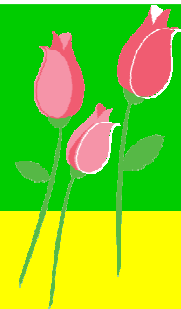




# HOLYBROOK



SPRING EDITION MARCH 2010



## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

### Farewell to winter!

I for one am heartily glad that we have said farewell to the winter months. January, we are told, was the coldest since the Big Freeze of 1962/3 and certainly gave us the most snowfalls since then. With such severe conditions, it is not surprising that we, in common with much of the rest of the country, suffered disruption to our normal daily lives but fortunately it was relatively short-lived. There is nothing quite like adversity to bring out a community spirit and we would like to thank everyone who helped neighbours in a variety of ways to get through the difficulties.

### The Beansheaf Centre

Despite the difficult conditions the Parish Council continued to function normally during this period and amongst other things arranged for the Beansheaf Centre to be redecorated. The Centre offers a first-class venue in which to hold parties, classes, club and society meetings, and of course enjoys a fine location on the edge of Linear Park with ample car parking. More information on what the Centre has to offer is available from the Parish Office or have a look at the council's website.

### Linear Park

The park has recently been awarded 'Green Flag' status as a result of much hard work by a variety of groups and individuals and this prestigious award is testament to these efforts. It is a truly splendid resource in our parish and offers lovely walks or simply a delightful place to 'get away from it all'.



### Your Council

I am pleased to say that we are nearly up to full strength with our numbers of councillors but there is one vacancy in the west ward. If anyone would be interested in finding out more of life on the council and of how to be involved in working with your local community, please do get in touch with the Parish Council or any of the councillors whose contact details will be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

*Bernard Gilbert*



### A date for your diary

Whilst June may still seem some way off, the **2010 Holybrook Festival will be held on Sunday 27th June**. Planning for this event started months ago and if anyone would like to volunteer to help or have a stall please contact the parish office.

### Book Stall



Have you any books you no longer want—hardbacks, paperbacks, biographies etc? Holybrook Parish Council are running a book stall at the festival on 27th June and would welcome your donation. Please contact the Parish Office for further details.



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Balduck, retired clerk

*Holybrook Parish*  
Office, Beansheaf  
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*Clerk to the Council:*  
Mr Phil Brown,

*Assistant Clerk:*  
Mrs Rachel Buckingham

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

*Viewing of planning*  
applications by  
appointment only.

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## HOLYBROOK

### *A Volunteering Success!*

The Holybrook Centre on Fords Farm has been running for almost **30 years**. Both the **Kennet Valley Association and Kennet Valley Club** committees are managed by members and we'd like to thank everyone who over the years have given up their valuable time and energy to provide a great community facility.

The Centre is home to many community groups including Pre-School, Mother & Toddlers, Community Craft Café Cubs & Beavers and Junior Dance, not forgetting Bingo on Thursday and Sunday evenings.

Membership is available all year round to residents of Fords Farm and Beansheaf estates, £11.00 single and £22.00 for families per annum.

We offer a **spacious hall** for private hire—ideal for weddings, anniversaries and birthday parties—special offer £100 for Saturday nights, (usually £160). Also suitable for Sunday Christening and Kids parties (at £10 per hour).

**Social Club Bars** are open:

Mon-Thursday	19.30-23.00	Friday	19.30-23.30
Saturday	12.00—23.30	Sunday	12.00—22.30

Sports Bar has HD TVs with **SKY sports & ESPN** for all the big sporting events.

Also pool table and darts board. **Regular live music** on Saturday nights in the Lounge Bar starting at 8.30pm.

If you would like to become involved in your community or just to enjoy some social activities, you will be very welcome.

Please contact Miriam the Centre Manager on **0118 942 8771** or call in any evening after 7.30p.m.

The Association AGM is on Tuesday 30th March at 8.00 committee members needed!

### *Neighbourhood Specialist Officer PC Matthew Allen, Thames Valley Police*

You can keep up to date with news from the Holybrook Police Team and find out more about forthcoming meetings, crime statistics and how to contact your neighbourhood officers by visiting the Thames Valley Police website at **www.thamesvalley.police.uk** and following the links for Neighbourhood Policing.

### *West Berkshire Neighbourhood Wardens*

We would like to raise people's awareness to a project called Virtually Stolen, this is a scheme designed to raise people's awareness to leaving valuables in cars while unattended. For example handbags, CDs and anything of value. **Keep them Safe!**

The Neighbourhood Wardens can be contacted on **0118 945 5286** or please email: **westberks.wardens@sovereign.org.uk**

***The Holybrook Community Youth Club***

The Holybrook Community Youth Club is run on a fortnightly basis by volunteers all of whom are CRB checked and experienced. We accept ages from 6-15 years and have many activities available such as karaoke, pool, air hockey and Wii. We regularly arrange extra activities such as cooking, competitions and outdoor sports. The club is a member of BACYP.

We have new opening hours of **18:30-20:30** starting from 29th January. Please come along—we'd love to see you there.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer or for any other information, please contact Karen Albanese on **07504 956168**.



***The Beansheaf Pre-School***

The Beansheaf Community Pre-School runs a fun and stimulating environment for the under 5's working alongside the Early Years foundation stage. We offer a team of qualified staff who promote learning through play in a caring and supportive setting. We are now open at the following times:

**Monday and Wednesday 9:20am-11:50am and Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9:20am-11:50am and 12.00pm-14.30pm** (Full day care is also available on these days as well as a very popular lunch club).

**For more information please call Karen Albanese on 0118 945 4312 or 07813 875567**



***Enjoy a Healthy Walk***

**Enjoy a Health Walk on the 2nd Monday of the month** and benefit your health while exploring the local green space! **Walks start at 10.30am and meet outside Beansheaf Community Centre, the walks last approximately 45 minutes.** Refreshments are at 11.30am.

Did you know that walking can reduce stress, improve weight control, increase energy levels, keep your heart healthy, increase your confidence and improve mental health.

All walks are led by qualified leaders and suitable for everyone. For further information please contact the Walks Co-ordinator on **01635 874381** or email: **walking@westberks.gov.uk**



***1st Theale & Calcot Scouts***

The 1st Theale & Calcot Scouts meet at Cumber Hall in Theale on Friday evenings. Girls and boys from 10½ to 15 years old are welcome. So if you like the outdoors and adventure and would like to find out more then contact Clive on **0775 2591041** or email: **scouts@thealeandcalcotscouts.org.uk** and we will get back to you.



***Kennet Valley Preschool***

The Kennet Valley Preschool, situated in the Holybrook Community Centre, Fords Farm, is able to offer places to 3 & 4 year olds. We have a friendly, supportive staff and committee and welcome children from within the Holybrook parish. We are open during term times and can offer up to 15 hours of free education and care per week. Call in and see us or ring **07884 028715** between 8.30am—3.00pm.



YOUR HOLYBROOK  
COUNCILLORS

BERNARD GILBERT

0118 941 8051

CLAIRE TULL

(VICE CHAIRMAN)

0118 941 8203

MARY BEDWELL

0118 942 0196

VAL BETTERIDGE

0118 941 1265

GLENN DENNIS

0118 941 8720

IAIN PATE

0118 941 4226

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0118 942 7193

CHARLIE CROAL

07855 749876

JERRY CARBON

07988 248624

DAVID SHALLOW

0795 2999525

KAREN ALBANESE

07504 956168

IAN SHEPPARD

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RICHARD SOMNER

07836 208382

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07793 233075

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

PETER ARGYLE

0118 943 1148

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Mob: 07900 372323

THE MP FOR READING

WEST: MARTIN SALTER

MP 0118 954 6782

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THAMES VALLEY POLICE

0845 8 505 505

## *A View from West Berkshire Council*

### **RECYCLING FACILITIES**

It is now possible to recycle your used Tetrapaks (cartons) at Sainsbury's, Calcot recycling facilities. This area will be further improved during the year.

### **UNWANTED CALLERS**

There appears to have been an increase in unwanted doorstep callers pestering residents to buy something, donate or sign up for an unknown charity or just to answer a questionnaire. The Council has produced a sticker which can be placed on or near the front door which make it clear that you do not buy or sell at the door. These stickers can be obtained from the Council Office in Sainsbury's or from Holybrook Parish Office at the Beansheaf Centre.

### **COUNCIL SURGERIES**

Your District Councillors are available at their surgeries every 2nd Saturday in the month from 10.00am—11.30am in the Council Office located opposite the cafeteria in Sainsbury's, Calcot. If you have any matter you wish to discuss with us, please come along.

Calcot ward has suffered an increase in burglaries, the police are intensifying efforts to overcome this problem. All residents are reminded to ensure front doors are locked from the inside every night and not to leave garden tools lying about in the garden, these are used to force open uPVC patio and back doors.

**Brian Bedwell, Peter Argyle and Manohar Gopal**

### *Dates of Parish Council Meetings*

**Monday 15 March**

**Committee**

**Monday 29 March**

**Full Council**

**Monday 19 April**

**Annual Assembly**

**Monday 26 April**

**Committee**

**Monday 10 May**

**AGM/Full Council**

**All meetings in the Beansheaf Centre at 7.30pm**



### *Thank you*

*May I take just a few lines to say a very sincere thank you to everyone for their good wishes on my retirement at the end of December, and for the beautiful pen and voucher, together with my wife's flowers. The five and a bit years as Holybrook clerk were, on the whole, very enjoyable, and I look back with a sense of fulfilment to what the team of councillors and staff achieved during that time. From difficult beginnings the parish council has steadily grown in numbers and activities. Much was done during my tenure as parish clerk, but much more remains to be done. We now have two excellent children's playgrounds, a widely-used website, informative newsletter, the Parish Plan, and the Holybrook Festival which is now eagerly awaited every summer. The council is in good hands with my successor, Phil Brown, and Rachel Buckingham, the assistant clerk. I wish everyone involved with Holybrook parish council every success for the future.*

*David Baldock (retired clerk)*