



## News, events and information

- **Allotment plots available**  
We have a small number of allotment plots available - if you are interested in growing your own fruit, vegetables or flowers do get in touch for more information.
- **'When Birds Sing' - 9 May**  
Stories about different birds, why they sing and why their song appeals to us. This event is arranged by the local group of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and takes place at the Memorial Hall, The Village on Thursday 9 May at 7.45pm for 8pm. For more information see <https://ww2.rspb.org.uk/groups/wokinghamandbracknell/events/>
- **Celebration of life on two wheels! 10 May**  
My Journey Wokingham is having a Bike Revival event from 10am to noon at the bike shack behind the FBC Centre. Dr Bike will be on hand to check over bikes to ensure they are safe to ride and to offer advice. After lunch there will be a ride along the Greenway from Finchampstead to Arborfield Green. Places can be booked for the ride, but Dr Bike is available without appointments. For more details or to book please visit [www.myjourneywokingham.com/contact-us](http://www.myjourneywokingham.com/contact-us)
- **Friendly Finches - 16 May**  
The group has a monthly get together on the third Thursday of every month from 2.30pm to 4pm at the Memorial Mall. A warm welcome is shared with anyone who would like to meet new people from the local area for a chat over a cup of tea. The theme for 2019 is 'Beautiful Flowers of the World' and the next meeting on 16 May will celebrate Orchids. For more information or if you would like a lift telephone Bev on 0118 9731833 or Kate on 0118 9733114
- **California Crossroads Tidy Up - 19 May**  
We will be holding another tidy up session at the Crossroads on Sunday 19 May from 9.30am to 12 noon and all volunteers are welcome. Tasks will include weeding, sweeping, litter picking and anything else that needs doing to smarten up the area. Please wear gloves and suitable clothing and bring hand tools if you have them.
- **Fashion Show and sale - 23 May**  
There is a Fashion Show at the Memorial Hall, The Village RG40 4JU on 23 May at 7pm for 7.30pm. High street clothes and bargains galore. The event is in aid of the Finchampstead Support Group for Sue Ryder Duchess of Kent Hospice in Reading. Entry is by ticket only - please ring 0118 9737676.
- **Blackwater Valley Wildflower Walk - 24 May**  
Find out more about the flora of the Valley on this guided walk. The event is free but booking is essential [www.bvct.org.uk/events/](http://www.bvct.org.uk/events/)
- **Green n' Tidy Gardening Charity Plant Sale - 29 May**  
Ornamental plants and shrubs as well as vegetables will be available at this sale in Wokingham Town Centre Market Place from 10am to 2pm on 29 May. All proceeds go to Green n' Tidy and will help this Volunteer Centre scheme to continue to maintain gardens for elderly and disabled residents of Wokingham Borough.
- **Rockin' 2 Remember - 8 June**  
This festival of live music, family fun and entertainment will be held at Arborfield Park, Swallowfield Road, Arborfield RG2 9JR from 10.30am to 8.30pm on Saturday 8 June. The event is to commemorate the 75th anniversary of D-Day. Tickets in advance or on the gate. [www.rockin2remember.org.uk](http://www.rockin2remember.org.uk)



## **Arborfield Garrison Strategic Development Location (SDL)**

Over 200 new homes on the SDL are now occupied, with permission granted for over 600 more homes. While all of the homes constructed and occupied to date are within the part of the development known as Arborfield Green, around 100 of these are actually in Finchampstead Parish.

Some of the names of the new roads and streets in Finchampstead are based on traditional crafts and include Quiller Avenue, Weaver Avenue and Milliner Grove. Other names are based on poets and authors and include Orwell Drive and Chaucer Grove.

1500 more homes will follow on Finchwood Park, the southern part of the development which is all within Finchampstead Parish. The names of the new roads and streets in this development will be based on an agricultural theme.

The interactive maps at the following link give a useful overview of how the development is moving forward. [www.wokingham.gov.uk/major-developments/arborfield-garrison/](http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/major-developments/arborfield-garrison/)

## **Gorse Ride regeneration - public exhibitions in May**

The regeneration of Gorse Ride is progressing and there will be public exhibitions / drop in sessions in May to view the plans for the second phase of the development. The events will be held at the St Mary & St John's Parish Centre, Vicarage Close RG40 4JW.

Saturday 11 May from 10am to 1.30pm and Thursday 16 May from 3pm to 7.30pm

## **Land to the rear of 6 Johnson Drive**

Wokingham Borough Council has refused permission for a proposed development of 25 homes on this site. Application reference 172230. The Applicant has appealed against this decision and a Public Inquiry will commence at 10am on 14 May 2019 at the WBC Offices at Shute End. This is likely to run for 4 days. A representative from the Parish Council will be speaking at the Inquiry to express the Council's opposition to the proposals.

Members of the public can attend the Inquiry - contact Wokingham Borough Council on 0118 974 6000 for details.

## **FINCHAMPSTEAD NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Government policy encourages communities to develop Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDP) to ensure that the community has a real say in where and how any development should take place. The Finchampstead NDP provides an opportunity to shape the future of the Parish within the Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) Local Development Plan, including its housing, roads, schools, amenities and environment.

Work on the Plan started last year and is progressing well. The team of Parish Councillors and volunteers have set up a number of work groups to look at specific areas - including the vision; where we are now; communications; admin and process management; housing; and green spaces.

We will provide a more detailed update in our June or July newsletter, but if you would like to find out more now please email [ndp@finchampstead-pc.gov.uk](mailto:ndp@finchampstead-pc.gov.uk)



## The Finchampstead Society

The Society aims to help retain the character of Finchampstead in a variety of different ways. This includes supporting resident's interests, opposing undesirable development, preserving our past and securing our future, and promoting a variety of social events.

Events over the last year have included New Years Day and May Day walks, a quiz evening, spring and autumn dinners, and a carol concert. The Society arranged a visit to the Re3 Recycling Facility in April, and in the coming year the seasonal walks will continue and other events will include a beer tasting evening, a talk about British Postal history and many other activities.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Society and becoming a member visit [www.finchampsteadsociety.org](http://www.finchampsteadsociety.org)

## Wokingham United Charities

- **Grants**  
WUC is again offering grants for projects that tackle disadvantage in our community. Grants are available for specific priority areas and for school projects. The closing date for this round of grants is 19 May.
- **Accommodation for elderly local people in need**  
WUC owns and runs Westende Almshouses in Wokingham Town Centre. There are 27 accessible one bedroom flats for people who can live independently, with warden support, communal facilities and a programme of social activities. There are vacancies at the moment.

For more information visit [www.wokinghamunitedcharities.org.uk/](http://www.wokinghamunitedcharities.org.uk/)

## Volunteer opportunities

- **Guide Dogs Fundraising**  
If you have a couple of hours a month to spare the Guide Dogs Fundraising Group would appreciate your help. The Thames Valley group of volunteers raise funds to help local people who are living with sight loss. There are nearly 2 million people in the UK living with sight loss. As well as fundraisers the group is looking for a volunteer to take on the role of Treasurer and join their team. You would be trained and supported in this role. To find out more visit [www.guidedogs.org.uk/volunteering](http://www.guidedogs.org.uk/volunteering) or telephone Denise on 07881 269562.
- The foodbank has a team of volunteers but does need more people, either on a regular basis or to help with one off events. Visit [www.wokingham.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.wokingham.foodbank.org.uk).  
A list of food and other items needed by the foodbank can also be found on the website.
- Visit [www.volunteerwokingham.org.uk](http://www.volunteerwokingham.org.uk) for information on many more opportunities.

## **FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL**

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