



You can find the latest information on local cases and statistics on the Covid-19 dashboard at www.berkshirepublichealth.co.uk

You can also find information at www.wokingham.gov.uk

The current weekly case rate in the borough is 337.5 per 100,000 people (up to 13 November). While case numbers are falling, we must continue to do what we can to help bring them down further.

It is widely known that people who are infected with Covid-19 release virus particles into the air whenever they speak, breathe or cough. These particles often linger in unventilated rooms, just like smoke, meaning the risk of catching the virus is significantly increased. With good ventilation, these particles are released.

With winter near, and people spending more time indoors, it's vital everyone understands the importance of regularly opening windows – even if it's just for a few minutes – to keep the air moving and to prevent infections.

So, if you've got friends or family over this weekend, make sure you let fresh air in, to stop Covid-19 particles hanging around where they're not wanted.

Covid-19 vaccinations: A quick guide to who is eligible for what

Last updated: 08.11.21

Group	12-15 year olds	16/17 year olds	12-17 year olds who are at higher risk of getting Covid-19	Over 18s (or due to turn 18 within 3 months)	Over 50s and over 16s with underlying health conditions, OR who are a main carer of someone at risk, OR who live with someone who is more likely to get infections	Frontline health and social care workers	People who live and work in care homes, who have had both doses	People with a severely weakened immune system
How many doses	One dose (May be offered a second at a later date, depending on national guidance)		Two doses		Two doses, and a booster jab six months after your second dose		Two doses, and a booster jab six months after your second dose for care home staff, and five months after your second dose for care home residents	Three doses The third dose should ideally be given eight weeks after the second
Where to go	At school (please check with them directly) Or book an appointment at a mass vaccination centre through NHS.uk or by calling 119	Book an appointment through NHS.uk or by calling 119 Or find a nearby walk-in vaccine centre	Wait to be contacted by a local NHS service (e.g. your GP surgery) to arrange your appointments	Book an appointment through NHS.uk or by calling 119 Or find a nearby walk-in vaccination centre	Wait to be contacted by your GP Or book an appointment through NHS.uk or by calling 119 - you can book your booster in advance once it's been five months since your second dose Or find a nearby walk-in vaccination centre	Book through NHS.uk or by calling 119, or find a walk-in vaccination centre, and bring proof of employment	Vaccinations for residents will usually take place at the care home Care home staff will need to book through NHS.uk or by calling 119, and bring proof of employment	Wait to be contacted by your GP Or visit the mass vaccination centre in Reading, weekdays, 11am to 4pm, with a consultant letter

Anyone who has tested positive for Covid-19 will need to wait 4 weeks (28 days) before having their vaccination. This starts from the date they had the test.





WORKING TOGETHER TO SECURE A POSITIVE
FUTURE FOR FINCHAMPSTEAD

Finchampstead Neighbourhood Development Plan (FNDP)

Public consultation ends 29 November - please let us have your views

A draft Neighbourhood Plan to influence what development occurs in our area has been prepared by the Finchampstead Future team.

A public consultation on the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan is now underway and runs to 29 November 2021. The consultation documents include an updated version of the draft Plan, and of the Topic Papers on Green Spaces and Key Gaps, and a new Topic Paper on Housing Allocations.

Thank you to those of you who have already responded - your interest and comments are really appreciated.

If you haven't already done so, we would like to encourage you to give us your views.

Full information can be found on our website: www.finchampsteadfuture.com

You can respond by:

- ⇒ Emailing us at ndp@finchampstead-pc.gov.uk
- ⇒ Writing to us at FNDP, c/o Finchampstead Parish Council, FBC Centre, Gorse Ride North, Finchampstead, RG40 4ES
- ⇒ Completing an on-line survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/FinchFutureFeedbackV2>

Wokingham Borough Local Plan Update

The Borough Council has launched a consultation on its Local Plan Update - full details are being circulated with this newsletter. The consultation runs to 24 January 2022. Exhibition and information sessions are being held in November and December.

For more information about the Local Plan Update and the consultation visit www.engage.wokingham.gov.uk

A chance to win an e-bike worth £1500

Love to Ride Wokingham is gearing up to launch Winter Wheelers, encouraging people to get on their bikes and log their journeys between 1 to 25 December.

There are prizes and discounts to collect along the way, with each ride logged entering you into a daily draw.

Christmas Day is the big prize, with one lucky person winning a £1,500 e-bike.

To find out more and to sign up, please visit www.lovetoride.net/wokingham





Remembrance 2021

The 2021 Remembrance Parade and Service took place at the Finchampstead Memorial Park, The Village on Sunday 14 November 2021.

Wreaths and poppies laid at the Service have now been taken to the War Memorial at Jubilee Hill. This includes a wreath laid by Councillor Simon Weeks on behalf of the Parish Council.



A huge thank you to the Barkham Hookers for their wonderful display of poppies at the California Crossroads for Remembrance Day.

The Parish Council was pleased to give the Group a donation towards the cost of all that wool!



We will provide an update on the War Memorial relocation project in a future newsletter.

The Finchampstead Magazine

The Finchampstead Magazine, produced monthly, is a great source of useful local information and includes some interesting articles. It also supports local businesses and organisations.

The magazine is available by subscription with copies delivered to your door - contact richard@finchmag.co.uk if you would like to subscribe and / or if you can help with the monthly deliveries of the magazine.

Alternatively you can pick up a hard copy from Cresswells Garage, the Barbers, Henry Street Garden Centre, Think Ford, Jacksons Café at the California Country Park or the Library at the FBC Centre.

Saturday 4th December
2pm - 4pm



Let's Get Festive!
Eco friendly WORKSHOP

- CHRISTMAS WREATHS
- TREE DECORATIONS
- TABLE ARRANGEMENTS
- CHRISTMAS CARDS
- SEASONAL CAFE & CAROLS

Cost: FREE - Donations appreciated

Book: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/festive-workshop-tickets-208655493197>

Contact: office@stjames.finchampstead.co.uk

Where: St James' Church Centre,
Church Lane, Finchampstead, RG40 4LU






YOU CAN NOW MIX IT UP

You no longer need to separate your empties by colour. We will do it for you.



We're changing the way we collect glass and jars at the bottle banks. From now on, you can mix up all bottles and jars and put them in any bank at the site without the need to separate your empties by colour.

This change is possible due to the introduction of colour sorting technology at the glass recycling facility and we hope it will make glass recycling easier, quicker and more efficient!

To help you notice this change we will be gradually adding stickers to the bank collars at each site.

Bottle banks in Finchampstead are located at the California Country Park, Nine Mile Ride, and the Avery Corner car park off the Finchampstead Road at the California Crossroads.

Thank you for recycling your food waste

Food waste within the borough has increased by 0.9 tonnes, from 5.2 tonnes in 2019/20 to 6.1 in 2020/21!

We have to keep up the fight on food waste. Across the borough the average blue general waste bag still contains 25 per cent food waste. Every time food goes in the blue bags it means we are paying twice, once for the food and again to get it disposed of.

As well as the financial cost, there is the added environmental cost as well. One of the council's goals is to drive up the borough's recycling rate to help us on our journey to be carbon neutral by 2030.

If global food waste was a country, it would be the third largest contributor of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere after China and America. Get involved if you're not already and help us change that.

www.wokingham.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling/food-waste/food-waste-collections/



Garden waste collection price drop

A reminder to residents that garden waste collection for the rest of 2021-22 costs £35 as the price has dropped from 1 November.

If you subscribe to our garden waste collection service, we will provide a 240 litre brown wheelie bin and a fortnightly collection for you to deposit your garden clippings, grass cuttings, leaves and weeds. If you order now your subscription will cover until 27 May 2022.

Don't produce much garden waste? Then why not consider the 75 litre compostable garden waste sacks. These cost £1.10 each.

You can order a brown bin or brown sacks by visiting

www.wokingham.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling/garden-waste/order-garden-waste-collection/





Finchampstead Parish Platinum Jubilee Awards



To commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, we would like to award and give recognition to an individual and group that has made an outstanding contribution to the Finchampstead Community.



The awards will be presented at:
The Annual Gathering
9th March 2022

Further details and nomination forms will be available (from 25th November) from the Finchampstead Parish Council Office or on our website:
www.finchampstead-pc.gov.uk

Parish Office, FBC Centre, Gorse Ride North, Finchampstead RG40 4ES
Tel: 0118 908 8164 clerk@finchampstead-pc.gov.uk



Road works

Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) is continuing to work on plans to address the road failure at The Ridges. We expect to see construction work to fix the problem start in winter 2021 / spring 2022 but the duration of the works is not known at present.



The junction of **Park Lane and Nine Mile Ride** fully reopened on October 30 after a period of closure. This work formed part of the Nine Mile Ride extension project to improve access to new housing in Arborfield Green. The closure was necessary to allow the teams to safely install new drainage, a gas supply line, water pipes and communications infrastructure.

The northern half of the Nine Mile Ride extension is finished and once the southern half is completed in spring 2022, there will be a new link between the A327 Eversley Road to the west and the Park Lane junction to the east.

Barkham Street is currently closed between its junction with Commonfield Lane and Barkham Road to allow Gigaclear to undertake superfast broadband work. This planned closure is due to be in place until 17 December.

The **Nine Mile Ride** east of its junction with the A321 Sandhurst Road has re-opened following planned utility company works.

Unfortunately there is nothing any one can do when emergency works are needed on our roads, such as the burst water main on Jubilee Road last month which led to the temporary closure of the road, and the burst water main at the Finchampstead Road / Church Lane on 17 November. Thankfully this repair could be completed with traffic light control in place.

What we can and will continue to do is to encourage the Borough Council (the Highway Authority) to co-ordinate its planned highway maintenance works, and where possible to put these on hold when unplanned emergency works are affecting traffic flow in the Parish.



How to reduce the risk of becoming a burglary victim this winter

Now that the clocks have gone back and the evenings are darker, there are a few simple steps you can take to help protect your property. Here are some simple reminder tips from Thames Valley Police:



- Lock your doors and windows; if you have a UPVC door make sure you have double locked it by lifting the handle and locking it with the key. Make sure the key is removed from the lock and out of reach.
- Ensure garages, gates and sheds are secure. Be especially careful if you are having building or home improvement work done, with unusual supplies and equipment at your home.
- Think about purchasing a Video Doorbell Camera. This will send the footage of anyone approaching your home to your mobile phone
- Keep valuables out of sight from doors and windows. Remember to mark your valuables using a UV pen and register them on the national property register at www.immobilise.com

If you are leaving the house, you can deter burglars by making your home appear occupied:

- Double check that you have locked your windows and doors before leaving.
- Light up your living room using a timer switch. A TV simulator can also be used to make give the appearance of a TV screen being used
- Invite a neighbour to park on your drive while you are away

You can find more information on how to reduce the risk of becoming a victim of burglary by downloading your FREE Home Security Guide from the Thames Valley Police website here:

www.thamesvalley.police.uk/police-forces/thames-valley-police/areas/advice/home-security-guide/



Bringing Festive Cheer To Those Who Would Otherwise Be Alone This Christmas in Wokingham Borough

For so many of us, Christmas Day is a day for family, for getting together and celebrating with loved ones. Sadly, however, for some people without family or close friends, it is the loneliest day of the year.

For 10 years, the Link Visiting Scheme has hosted two important events in December designed to alleviate the serious impact of loneliness which can be felt particularly acutely at this time of year - a Christmas Party for all Link Friends, and a Christmas Day event for those who would otherwise be spending the day alone.

This year, Link are planning to hold a similar event to last year with hot meals directly delivered to the door, some extra phone calls over the Christmas period and the usual bag of gifts. They're committed to bringing joy and companionship to those on their own in a variety of ways.

If you're going to be spending Christmas Day alone this year, please get in touch! If you would like to refer someone who will be alone on Christmas Day or would benefit from extra support and companionship over the Christmas period, please complete their referral form. If you're a friend, neighbour or a professional, you can refer someone too, but please do discuss it with them first and gain their permission. We are also looking for a chef and sous chef to help us bring festive cheer and delicious food to those in need. Could you help or know someone who might?

Please contact us via marjie@linkvisiting.org or 0118 9798019



Local heaths in winter - start with a stonechat!

As summer drew to a close, the nightjars left our heathlands to make their epic journey to sub-Saharan Africa. But not all heathland birds take this option. As the weather turns colder, spare a thought for our Dartford warblers. These brave little birds have spent most of the summer working hard to rear as many chicks as possible and must now face the winter. The Dartfords 'choose' to sit out the winter rather than risk a hazardous journey to warmer climes. It's a trade-off that will pay dividends if we have a mild winter, but won't end well if we have a harsh one!

If you're new to birdwatching and would like to get to know heathland birds, start with a stonechat. Much easier to see than the secretive Dartford, it often perches on the top of gorse bushes, even in winter, flicking its wings and making a loud call like two small stones being hit together, "chip, chip; chip, chip". It's also one of the few birds that stays as a pair throughout the winter, so you might spot the male, and the slightly drabber female close by.



Stonechat © Rob Solomon



Dartford Warbler © Rob Solomon

Once you've got your eye in on stonechats, they might lead you to a Dartford warbler, as they can sometimes be seen together. People say the warblers are picking off the insects disturbed by the larger birds. So if you see a pair of stonechats, look out for a Dartford warbler skulking along behind them! A fleeting glimpse might be all you'll get at this time of year.

The Dartford warblers rely on gorse bushes to get them through the winter. A dense thicket of gorse will provide food, such as spiders and insects, and shelter from the elements. Listen out for their buzzy calls on your winter walks.

Our local heathlands include Bramshill Forest; Crowthorne Woods; Eversley Common; Yateley Common and Yateley Heath Wood. Find out more at www.tbhpartnership.org.uk.



Some of our recent activities

Here are just a few of the things we have been up to over the last month or so. We have:

- Held a Main Council meeting, and meetings of the Planning and Roads & Road Safety Committees.
- Attended the Berkshire Association of Local Councils AGM (Cllr Roland Cundy is on the Executive Committee) and a meeting of the Gorse Ride Steering Group (Cllr Steve Bowers chairs the Group and Cllrs Becky Eytle and Chris Driver also represent us).
- Started drafting our budget for 2022/23.
- Confirmed proposals for a Platinum Jubilee Award - see page 5 of this newsletter.
- Worked with the Uniformed Youth Groups and the Parochial Church Council on arrangements for Remembrance, and attended the event on 14 November.
- Held four roadside speed watch sessions - thanks to the great team of volunteers including Parish Councillors and local residents.
- Provided a replacement Union Flag for the California Ratepayers Hall.
- Received a further £29,175 in Community Infrastructure Levy funds (developer contributions).
- Congratulated the Finchampstead Future team for securing a grant of £5060 which will cover the costs of the current consultation (see page 2 of this newsletter).
- Let four allotment plots.
- Saw our part time Litter Wardens collect 39 sacks of litter from our roadsides.
- Had 1552 users on our website with 3873 page views.



The Finchampstead Future Group, made up of Parish Councillors and local volunteers, continues to work on the **draft Finchampstead Neighbourhood Development Plan.**



Staff are now working in our office at the FBC Centre on certain days, while continuing to work from home on other days. If you would like to see a member of staff please get in touch to ensure we will be in the office when you wish to visit.

We are still meeting using video conferencing and members of the public are welcome to attend a Main Council or Committee meeting - please contact us if you would like to do so.

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH OFFICE, FBC CENTRE, GORSE RIDE NORTH, FINCHAMPSTEAD RG40 4ES
Tel: 0118 908 8164 email: clerk@finchampstead-pc.gov.uk www.finchampstead-pc.gov.uk



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