

# HOLYBROOK

## **A message from the Chairman**

Another year approaches its end and, looking back, it has been a relatively quiet one with a lot of routine council business being conducted and a great deal of work associated with the Holybrook Festival. Next year's Festival will be on a Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> June, and we are looking to build on the great success of this year. As always, we are looking for volunteers in the planning and organising, and on the day when there is always plenty to do. Please contact the office if you enjoyed the Festival this year and can help next.

On behalf of my fellow councillors and the office staff, may I wish every parishioner a very happy Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

## **Bus shelters**

The parish council has just given the go-ahead for the damaged Perspex roofs in its five bus shelters to be replaced with metal roofs. The constant cost of repairing the damage done by vandals makes the replacement of the roofs a more cost-effective option. This work is due to be done in December.



## **Cow Lane footpath**

Many of you will be aware of the discussions which have been going on about whether or not to retain the footpath (known locally as Cow Lane) which runs between Charrington Road and the Linear park, close to Willow Tree Glade and Fernhurst Road. This path has been in existence for 150 years and is the continuation of the footpath running from the A4 through Red Cottage Drive, which originally ran from Langley farm on the other side of the A4 and was used to drive cattle down to the meadows and Holy Brook. The parish council and West Berkshire Council are minded to retain the footpath, but because there was opposition to its remaining open, the matter has had to be referred to the Secretary of State for a decision. This may now take several months. In the meantime, West Berkshire Council has agreed to maintain the path and keep it clear.

## **Changes to planning regulations**

From 1 October 2008 changes were made to planning regulations which mean that, subject to certain limits and conditions, planning permission will not be required for house extensions or additions, or for the building of conservatories. We do not have enough space here to list the limits and conditions, but they may be found by looking up

[www.planningportal.gov.uk/england/genpub](http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/england/genpub).

Further details may be obtained from the parish office.



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**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**



**The West Berkshire Wardens would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.**

## **Cache Level 3 Diploma in Pre-school Practice—January 2009**

The CACHE level 3 Diploma in Pre-school Practice is a qualification designed to prepare candidates to work at a supervisory level within an early years setting. Its main focus is on the needs of children aged from nought to five who may be in sessional or full day care settings. In addition you will acquire knowledge of child development up to 16 years of age. The Award is made up of 4 units of study each with an assignment to complete that will assess your understanding of the needs of young children. You will need to be in an early years setting for a minimum of one session per week throughout the duration of this course. If you are interested, please call the South Division of the Pre-School Learning Alliance on **0207 697 2599** for a form. Pre-course meeting Friday 9th January between 9am and 1pm and course start date Friday 16th January between 9am and 3pm at the Beansheaf Community Centre.

### **Kennet Valley Pre-school**

The Pre-school meets at the Holybrook Community Centre and has free spaces available for 3 & 4 year old children. (You can register your child from 2 years old). Sessions are available morning or afternoon, Monday—Friday. Please call pre-school on **07884 028715** or Laura Parry on **01189 585501** for more information.

### **Mo's Dance and Drama School**

At the Beansheaf Community Centre on Fridays are RAD Advanced Foundation ballet 6.40-7.10pm classes run by Mo's Dance and Drama School. advanced pointe work. 4.10-4.40pm beginners pointe work and 4.40-5.40pm RAD Grade 6 ballet, RAD Grade 7 ballet 5.40-6.40pm RAD Intermediate ballet, Contact Jackie Campbell on **0845 206 2291** or email: **readingdance@aol.com**

### **Sing for Fun Youth Group (12 to 21 yrs)**

Build confidence in singing—Sing as part of a group—Learn harmonies—Sing musicals, pop and rock songs—Have fun and meet new friends.

New 10 week course starting Thursday 22nd January 5.45pm to 7.15pm. at the Beansheaf Centre.

### **Adult Beginners Sing for Fun Workshop**

Find your singing voice in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere with an experienced vocal coach. No experience needed—Build your confidence in singing—Sing as part of a group.

New 10 week course starting Thursday 22nd January 7.30pm to 9.30pm. at the Beansheaf Centre.

**For further information contact Jane Cole LLCM on 01256 787046 or visit [www.singforfun.co.uk](http://www.singforfun.co.uk)**



### **Friends of Linear Park**

The Friends of Linear Park with the wonderful help of the Reading Volunteers worked very hard on clearing the balancing ponds. A big thank you for all who helped. The next activity day will be in March 2009. We will keep the community advised of the activity by placing a notice in the notice boards.

## Youth Facilities

The parish councillors are concerned about the lack of facilities for young people within the parish and have had a number of discussions with West Berkshire Council about the lack of take-up at the Holybrook drop-in centre and the Garage drop-in centre at Beansheaf, and the general absence of facilities for young people in the east of the West Berkshire area. Unfortunately little progress has been made, although discussions are ongoing, but through the recently formed Youth Sub-Group (stemming from the Holybrook Neighbourhood Action Group) the Neighbourhood Wardens have volunteered to try to establish evening youth clubs at both the Beansheaf and Holybrook centres. They are working with the Community Council for Berkshire and at the time of writing things are only at the planning stage, but if the idea is successful it will be well publicised. It would be helpful to know from any young people reading this what their views are on the Garage and Holybrook Drop-in centres, whether they knew about them, whether they attended, and if not why they didn't, and also what they want to do and what facilities they would like to see provided. **Please complete and return the form below to the parish office.**

NAME	AGE	M/F	POSTCODE	SCHOOL

Q1	Do you know about the Garage Project	YES	NO	Of no go to Question 5
Q2	How did you find out about it			
Q3	Have you ever visited it	YES	NO	
Q4	If not, why not			
Q5	Did you know about the Drop in Youth Activities at Holybrook	YES	NO	If no go to Question 9
Q6	How did you find out about it			
Q7	Have you ever visited it	YES	NO	
Q8	If not, why not			
Q9	If a Youth club was started in the area what activities would you like to see provided			
Q10	If you are not interested in joining a Youth Club or getting involved with organised activities what would help you to enjoy your leisure time			
Q11	Would you attend a Friday evening club or drop in if it was available			

## Provisional dates for Youth Club Activities

Beansheaf Community Centre, Charrington Road	Holybrook Community Centre, Fords Farm
Tuesday 20th January 2009 (1900-2100 hrs)	Friday 23rd January 2009 (1900-2100 hrs)
Tuesday 17th February 2009 (1900-2100 hrs)	Friday 20th February 2009 (1900-2100 hrs)
Tuesday 17th March 2009 (1900-2100 hrs)	Friday 20th March 2009 (1900-2100 hrs)

## YOUR HOLYBROOK COUNCILLORS

**BERNARD GILBERT  
(CHAIRMAN)**

**0118 941 8051**

**CLAIRE TULL  
(VICE CHAIRMAN)**

**0118 941 8203**

**MARY BEDWELL**

**0118 942 0196**

**VAL BETTERIDGE**

**0118 941 1265**

**ROY BRUMPTON**

**0118 941 1858**

**TONY WARD**

**0118 941 4203**

**GLENN DENNIS**

**0118 941 8720**

**IAIN PATE**

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**CAROL HEDGES**

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## DISTRICT COUNCILLORS:

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**MANOHAR LAL GOPAL**

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**THE MEMBER OF  
PARLIAMENT**

**FOR READING WEST:**

**MARTIN SALTER MP**

**0118 954 6782**

**Salterm@parliament.uk**

**THAMES VALLEY POLICE**

**0845 8 505 505**

## **PARTNERSHIP ACTION WEEK**

A week of action on Community Safety was held in Holybrook parish from 29 October to 4 November. This involved police, neighbourhood wardens, West Berkshire Council enforcement officers, Trading Standards, highway engineers and the fire service.

- The wardens checked the interiors of cars for items of value left inside in major car parks (e.g. Sainsbury's) and found over 100 cars with items on view, including handbags left wide open on the seats. CHRISTMAS IS APPROACHING SO PLEASE DON'T LEAVE AN OPEN INVITATION TO OPPORTUNIST THIEVES.
- Police did speed checks with a hand-held speed gun. Few offences were recorded, but one motorist was caught doing 54mph in Charrington Road. Use of seat belts and mobile phones whilst driving were also monitored, as were vehicle licences and insurance.
- Trading Standards Officers carried out checks on shops selling knives, fireworks and alcohol to under-age youths.
- Planning enforcement officers have noted several dwellings where follow-up action is required.
- The wardens and young offenders doing community service carried out a widespread litter pick and found old pushchairs etc which have now been taken away.
- The Fire Brigade publicity vehicle provided the opportunity for visitors to book free home safety checks.



## **WEST BERKSHIRE COUNCIL MATTERS**



### **OUR YOUNG PEOPLE**

Clearly there are concerns regarding facilities for young people in our area and your councillors give total support to the initiative from the Parish Council and urge residents to complete the questionnaire. The Council is also conducting an exercise through its scrutiny committee which is investigating provision of youth facilities. Brian is chairing the NAG youth task group which hopes to set up some fresh facilities in the New Year.

### **RECYCLING**

Paices Hill recycling depot at Aldermaston has had to be closed. It was out of date and only had limited facilities. The introduction of the green garden waste wheelie bins also reduced the need to use the facility. Residents are reminded that West Berkshire Council pays Reading Borough Council to permit us to use the Civic Amenity Site Island Road off Rose Kiln Lane.

### **DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICE IN THE EAST**

The recently opened West Berkshire Council office which is situated in Sainsburys Store on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor opposite the restaurant is proving very successful. **The opening hours have been adjusted and are Monday – Friday 10.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.**

**and Saturdays 10.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.** The staff there will deal with your queries covering all Council service, saving you a possible 18 mile trip to Newbury.

### **DISTRICT COUNCILLORS SURGERIES**

Surgeries are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month from 10.00 a.m. – 11.30 a.m. in the office at Sainsburys. Details are published in the Reading Chronicle.

*District Councillor Brian Bedwell*