

# HOLYBROOK

WINTER EDITION

DECEMBER 2006



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## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The past few months have been very busy for councillors and the parish office staff as we have spent many hours dealing with the Kennet Valley Park development proposals, as well as dealing with ordinary council business and matters arising from the Parish Plan. At the time of writing we anticipate a meeting of the West Berkshire Council's Eastern Area Planning Committee on 15 November to discuss the Prudential's proposals. Local councils and groups are united in opposition and we hope the result of West Berkshire's meeting will be on the council website by the time this newsletter appears.

**We apologise to the half of the parish which did not receive the autumn newsletter, caused by problems with Royal Mail, and hope this distribution will go without a hitch.**

We are still looking for people interested in taking part in the Holybrook Festival next June as we wish to make it a really big parish event. Please contact the parish office if you are interested.

**We are pleased to welcome Glenn Dennis, Steven White and Iain Pate as new councillors. There are still two vacancies if anyone is interested.**

May I close by wishing each and every one of you a very happy Christmas and a happy, peaceful New Year.

Bernard Gilbert

## PARISH PLAN PROJECTS

**Several projects are now under way, not least the Holybrook Festival to be held 2nd June 2007. This is a real opportunity for community groups and organisations to get involved, raise funds and get recognised!**

**We do need a large number of volunteers to make these projects a success so please contact David or Rachel at the parish office for further details. A little help makes an enormous difference to you and your community.**



## UNDERWOOD ROAD ACTION GROUP (URAG)

Following the publication of the Parish Plan, an Underwood Road Action Group (URAG) has been established, comprising councillors and parishioners, to consult with the community and lend weight to West Berkshire Council's efforts to force the owners of the Underwood Road precinct to redevelop the site.

**At a meeting in September the group drew up a 'wish list' and plans for further consultation, and by the time this newsletter is published it will have met again. Please look at the council website for further information. If anyone is interested in joining please contact the Chairman Steven White on 0118 901 1798**

The Chief Executive of West Berkshire Council, Nick Carter, has informed Holybrook parish council that pre planning application discussions are still going on with the landowners, and the estimate was that a planning application would be submitted in early November. A Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) is also under consideration and the District Council's Executive would probably be considering such a move at a meeting in November.



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

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Assistant Clerk:  
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# NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP

## TILEHURST AND PANGBOURNE NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP (NAG)

Neighbourhood Action Groups have been set up throughout the Thames Valley as partnerships between the police and local communities to identify and tackle problems within parishes. The problems have been identified through Parish Consultation meetings, three of which have been held so far in the Tilehurst and Holybrook parishes.

At the NAG meeting on 19 October Sgt. Barry Walker of Thames Valley Police issued the results of the issues raised at the three Consultation Meetings held so far.

50 people had attended the event at the Cornwell Centre in Tilehurst, with the four top problems being identified as Youths and ball-bearing guns; anti-social behaviour in Overdown and Fairford Roads and adjacent alleys; drug use and dealing in alleyways; anti-social use of motor cycles.

Only 12 parishioners had attended the event at

the Calcot Centre where the top four problems were identified as Speeding in Royal Avenue; street lights out in Curtis Road; anti-social behaviour at the Royal Avenue shops; and fly tipping on the Royal Avenue estate. Paul Buckley said the Wardens had reported the street lights in Curtis Road in May but had been told it was an Electricity Board problem. Jean Gardner stated that this was on a 'Safe route to school' but was now dark in Curtis Road. Alex O'Connor agreed to take up the issue with West Berkshire Council.

The Holybrook meeting was attended by 90 people. The top four problems were identified as anti-social behaviour/criminal damage/stone throwing and graffiti, especially in the Burbidge Road/Bayford Drive/Narromine Drive areas; damage to the Kennet Valley church building; the use of the bus lane by cars; and lack of feedback from the police and council.

Sgt. Walker suggested that a total of three problems – one from each meeting – should be tackled initially, and the following were agreed:-

- Tilehurst (Cornwell Centre) : Youth problems and ball-bearing guns in Sheraton Drive, to incorporate anti-social behaviour and drug use.
- Holybrook : Anti-social behaviour, criminal damage, graffiti and stone-throwing.
- Tilehurst (Calcot Centre) : Speeding in Royal Avenue, to incorporate late night car racing on the A4 and anti-social behaviour.

Action on all these problems will be reported back to the next NAG meeting in November.



## NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS

If you have any problems you would like us to help sort out please don't hesitate to contact us. You can reach us by phone, fax or text on: 0118 945 5286 We won't always be in the office so please leave a message and we'll get back to you as soon as we can or you can email us with your enquiry at

[westberks.wardens@sovereign.org.uk](mailto:westberks.wardens@sovereign.org.uk)

Please also be aware that salesmen are calling in the area trying to persuade residents to change their gas or electricity supplier to their Company. They are asking to look at a utility bill. This is a way that they can obtain the Account Number and details of your current supplier. You may then find that without your knowledge, your gas or electricity has been changed to the new Company. Do not show salesmen any utility bill.

## LINEAR PARK

On 21 October we had a scrub clearance from the flood storage balancing ponds in the Linear Park. Water voles inhabit the ditches that flow adjacent to the balancing ponds and reducing the scrub **increases** the habitat available for this declining mammal. For all of the volunteers who **helped with the clearance**, thank you very much for all **your hard** work.

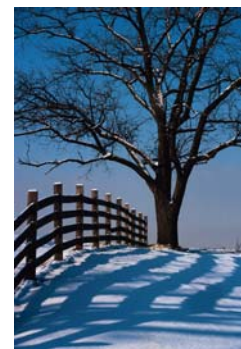
National Tree week was from 25 November through 2nd December. The Friends of Linear Park have received a small grant from the **National Tree Council** for funding to plant trees in 3 areas of the Linear Park. We had a week of activities as there were many trees to be planted in these locations. The dates were Saturday the

25th of November starting at 10am at the Beansheaf Community Centre and two activities during that week.

Bird Boxes - With the help of local people we placed over 20 bird boxes in the Linear Park last year. These will need to be cleared in the next several months in anticipation of new nest for next spring. A date for this activity will be organised and we will keep you informed.

The current committee members of Friends of Linear Park are in need of more committee members. We meet about once a month, many of us regularly walk in the park, help to pick up litter, monitor the local water vole population and liaise between West

Berkshire Council and other agencies. If you are interested in joining the committee or in joining the Friends of Linear Park please contact the Holybrook Parish Office and they will forward your details to us. Our current secretary has left the area and work commitments are affecting a number of our committee members.



## ROAD SAFETY IS AN ISSUE FOR EVERYONE



'Road Safety Counts in West Berkshire' is a slogan that we hope all those who live or work in the District, or who travel though it will recognise and support. West Berkshire Council seeks to provide advice on staying safe – from the very youngest, through the advice on child seats and pedestrian skills, to the very oldest, through advice on the failing senses such as sight and hearing. For all individuals the message of road safety is to learn and continue to learn. In many cases it will be by undertaking training and putting that training into practise. Those parents who have supported their children as they learn to drive should consider the merit of the 'Pass Plus' scheme. For those who have passed their test why not consider advanced driver training

A major issue for all those who drive on the roads is the speed of traffic. SID is out across the district on most days. The pattern is for the majority of drivers to exceed the speed limit; it may be by only a few miles per hour but that

is significant. **At 35 mph a car will still be doing close to 20 mph at the point where it would have stopped had the driver had been travelling at 30 mph.** As a result of exceeding the speed limit a growing number of people have been invited by the police to attend a 'Speed Awareness' course. Most will talk positively about what they learnt on the course and of the importance of sticking to the speed limit. Your Parish Council is asking for your support so that the roads in Calcot are safer. Please remember that it is not always your ability that will prevent a crash – it might be the expectation of someone else that you are sticking to the speed limit! In residential roads and amongst parked cars why not try and keep your speed to below 20 mph – it may add as much as 30 seconds to your journey. Have you ever thought what a life is worth?

**'Road Safety Counts in West Berkshire' – for more information visit [www.westberkshire.gov.uk/roadsafety](http://www.westberkshire.gov.uk/roadsafety).**

## A 2 NIGHT FUN-NIGHT FOR THE CALCOT AND TILEHURST KIDS

Monday 30th October at the Cornwell Centre and Tuesday 31st October at the Beansheaf Community Centre. They had 2TenFM Black Thunders attending, Body Popping lessons, MC Battles, Jamaican Jerk Chicken, Chocolate Fountains with Fruit Sticks, X-Factor Machine, dance and song competitions, prizes etc. This was organised by Marie Moloney PSCO Pangbourne Police, the wardens helped out, with six-formers from Little Heath School and members of the public. This event could not have happened without a kind donation from Tilehurst Parish Council and the free use of the Beansheaf Community Centre from Holybrook Parish Council. The reason for the event was to try and get the local kids of a certain age (11 to 17) not to Trick & Treat but to attend the event to deter the amount of criminal damage and vandalism that happens at that time of year.

## TICK TOCK TOY LIBRARY

Do your children get bored of toys easily? Do you think toys and equipment for children are costly? Do you like hiring items that you may only use for a few months? Would you like to try before you go and buy? No obligation to join

Opening times - term time only. Every Wednesday morning - 9am until 11.30am. Every second Tuesday in the month - 3pm till 4pm. Membership - £10 per year (ID and proof of address required). Borrow up to 4 toys for £1 for 4 weeks. A deposit may be required for larger items. Calcot Infant School & Nursery, Curtis Road, Calcot. Tel: 0118 941 8189

## WELCOME TO THE TWO NEW CALCOT WIs

Following an excellent response, two new WIs are now up and running.

CALCOT AFTERNOON WI meets on the second Wednesday of each month from 2.30-4.30pm (Beansheaf)

Secretary: Mrs Sheila Mulrooney **01189 612378**

CALCOT EVENING WI meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 7.30-9.30pm (Holybrook Centre)

Secretary: Mrs Helen Thomson **01189 419413**

Membership includes friendship, fun, interesting speakers, outings, competitions, holidays, courses and much more.

Berkshire Federation Secretary: Mrs V Hudson, WI House, Mortimer Tel: **01189 333448**

email: [bfwi@clara.net](mailto:bfwi@clara.net)

## MO'S DANCE & DRAMA SCHOOLS

Classes at the Beansheaf Community Centre on Friday evenings.

Our current classes include ballet, tap, modern, street jazz, disco, drama, singing and musical theatre.

[www.readingdanceanddrama.co.uk](http://www.readingdanceanddrama.co.uk) Tel: **0870 206 2291**



**YOUR HOLYBROOK COUNCILLORS:**

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Salterm@parliament.uk

**THAMES VALLEY POLICE**  
0845 8 505 505

**KENNET VALLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION AND KENNET VALLEY CLUB**

Mr Edward Lock, the Senior Steward is to retire in December. Ted will be very much missed. On behalf of all members, users and community groups at the Holybrook Centre we would like to thank Ted for his dedication and wish him a very long and happy retirement.

Mrs Miriam Wale will be the Centre Manager from December and Mr Clive Doe will be the Assistant Manager.

One or two evening slots have become available so anyone wishing to start a class or community group please contact Miriam on 0118 9428771.

Kenet Valley Club will be running a comprehensive programme of events during the Festive Season, including opening for 2 hours at lunchtime on Christmas Day, so come along and join in!



**BEANSHEAF DROP-IN**

The garage is currently open Mondays and Wednesdays from 6-8pm. There is no charge to come to the drop-in. [www.holybrookparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.holybrookparishcouncil.co.uk)

**VIEW FROM WEST BERKSHIRE COUNCIL**

**HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE**

A good start has been made to re-surfacing parts of The Chase, Charrington Road and the A4. More roads in the Parish will follow soon.

**BUS PASSES**

Holders of bus passes can use them on journeys to Royal Berkshire Hospital, even if you break the journey by changing buses in Reading. Also, if you want to stop off in Southcote, you can catch another bus to complete your journey.

**WASTE RECYCLING**

Due partly to the success in the recycling area at Sainsbury's Calcot, the Council's recycling rate has increased significantly this year to 24%. Please take your plastic bottles and cardboard to Sainsbury's and use your baskets for newspapers, glass bottles and cans to help us increase our success rate.

**SURGERIES**

If you have any local concerns or problems with West Berkshire Council, please come and discuss them—surgeries will be held in the Parish from 10.00am—11.30am at:

Greenfield Centre      Saturday 13 January 2007  
Beansheaf Centre      Saturday 10 February 2007

Alternatively, please contact us by telephone:

Peter Argyle      0118 9431148  
Brian Bedwell      0118 9420196  
Manohar Gopal      07900 372323



You may be interested to know that there is a paint collection facility at B&Q London Road, Newbury 8am-8pm Monday to Saturday, 10am-4pm Sunday.

**Parish Council Meetings**  
**2007**

**Next Quarter**

Monday 8th January  
Monday 5th February  
Monday 5th March



**WEST BERKSHIRE COUNCIL**

**MAIN SWITCHBOARD 01635 42400**

(email:westberks.gov.uk)

**OUT OF HOURS EMERGENCIES:**

Social Services:      01344 786543  
All other Services:      01635 42161  
STREETCARE:      01635 519080  
streetcare@westberks.gov.uk