



HOLYBROOK

www.holybrookparishcouncil.co.uk



A Message from Holybrook Parish Council

December 2013

The Parish Council is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the play areas next to the Holybrook Centre and at Underwood Road and it is very good to see how many children regularly make use of these facilities. As a result of their popularity it is understandable that the play surfaces and equipment suffer wear and tear and earlier this year the Council decided that a general refurbishment would be necessary. As a result new boarding around the play edges has been installed, the weed growth has been removed and the bark areas rotovated and topped up with a generous amount of new play bark. Further work which will be completed before the Christmas holidays includes general maintenance and servicing of each item of play equipment, some new health and safety signage and repainting of the swings at Underwood Road. Residents may like to know that the play areas are regularly examined by RoSPA to ensure they comply with the relevant health and safety requirements. Any recommendations from those reports are acted upon so that all the equipment can be used with confidence.

May I, on behalf of all Holybrook Parish Councillors wish you a very Happy Christmas and best wishes for 2014.

Mary Bedwell

Carol Service at the Beansheaf Centre

We are holding a Christmas Carol Service at the Beansheaf Community Centre on Sunday 15th December at 3pm, with drinks and mince pies afterwards to fend off the cold.

At St Matthews we are gearing up for one of our busiest times of year, with many services and events for everyone. If you want to take some time out of your Christmas preparation please do come to one of our services. We have regular services every Sunday at 10am, where there is a crèche and Kidz church for the younger ones.

There are Carols in Coronation Square in Southcote on 14th December, and we have a crib service on 24th December. Please visit our website <http://www.st-matts.org.uk/> to see all that is on, we would love to see you.



South Berks Concert Band Christmas Concert Teenage music with a difference will be showcased at our Christmas Concert on **December 7th at 7.30pm**. Come to the final of the Young Composers' Competition at **Kennet Valley Free Church**. For discounted tickets **telephone 07775 988798** or **email: southberksconcertband@yahoo.com**

Meetings Parish Council Meetings: Monday 9th December 2013, 13th January and 17th February 2014.

Festival Committee: Monday 27th January 2014. All at 7.30pm in the Beansheaf Centre.

Over 60s LUNCH CLUB on the first Friday of the month at 12 noon in the Beansheaf Centre. Places must be booked on **0118 941 1355**.

Neighbourhood Action Group Meeting: Thursday 12th December at 10.30am in the Beansheaf Centre.



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

Clerk to the Council: Mr Phil Brown Assistant Clerk: Mrs Rachel Buckingham.

Office open to the public Monday to Friday 10am-1pm. Viewing of planning applications by appointment only.

Tel: 0118 945 4339 24 hour answerphone email: holybrookcouncil@btconnect.com

Parish office closed from 23rd December and reopens 6th January 2014

Police non-emergency number 101

Follow us on Twitter @HolybrookPC



PC Jo Willoughby, Thames Valley Police

Now we have the darker nights there is a tendency to see increases in Burglary Non Dwellings, which relate to outbuildings and sheds.

Garden equipment and bicycles are the most commonly targeted items. Sheds should be fitted with a secure hasp and a padlock. It is a good idea to replace a hinge screw with a bolt, to prevent entry by unscrewing the door hinges.

Wireless shed alarms can be bought extremely cheaply.

Cycles should be chained together with a heavy duty chain and lock whilst being stored to make theft harder.

Car crime accounts for more than a quarter of all reported crime in the UK. We have also seen an increase in theft from motor vehicles around both the areas so can we please ask

members of the public to be aware when leaving vehicles unattended. Always make sure the vehicle has been locked, check the handle. With keyless locks it is easy to become complacent and vehicles may not always be secure. Do not leave anything in the vehicle of value and



especially not on view. If you have a sat nav, wipe the mark off the screen and ensure the charging lead and holder is not on view. Please keep tools out of view and remove any expensive tools from your vehicle whilst being left overnight.

Please also consider home security and the importance of ensuring your home is as secure as possible. Please remember to keep high value gifts out of view at this time of year. If you would like a member of the team to conduct a home security survey please make contact with a member of the Holybrook Neighbourhood Team on 101. The surveys are designed to give you ideas to improve the security of your homes.

With the cold weather we are experiencing we are often having to defrost vehicles. Never leave your keys in the ignition while your vehicle is unattended, even for a few minutes. Opportunistic thieves will often steal cars that have been left with the engine running to defrost the windows.

Finally the Neighbourhood Team would like to wish you a Happy and safe Christmas.



West Berkshire Neighbourhood Wardens

Unfortunately, there has been a further incident of vandalism to the fencing next to The Garage which will need to be repaired. Although, the majority of dog owners are very responsible we ask that all dogs are kept under proper control or their owner could face prosecution. This month the Wardens carried out a talk with the year five students at Kennet Valley School. We explained about our role and the types of issues that we regularly deal with in the community. The talk was in preparation for the Inter Schools Quiz that took place in November. Following the talk the students were asked to produce posters about the Wardens as homework. From the posters four students are picked to represent the school at the quiz. The youth facility at **The Garage, a drop in service for young people, is open every Thursday from 6:30 pm to 8pm.** The Garage is located between the Beansheaf Centre and the skate park. The Garage has continued to be well attended throughout October. Up to fifteen young people regularly drop in or spend time there on Thursday evenings. **The wardens continue to assist with the Walk for Health. This is still well attended and takes place on the first and third Monday of the month. We meet in the car park at the Beansheaf Centre at 10:30am.** The walk is approximately an hour long and all are welcome to

attend. Coffee and tea is provided at the Beansheaf Centre following the walk. To report instances of fly tipping, graffiti or if you have any concerns relating to antisocial behaviour the wardens can be emailed on westberks.wardens@sovereign.org.uk or telephone **0118 945 5286**



Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service

During winter, every day fire hazards increase. Open fires, portable heaters, electric blankets, Christmas decorations and festive dinners mean it is even more important than usual to make your home safe from fire. For the elderly—and people with mobility, visual or audio issues—Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) offers a free Fire Safety Check Service. It helps identify potential fire risks in the home, gives advice on reducing or preventing them, and includes the installation of free smoke alarms where needed. To check your eligibility, visit www.rbfrs.co.uk, email hfscrefferrals@rbfrs.co.uk or call Freephone **0800 587 6679**. Even if you don't meet the eligibility criteria, the website can tell you lots of ways to reduce the risk of fire.



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Christmas at Kennet Valley Free Church —All Welcome!

Christingle craft and carols for families on Tuesday 17th December at 4.30pm. *Family Carol Service* featuring Junior Church on Sunday 22nd December at 10.30am *Carols on the Green* with hot refreshments on Sunday 22nd December at 5pm *Christmas Day Praise* on Wednesday 25th December at 10.30am

Over 60s LUNCH CLUB will be on Friday 10th January and thereafter on the first Friday of the month at 12 noon in the Beansheaf Centre. Please telephone Yvonne as places must be booked on **0118 941 1355.**

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CHARLIE CROAL

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RICHARD SOMNER

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0118 945 4881

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West Berkshire Matters

PLANNING APPLICATIONS Many residents are still uncertain what to do when a Planning Application is made which may affect them. When an application is accepted by West Berkshire Council Planning Department, an orange notice is displayed near to the area concerned. If you wish to view the plans, this can be done either at the Parish Office at the Beansheaf Centre or at the Council Offices at Sainsbury's, or online. Should you wish to make a comment or object, you should write or email the District Council Planning Office. In addition to this, you should advise the Parish Council and one of your District Councillors. Do this as soon as possible, when you know the facts.

COUNCILLORS SURGERIES These continue to be held in the Council Office in Sainsbury's every 2nd Saturday in the month from 10am—11.30am. If you have any queries you wish to discuss, please come along to see us.

Peter Argyle Brian Bedwell Manohar Gopal



We welcome three new Holybrook Parish Councillors

Sarah Evans who has lived in Fords Farm since 2004 and works as a Community Nursing Sister. Sarah is interested in making a difference in the community and regenerating local playgrounds.

Harish Mistry has lived in the area for over 25 years and is a chartered accountant and a trustee of a London based charitable organisation. Harish practises Yoga and is passionate about local issues. **Judy Schneider** has lived in the area since 1988 and was a teacher of autistic children and an HR manager in the UK and USA. Now retired Judy is active in the Friends of Linear Park, a volunteer at the Jane Austen House in Chawton and also at the Oxfam bookstore in Reading.

Friends of Linear Park

Our activity day on 26th October was a great success, helped in no small way by beautiful Autumnal weather. We were pleased to welcome Councillor Keith Chopping, Chairman of West Berkshire Council; who unveiled the new wood sculptured seat in the Sensory garden (kindly sponsored by June Scott) and officially declared the new all weather path open. Also the Friends would like to thank everyone who signed and commented on our plans for an outdoor gym in the park. We are now finalising the Lottery application of which your comments form an important part. We'll keep you informed with our progress. Our Gardening Club will be running again next year through the spring and summer and early Autumn. You can really see how the garden is developing now and volunteers are always welcome. A big thank you to everyone who has helped this year, keep an eye on the park notice boards and this newsletter

Christmas at the Kennet Valley Club, Holybrook Centre, Carters Rise

Christmas Eve: Back by popular demand—Lucy Harvey the amazing saxophonist and entertainer. 8 till late. **Boxing Day:** It's Sports day in the Bar—Killer Pool Competition, Darts plus the Big Premier League games and Kempton on the TV, with live entertainment in the Lounge Bar later.

New Year's Eve—Disco in Hall with one of Sue's legendary New Year Buffets. Membership renewal in January—Still only £16 per Single Adult Full, £31 Family Full 1/2 price Concessions for over 70s. Bar open 7.30—11p.m. Weekdays 12—11.00p.m. Saturday and Sunday 12—10.30p.m. Contact Bar Manager Sue Ayres on **0118 942 8771** during opening hours for details. Email: KVC123@hotmail.com (Club) kvca@fordsfarm.plus.com (Community Association)

