



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

Remember, if you do not have Covid-19 symptoms, you can still get a rapid test to ensure you aren't infected.

There are many test sites in the borough where you can get tested or collect home test kits.

Free tests are available until the end of March.

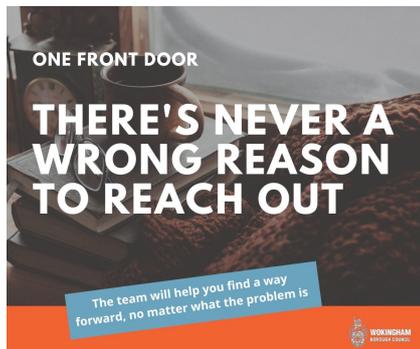
To find your nearest test site visit www.wokingham.gov.uk/covid-19/testing-and-vaccinations/covid-19-testing/

STAY WELL & HEALTHY IN 2022

If you're asymptomatic and want to get a rapid Covid test or collect home test kits, visit our website to find your nearest testing site. Opening days and hours may vary.



Protect yourself. Protect others. Protect our borough.



One Front Door, a service led by Citizens Advice Wokingham, can help residents find the support and advice they need on a range of different topics from energy costs to loneliness, mental health to welfare benefits and debt.

Visit www.citizensadvicewokingham.org.uk
Email contact@citizensadvicewokingham.org.uk

Telephone 0808 278 795

citizens
advice

Get involved in the Covid Community Legacy Project

The Borough Council wants to capture life in the borough during the pandemic, and provide a platform for residents, and people who work, study and do business in the Borough, to share their experiences of living through the uncertainty since March 2020.

The Covid Community Legacy Project is about you; what you felt, did, learnt, created, and changed during the pandemic.

CONTRIBUTE TO THE COVID LEGACY COMMUNITY PROJECT

We're inviting residents to share objects, sentiments and personal stories



Share your 2020 and 2021 lockdown experiences, accomplishments, lifestyle changes and life events with us!



You can contribute photos and sentiments about how you got through the last two years by handing them to reception staff at all participating libraries or email them to CEM@wokingham.gov.uk

<https://news.wokingham.gov.uk/news/contribute-to-the-covid-19-community-legacy-project/>



Join the Volunteer Centre for its Volunteer Recruitment Fair at the new Community and Charity hub, Erfstadt Court, Denmark Street, Wokingham on Wednesday 23rd March 11am-2pm.

Drop in anytime and meet local charities needing your support! You can speak to Citizens Advice Wokingham; ABC to read; Involve Community Services; First Days Children's Charity; Home-Start Wokingham District; Wokingham Link Visiting Scheme; @PINC and Wokingham Foodbank. We look forward to seeing you then!

www.volunteerwokinghamborough.org.uk

Parish Councils and Councillors make a massive difference to local people's quality of life. They are passionate about their communities and seek to make a change to help improve their residents' lives.

We have a vacancy on the Council - if you are interested in joining our capable and enthusiastic team of Councillors please get in touch with Katy Dagnall, Parish Council Clerk, for an informal chat.

Telephone 118 9088164

or email clerk@finchampstead-pc.gov.uk

CALLING ALL COMMUNITY HEROES



YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL NEEDS YOU! MAKE A CHANGE BECOME A COUNCILLOR

To find out more contact: [Finchampstead Parish Council](mailto:clerk@finchampstead-pc.gov.uk)

0118 908 8164

or email clerk@finchampstead-pc.gov.uk

inalc



For more information about the Parish Council and its activities please visit our website www.finchampstead-pc.gov.uk

We welcome feedback on our website - if you have any comments or suggestions please get in touch by emailing clerk@finchampstead-pc.gov.uk



The Finchampstead Annual Community Litter Pick

Sunday 3rd April

Would you like to help keep our beautiful Parish clean and tidy? We all need to do our bit for the environment, and what better place to start than in your local area?

To be part of a worthwhile community event, why not gather family, neighbours and friends and arrange a group litter pick in your neighbourhood?

Please remember to wear suitable clothes, shoes and gloves. If you do not have litter pickers or hi viz jackets, these can be collected along with green bags prior to the event from the Finchampstead Parish Office. Filled bags can be put out with your normal weekly waste collections.

Alternatively, you can join larger groups meeting at the FBC Centre and The Greyhound, Longwater Road.

For more information please contact Finchampstead Parish Council.

ADOPT A STREET



If you can't join us on 3rd April but would like to do some litter picking, please get in touch to find out more about our Adopt a Street Scheme.

deputyclerk@finchampstead-pc.gov.uk

Finchampstead Parish Council

FBC Centre, Gorse Ride North

Finchampstead RG40 4ES

0118 908 8175





Platinum Jubilee street parties

The Borough Council has set up an easy way for people to apply for a road closure so they can hold a street party to mark the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee this summer - and closures agreed will be free of charge.

Residents and community groups normally have to pay to cover the cost of road closures (for the signs, diversion routes and admin needed) but we are dropping this fee for the jubilee weekend of June 2 to 5. Applications can be made by May 15 via the simple form on the council’s website <https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/.../apply-for-a-platinum-jubilee-street-party/> Applications must still be made because major roads, bus routes and those that need to stay open for emergency services cannot be closed.

Finchampstead Jubilee celebrations

Plans are being put in place to mark the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

On Thursday 2 June events will include:

- **Picnic in the Park at Finchampstead Memorial Park**, The Village. Approximately 6.30pm to 8.30pm. A free event including a Brass Band concert. Bring your own picnic.

Those taking part can then walk up to St. James’ Church, or drive to the Church if necessary.

- **Beacon lighting at St. James’ Church**. At approximately 9.00pm, people will assemble at St James Church for the lighting of the Beacon on the Church Tower, linked to the National celebrations for the Jubilee. There will be a Piper, and potentially the Church Choir.

Finchampstead Parish Platinum Jubilee Awards



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



This is the last call for nominations for our Platinum Jubilee Awards - please let us have your nominations by 14 April.

Please email deputy-clerk@finchampstead-pc.gov.uk
or visit our website www.finchampstead-pc.gov.uk

Finchampstead Library opening times

Monday	14.00-17.00
Tuesday	14.00-17.00
Wednesday	9.30-13.00 and 14.00-17.00
Thursday	14.00-17.00
Friday	9.30-13.00 and 14.00-17.00
Saturday	9.30-12.30



www.wokingham.gov.uk/libraries



Garden waste sign up is now open for new customers



More than 24,000 residents are already signed up for the garden waste service, which takes away garden clippings, grass cuttings, leaves and weeds fortnightly - using this means residents can have 6,240 tonnes of green material collected from the kerbside each year – more than one large skip.

Residents already using the council's garden waste collection will be contacted next month to renew their subscription.

For more information and to sign up visit www.wokingham.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling/garden-waste/order-garden-waste-collection/

Did you know you could be throwing out food unnecessarily? The date labels on our food can sometimes be very confusing - so, what do they actually mean?

BEST BEFORE: Your food will be at its best before the date given. After this date, it might not be at its best, but it will still be safe to eat. Use your senses to make a judgement.

USE BY: You must not eat food past the 'use by' date. You cannot always smell the bacteria that causes food to spoil, so after the 'use by' date the food may appear perfectly fine to eat, but could still lead to food poisoning.

DISPLAY UNTIL / SELL BY: You don't need to worry about these.



RECYCLE YOUR BATTERIES

Please recycle me at a designated recycling point!

You can take me to supermarkets, electrical stores or bring me to one of re3's recycling centres.



Got a drawer full of old batteries at home?

Always recycle them at the designated recycling points, i.e. at the supermarket, or one of re3's recycling centres.

Never put your batteries in your recycling, or normal rubbish, as this can cause fires.

You can recycle batteries at the Finchampstead Library at the FBC Centre; the One Stop Shop on Barkham Ride and at Wokingham Tesco.

For other locations and to find out where to recycle other items visit www.recyclenow.com



Win prizes for riding your bike and achieving your personal goals! During **Ride Anywhere week**, choose why you want to ride and Love to Ride will send you helpful tips, tricks and tools to help you get the most out of riding your bike.

Register for **Ride Anywhere Week** before 11:59pm on 20 March and you will be entered into a prize draw to win a £250 local bike shop gift card.

Register now at lovetoride.net/wokingham

News from the Friends of Finchampstead Ridges

On our first volunteer task day on Wednesday 9th March we were once again joined by an enthusiastic team from Salesforce (corporate support volunteers) and this coincided with a walking group from East Berkshire taking advantage of the Car park to start their walk. With the many dog walkers that are regular visitors this meant a full capacity facility with overflow parking on the road!

Areas of Woodland require constant review and the area for attention on this visit was the path exiting Simons Wood at Wellingtonia Avenue which is the natural extension to Holly Bush Ride.

This had become overgrown with mature *Rhodendron ponticum* which was a hindrance in particular to the horse riding community.

The images below show the path before and after the volunteer session. What an improvement!



www.finchridges.co.uk



Baby badgers emerging, moorhens mating and yew trees reproducing in the breeze are just a few of this month's great wild highlights to look out for.

www.bbowt.org.uk/blog/pete-hughes/our-top-10-wildlife-sightings-march



Peacock butterfly on bluebells

This is the time of year when queen bumblebees, who have spent the entire winter hiding safely underground, emerge from their holes.

The first thing the queens will do on emerging is go and find some spring flowers such as snowdrops, crocuses or daffodils, to drink as much nectar as they can. They need the energy: the next thing they have to do is go and find a suitable nest site - often a disused mammal burrow - and start building their nest and laying the first of many eggs.



How to make a mini nature reserve



- 1 Choose your site**
Choose a safe place to put your window box – somewhere like an old bench or wall at an easy height for inspection.
- 2 Gather your materials**
 - window box
 - a small log
 - yoghurt pot
 - some compost
 - a rock
- 3 Fill the box with compost**
Always use peat-free compost and save our precious peat bogs.
- 4 Add a few features**
Dig in the yoghurt pot and add the small log and rock.
- 5 Leave!**
- 6 Keep a diary**
Record the changes you see. Make notes using guidebooks and take a photo every week.
- 7 Management**
Remove out of control plants or cut them back with scissors.

www.wildlifewatch.org.uk

with thanks to patrick roper for original idea (windowboxwildlife.blogspot.com)

Wildlife Watch is here for kids that can't get enough of exploring the great outdoors or those desperate to find out a bit more about the weird and wonderful creatures we share our world with. It's part of the Wildlife Trusts.

Find more information, activities and resources at

www.wildlifewatch.org.uk

Making your garden wildlife friendly doesn't mean it has to be messy! Find out how to make a log pile; make your garden bat friendly; look after our worms; make a bug hotel; help hedgehogs; grow a mini meadow and much more at www.bbowt.org.uk/blog/tag/wildlife-gardening



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 a Planning Committee meeting
- Attended a meeting of the Gorse Ride Steering Group (Cllr Steve Bowers chairs the Group)
- Attended the opening of the Community House in its new home on Gorse Ride South
- Had a presentation from Barratt David Wilson on the latest three parcels of housing coming forward at Finchwood Park
- Purchased replacement traffic speed and volume recorders so we can resume our monitoring of local roads
- Received two grant applications from local groups. These and a further two already received will be considered by the Finance & General Management Committee at its next meeting
- Saw Cllr Roland Cundy elected as the Chair of the Berkshire Association of Local Councils
- Successfully completed the first stage of the internal audit for 2021/22
- Put plans in place for the 2022 Community Litter Pick (see page 3 of this newsletter)
- Saw our part time Litter Wardens collect 40 sacks of litter from our roadsides in 41.5 hours
- Started planning our Annual Gathering for Parishioners to be held at 7pm on 31 May - a date for your diary
- Completed the staff appraisals
- Had 1011 users on our website with 2802 page views - the most popular pages were the local walks / circular walks pages



The Finchampstead Future Group, made up of Parish Councillors and local volunteers, has now submitted the **draft Finchampstead Neighbourhood Development Plan** to the Borough Council for initial review.



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.

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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