enough to paint the beautiful things I see.

Vincent Van Gogh

[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)

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

Follow us on Facebook: [@HolybrookParishCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/HolybrookParishCouncil) Twitter: [@HolybrookPC](https://twitter.com/HolybrookPC)

Spotlight on our wildlife:

Hedgehogs

Fun Facts!



- \* Hedgehogs are lactose intolerant! Milk can make hedgehogs quite poorly, instead, shallow dishes of water will always be welcome.
- \* Hedgehogs have very small mouths; if feeding them, meat-based kitten biscuits in a shallow dish along with water would be great.
- \* These nocturnal creatures are active during the night; if you see one during the day it will likely need to go to a rescue centre.
- \* Hedgehogs rely on their keen sense of smell and hearing due to poor eyesight and they are very good climbers!
- \* Hedgehogs can travel up to approximately 2km each night, sometimes up to 3km during mating season.
- \* Hedgehogs build nests under hedges, in compost piles, piles of leaves or logs, behind sheds, under decking, in sheds etc if accessible and in specially made hedgehog houses. Nests are made with dry leaves/garden material or dust extracted straw. Perhaps you could build a hedgehog home in your garden?
- \* Halloween & Bonfire Night: If you're carving pumpkins for Halloween, dispose of them thoughtfully and put them high up where hedgehogs can't reach them; they can make hogs extremely poorly. Carefully check leaf/log piles for nesting hedgehogs before starting a bonfire .
- \* Hedgehogs hibernate over winter, but might, occasionally, wakeup for food or water.



**Useful links**  
[hedgehogstreet.org](http://hedgehogstreet.org)  
 Facebook: Supporting Hedgehogs within the UK  
 Rescues: [helpwildlife.co.uk](http://helpwildlife.co.uk)

Thank you to Karen for these wonderful hedgehog facts and photos taken in her garden.

Residents, please join us in supporting the growth of wildlife in the Parish; perhaps you will leave out some water and food, or, perhaps, you will leave some fallen leaves and logs in your garden (which the month larvae also need to thrive).



**COMMUNITY LITTER PICK**

Thank you to everyone who came, on the very hot morning of Saturday 9th September, to join in our Community Litter Pick in Beansheaf. We are sorry for the change in location (as advertised in our August newsletter) and apologise for inconvenience caused. Many bags of litter were collected and, after the event, we really enjoyed our much deserved fresh fruit and water!

The next event will be taking place on Saturday 11th November 2023. Keep an eye on our noticeboards and social media for more details.

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**Rainbow Trust comes to Reading**

Aside from unreliable weather, the school holidays bring with them additional challenges for parents. How do you keep competing priorities on track whilst keeping the kids stimulated and entertained?



These challenges can reach seemingly impossible proportions for families living with a very sick child. And this is where we, at the Rainbow Trust, can help. We're a charity that supports the families of children with life limiting or terminal illness. We're here, not just for the school holidays but, throughout the year to provide emotional and practical support 24/7. From organising medical appointments and providing safe transport through to support during bereavement and grief.

We've recently opened a new branch in Reading from where our wonderful team will be bringing this support to your community and beyond. But, in order to reach as many families as possible, we need your help. We're looking for volunteers across the Thames Valley area and are currently recruiting for Family Support Volunteers and Volunteer Drivers. Roles are flexible and your out-of-pocket expenses will be covered. Please contact our Family Support Manager, Natalie, for an informal chat on 07749 416062 or via email [natalie.whitby-lear@rainbowtrust.org.uk](mailto:natalie.whitby-lear@rainbowtrust.org.uk).

**Don't Forget.....**

The clocks go back by one hour at 2.00am on Sunday 29th October 2023

## Friends of Linear Park – Stepping out in Autumn

Hurray! We have done it again! The prestigious 'Green Flag' will be flying high in the Park for the 14<sup>th</sup> year in a row mainly due to the hard work of the Friends of Linear Park who have a very dedicated team of volunteers overseeing maintenance within the Park every week and keeping up very high standards.

With the completion of the Bellway housing at Fairfield's, at the far end of Linear Park (West), the Friends have cleared and widened a footway/path across the farmer's field to the boundary of the new Bellway homes (near to the pond/water feature/attenuation feature) making the Park more accessible for the new residents.

The new cycle shelter, by the Beansheaf Centre, is progressing and the framework has been painted. We are now awaiting the racks and cover.

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

In the meantime, enjoy the autumnal days as the Park takes on its autumn hue and changing colours.



## SPRING BULB PLANTING EVENT



**Saturday 21st October**

**Meet:**

10:00: Low Lane/Calcot Place Drive crossing point

13:00: Linear Park car park

Refreshments will be provided.

- Please bring gardening hand tools/gloves if you have them. Otherwise, some equipment will be available.
- Please contact Cllr Claire Tull for more information/to register your interest: [claire.tull@holybrook-pc.gov.uk](mailto:claire.tull@holybrook-pc.gov.uk). Or, turn up on the day.
- **Everyone welcome.**

