



## Local information and events

- **Big Garden Bird Watch 25 – 27 January**

Take part in the world's largest wildlife survey this weekend and do something great for nature. Just choose an hour to spend counting birds in your garden or a local park and send the results in to the RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds).

The Big Garden Bird Watch helps the RSPB monitor trends and understand how birds are doing. If problems are spotted they can start to take steps to put things right. Visit [www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch](http://www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch)

- If you are interested in birds why not visit **Moor Green Lakes** in Finchampstead? Visit [www.mglg.org.uk](http://www.mglg.org.uk) for more information about the nature reserve, what you can see there and how you can get involved.
- The **Wokingham and Bracknell branch of the RSPB** arranges a series of walks, talks and events. There is a talk on the birds and wildlife of the Thames Basin Heathlands at the Finchampstead Memorial Hall on 13 February. Visit [www.rspb.org.uk/groups/wokinghamandbracknell](http://www.rspb.org.uk/groups/wokinghamandbracknell)
- **Tree works on land at and opposite Sand Martins, Finchampstead Road**  
Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) has advised that the landowner will be carrying out tree works on this land in early February. This involves removing dead wood from some of the oak trees and will be carried out by qualified arboricultural contractors. We understand that this is a sensitive site and that residents may be concerned, but are assured the tree work is necessary for health and safety reasons, and the well being of the trees.
- **Telephone box book swop**  
Our book swop in the red telephone box at the California Crossroads has been running for 2 years since the Parish Council adopted and refurbished the box in 2017. Unfortunately we are now getting large quantities of old and /or poor condition books deposited which are very unlikely to be of interest or use to anyone. We are having to clear the books out and take them to the Recycling Centre.

This is the only red box left in the Parish and we want to keep it, but if the misuse of the book swop continues we will have to consider whether we can continue with this.

## Litter!

- The two Parish Council **Litter Wardens** have collected 293 sacks of litter from our roadsides since April 2019. Imagine what the Parish would look like without all this work! WBC contractors also undertake some litter picking on our roadsides.
- **Adopt a Street**  
We are very grateful to all of the volunteers who help to keep their local area clean and tidy. If you would like to get involved we can supply a litter picker and bags, plus a high visibility tabard. There is no commitment - volunteers do as little or as much as they want, when they want. Bags of waste can be put out with your blue bags for collection by WBC. Please contact us on 0118 9088164 or email [clerk@finchampstead-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@finchampstead-pc.gov.uk)
- **Great British Spring Clean - Finchampstead Community Litter Pick**  
The Finchampstead Litter Pick will be on Sunday 29 March 2020 - we will be sending out information to the people and groups who took part in 2019 very soon, and will include details in our next newsletter for others who would like to get involved.



## **Gaps, gates and stiles**

The Loddon Valley Ramblers are looking for places on our footpaths where stiles could be replaced with kissing gates. Stiles are only accessible to around 50% of the population.

This is a joint project with Wokingham Borough Council and the Parish Council. If you have any suggestions for places where stiles could be replaced do let us know.

## **Veteran Trees**

Did you know that there are 422 veteran trees in Finchampstead? These are trees which have reached maturity and are showing signs of ageing. The age that this occurs at varies with the species, for example an oak tree will take longer to mature than a silver birch. Veteran trees often have a girth of 3 metres or more at a height of 1.5 metres.

The Wokingham District Veteran Tree Association (WDVTA) has surveyed the veteran trees in Finchampstead and you can find details of these - and lots of other interesting information - on their website [www.wdvta.org.uk](http://www.wdvta.org.uk)

The Parish Council has a representative on the WDVTA. We are currently working with the Association on some projects in Finchampstead which we will tell you more about in a future newsletter.

## **Parking on pavements**

We all know that overgrown or untidy hedges and low branches can be a real hazard to pedestrians walking on pavements or footways, often forcing them to step on to the road.

Parking on pavements also causes problems for pedestrians - a car parked on a pavement can mean that pedestrians have to walk in the road to pass the car. This is particularly dangerous for those with a pram or buggy, the less mobile, the visually impaired and those in wheelchairs.

Please think about this when parking your vehicle, and remember that parking on a pavement can also obstruct the visibility for people coming out of their driveways so that they cannot see oncoming vehicles.

Parking on pavements is a matter for the Police (call 101). Problems with roads, street lights, pavements and road gulleys can be reported to WBC by visiting [www.wokingham.gov.uk](http://www.wokingham.gov.uk)

## **Library events and information**

Rhymetime and Storytime for under 5's take place most Friday mornings - but do ring to check first.

Events for adults now include a weekly art session, as well as book group, computer workshops, crochet group and social bridge.

The Finchampstead Society Archive is open on the first Thursday of every month from 2pm to 4pm. Just drop in and discover a wonderful collection of history, local interest stories, maps dating back centuries and a wealth of other information.

For more information about events and activities, and the online catalogue, go to [www.wokingham.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/libraries) or telephone Finchampstead Library on 0118 9088176.



## Local development

- **Land North of Nine Mile Ride**

A Public Inquiry is due to take place on 4 February in relation to proposals for up to 118 dwellings on land north of Nine Mile Ride. A Parish Councillor will be attending to present the Council's objections to the proposals. Members of the public may attend the Inquiry - please contact Wokingham Borough Council on 0118 9746000 for more information.

- **Gorse Ride regeneration**

The first phase of this project is due to be completed later this year. This will provide 46 homes at the end of Arnett Avenue, including where Cockayne Court was located. The second phase includes the construction of 249 new homes on the other much larger part of the estate, and we hope to be able to give you an update on this soon.

### Arborfield Garrison Strategic Development Location (SDL)

Work on the development at Arborfield Green and Finchwood park continues and we will keep you updated on progress. New residents moved in to the first homes on Finchwood Park just before Christmas.

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/)

You can also sign up for a regular newsletter - visit [www.wokingham.gov.uk](http://www.wokingham.gov.uk) and search for 'major developments'.

## Road updates

- **Barkham Bridge**

A new two carriage way road is due to open later this year. The existing bridge will be retained for use by walkers and cyclists.

- **Nine Mile Ride extension**

This new road will link the A327 Reading Road with the existing Nine Mile Ride at its junction with Park Lane. The section between the Reading Road and the Hogwood Industrial estate is complete, construction of the remaining section is due to start this year for completion in Spring 2021.

- **Arborfield Cross Relief Road**

This new 2.3km road will give traffic relief in Arborfield, Arborfield Cross and surrounding rural lanes. Construction is underway and the road is due to be opened in summer 2021.

- **California Crossroads**

Improvements to the crossroads and surrounding area are due to start in summer 2021.

Information on these schemes and others such as the South Wokingham Distributor Road can be found at [www.wokingham.gov.uk](http://www.wokingham.gov.uk) (search for 'major new roads')

## Roadworks and problems

Find out about planned road works by visiting [www.one.network.co.uk](http://www.one.network.co.uk)

Report potholes and other road problems at [www.wokingham.gov.uk](http://www.wokingham.gov.uk)



## Recycling updates

**Food Waste recycling** started in April 2019 and has been very popular. Remember you can put any food waste in your caddy - from meat and bones to pasta and even left over pet food. The caddy can be lined with anything except a compostable liner! Why not try newspaper or an empty bread bag? Otherwise pick up another roll of liners from Finchampstead Library - but please ring first just to check that they are open and have the liners in stock. 0118 9088176.

If you need a new caddy you can get one from Wokingham Library or from the Wokingham Borough Council Offices at Shute End.

The Finchampstead Library also stocks blue bags (£4 for 10) and brown bags for green waste (£1 each). Residents will receive their annual supply of blue bags in March or April.

If you have replaced your **kettle, vacuum cleaner or television** in the January sales you can take your old items to the recycling centre. If they are working and in re-useable condition they can be left in the reuse area.

From 1 February the windscreen stickers used when visiting **Recycling Centres** will not be accepted. Instead you will need to take a document proving you live in Wokingham Borough - such as a driving licence, utility bill, bank statement or photocard bus pass.

Did you know that in the UK around 336,000 tonnes of our **unwanted clothing** gets thrown away every year? You can now join THE DONATION GENERATION and help the environment by donating your unwanted clothes. Use textiles banks that are located across Borough, or you can now drop items at some high street shops. Stores like M&S, Primark, H&M, TKMaxx or Tesco support the clothing reuse movement and have donation banks! By doing so you'll not only be helping out some great causes, but you'll be keeping them out of landfill too.

For more information about what to recycle and where visit [www.wokingham.gov.uk](http://www.wokingham.gov.uk) and search for 'recycling' or download the **re3cyclopeda app**.

## Finchampstead & Barkham Relief in Sickness Fund - a correction

In our last newsletter we included an item on this Fund which provides financial help to those who live in Finchampstead or Barkham Parishes and who have disabilities. One off grants of £100 to £1000 can help with a variety of needs.

Unfortunately the contact details we published were incorrect and we apologise for this. The correct details are given below - all enquiries will be treated in complete confidence.

Telephone 0118 9733553 or write to 175 Nine Mile Ride, Finchampstead RG 40 4JD.

## **FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL**

PARISH OFFICE, FBC CENTRE, GORSE RIDE NORTH, FINCHAMPSTEAD RG40 4ES  
Tel: 0118 908 8164 email: [clerk@finchampstead-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@finchampstead-pc.gov.uk) [www.finchampstead-pc.gov.uk](http://www.finchampstead-pc.gov.uk)



**To subscribe or unsubscribe to this newsletter and other Parish Council information please contact us at the address above or follow the link on our website.**