

# HOLYBROOK

AUTUMN EDITION



## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

Firstly, may I say a sincere 'thank you' to everyone who contributed to the tremendous success of this year's Holybrook festival at the end of June. By common agreement this year's event was the best ever, with well over 2,000 people attending, a glorious summer's day, and plenty for all ages to see and do. Work is now starting on next year's Festival and, as ever, all help will be greatly appreciated.

I would like to welcome four new councillors: Karen Albanese, David Shallow, Ian Sheppard and Richard Somner, who have all recently been co-opted. A fifth is due to be co-opted in September which will mean that for the first time

ever Holybrook Parish Council will be at full strength, with 15 councillors out of 15.

Several people have asked what is happening about the children's playground opposite the Beansheaf Centre. This playground actually belongs to West Berkshire Council who have told us that some of the equipment was no longer safe to play on and therefore had to be removed. The playground is to be re-equipped with a view to completion in mid August.



However, the parish has two well equipped playgrounds, next to the Holybrook Centre at Fords Farm and behind the houses in Underwood Road (entrance between 42 and 44).

**Bernard Gilbert**  
Chairman



### Youth Club at Holybrook Community Centre

Calling all youths—please be advised that the times for the youth club running at Holybrook Community Centre have changed.

Under 13's will be from 6-7.30pm and this will be run by volunteers.

Over 13's will be from 8-9.30pm and this will be run by the Youth Services.

Please remember that this will take effect from 28th August—we need your support.

SEPTEMBER 2009

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Page 2:

**Linear Park**

*Banks to the Holybrook at Pooh Bridge*

**The Crafters Group**

*Hatha Yoga*

Page 3:

*Calcot Infant School and Nursery*

**Kennet Valley Preschool**

*Kennet Valley Free Church*

**Calcot Afternoon W.I.**

Page 4:

*Age Concern*

*Holybrook Parish Office, Beansheaf Centre, Charrington Road, Calcot, Reading RG31 7AW*

*Clerk to the Council: Mr David Baldock,*

*Assistant Clerk: Mrs Rachel Buckingham*

*Open to the public Monday to Friday 10am-1pm.*

*Viewing of planning applications by appointment only.*

*Tel: 0118 945 4339*

*24 hour answerphone.*

*email: holybrook*

*council@btconnect.com*

*www.holybrookparish*

*council.co.uk*



## HOLYBROOK

### *Linear Park from Alison Harwood (FOLP)*

We are very lucky here in the Linear Park as we have a resident water vole population. I would like to thank all the volunteers who for the last four years have monitored and recorded sightings of the voles within the park. This small band has this year been assisted by members of our community going into the parish office and having their sightings recorded by the parish staff.

Throughout the spring and summer the group of volunteers continued to carry out litter picks around the park.

We are currently trying to get funding that will enable us to build a community garden next to the Beansheaf Centre. We have already cleared the ground and planted a number of shrubs and trees.

**Future events: AGM on 14th September at 7.30pm in the Beansheaf Centre speaker –Mr Martin Salter MP**

**Activity Day—Clearing the balancing ponds on 24th October. Meet at the Beansheaf Centre.**

### *Banks to the Holybrook at Pooh Bridge*

There have been concerns raised recently regarding the erosion to the banks of the Holybrook at Pooh Bridge.

This is a popular dog swimming spot and also home to a thriving water vole family.

In discussions between WBC, BBOWT and the Environment Agency, a plan will be devised to help preserve the banks, improve the habitat for the water voles and allow dogs to enter the water from the north side of the river where tree roots are supporting parts of the bank.

The first phase will be the erection of a post and rail fence on the SE side of the bridge to discourage access by dogs at this point. This will be followed by planting of reeds, sedges and willow which will not only provide feed for the water voles but help support and strengthen the river bank by allowing sediment to build up. We intend to start the works this summer/autumn..

**Caroline Booth – Grounds Maintenance Officer, West Berks Council.**

**cbooth@westberks.gov.uk**

### *The Crafters Group*

Based in Theale “The Crafters Group” provide craft activities for People with Learning Disabilities. We rely on donations of craft equipment to carry out our Workshops.



If you have any craft materials that you no longer require and would be happy to pass onto us, please contact either Wendy Haines or Sarah Lou Hall on **07833 402856**. We would be very grateful and we will arrange collection.

### *Hatha Yoga*

Hatha Yoga classes at the Beansheaf Centre on Thursday mornings 10-11.30am. All genders, ages and abilities will receive a warm welcome. Please contact Julie Mason for more information. Tel: **07754 802444** or email **AlanJulieMason@aol.com**

Also Pilates class on Tuesday mornings between 10 and 11am and evenings between 7 and 8.45pm.

### *Calcot Infant School and Nursery*

In July Calcot Infant School and Nursery were involved in a camel painting project linked to the Newbury Racecourse Dubai Festival. This event was held over the week-end of July 18th and 19th.

We were one of nine participating schools. The life size camel was delivered to the school having been flown in from Dubai. On arrival we realised it was too big to get through the school doors so the painting of it had to be done in between the rain, hail and wind!

The children made designs on paper and then lots of the ideas were incorporated into the overall design which was based on Elmer the patchwork elephant. One side of the camel represented British culture and the other represented Arabic culture linked to Dubai.

The whole school took part in the project as well as some of the After School Club.

The finished camel was collected, varnished and displayed at the Festival for all to see.

**Angela Searle**  
**Arts Co-ordinator at Calcot Infant School & Nursery**



Camel at Calcot Infant School and Nursery



### *Kennet Valley Preschool*

Kennet Valley Preschool, based in the Holybrook Centre, Carters Rise, Fords Farm, has free places for 3 and 4 year olds.

We are very pleased to say that we can offer increased hours, up to 15 per week from September, all funded and free to parents/carers.

These can be taken over 5 days per week, Monday to Friday.

Register your child from the age of 2 years to ensure a place when they reach their 3rd birthday. For more information please ring on **07884 028715**.



### *Kennet Valley Free Church*

**Time to discover?** At Kennet Valley Free Church we have started to run a course called *Christianity Explored*. This is an informal way to investigate Christianity or just brush up on the basics. It explores who Jesus is, why he came, and what it means to follow him. Participants don't need to know anything about the Bible; won't be asked to read aloud, pray, or sing; and can ask any question. A new course is planned to start in the autumn—if you're interested in attending please contact Richard Fairbairn on **0118 9 511 826**, [richard.fairbairn@kvfc.org.uk](mailto:richard.fairbairn@kvfc.org.uk) or visit the website [www.kvfc.org.uk](http://www.kvfc.org.uk) for more details.

**Mark Drama.** The life of Jesus has impacted history like no other. Mark Drama is an opportunity to come and see a powerful dramatisation of the account of Jesus' life as recorded in the gospel of Mark. Performances will be held at Kennet Valley Free Church and are scheduled for 10 and 11 October 2009. For more details, and to reserve tickets in advance, please contact Richard Fairbairn on **0118 9 511 826**, [richard.fairbairn@kvfc.org.uk](mailto:richard.fairbairn@kvfc.org.uk)



### *Calcot Afternoon Women's Institute*

Calcot Afternoon WI meets at 2.30pm every 2nd Wednesday of the month at Calcot Community Centre, Highview (off Royal Avenue), RG31 4XD.

Why not come along and join our friendly group. We have speakers, quizzes, outings and social events. Everyone is most welcome. **Contact Gilly on 0118 941 2532**



YOUR HOLYBROOK  
COUNCILLORS

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(CHAIRMAN)

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CLAIRE TULL  
(VICE CHAIRMAN)

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## A View from West Berkshire Council

### LINEAR PARK

After much hard work by many people, the Linear Park has been awarded Green Flag Status. This means that it is maintained to a high standard and offers a good recreational facility. Anyone who has walked through the park in Springtime and seen the carpets of daffodils or seen the abundance of wildlife cannot fail to be impressed.. Our thanks for giving us such a lovely park go to a special officer, Caroline Booth, who has ensured the Council fund the necessary work and also 'The Friends of the Linear Park' who spend many voluntary hours in planting, clearing and cleaning. Don't take my word for it – go and see for yourself.

### WASTE MATTERS

Since winning the new contract for waste management in the District, Veolia have shown a commitment to cleaning which we have previously not enjoyed. The litter pickers are out in all weathers ensuring our streets are clean and roads are swept more frequently. The Council is resolved to continue with weekly bin collections and there is no intention to introduce a 'spy in the bin' regime. In the unlikely event you do have a problem with street cleaning, please contact Streetcare (01635 519080).

### OFFICE IN THE EAST

Just to remind you in these difficult times, if you need to speak to an Officer regarding benefits, Council Tax or any other problem, the West Berkshire Council office situated on the first floor of Sainsbury's - opposite the restaurant - is open Monday – Friday 10.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m. and Saturdays 10.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.

**Brian Bedwell, District Councillor**

Peter Argyle, Manohar Gopal



## Age Concern

**Easy Shop** has been introduced to provide a convenient, reliable shopping service for older people who have difficulty shopping for essentials, such as groceries. Similar to Age Concern schemes elsewhere, it is using local supermarkets and their online shopping and delivery service to help people get the shopping they need.

If you are finding it difficult to get out to do your shopping or have problems carrying your shopping home, Easy Shop gives you access to the wide choice of products available from several major supermarkets. But there is no need for you to leave your home or to have access to a computer ... all you need to use Easy Shop is a telephone. You tell us what you require and we arrange the rest.

If you use Easy Shop you choose where you buy your shopping, when you have the shopping delivered and how often you use the service. The drivers will know that they are delivering to an Easy Shop customer.

Easy Shop is a practical way of supporting older people living independently in their own home. The service is being run by Age Concern Berkshire in partnership with The Volunteer Centre West Berkshire and is supported by West Berkshire Council.

If you would like some more information about Easy Shop, please contact us on: **01635 522 255** and we would be happy to come and tell you about it.

[www.ageconcernberkshire.org.uk](http://www.ageconcernberkshire.org.uk)

