



## Remembrance 2022

The sun shone for the Remembrance Parade and Service at the Memorial Park on 13 November.

The Parade was an impressive sight. It was led by Royal Navy Sub-Lieutenant Harry Jukes and the Reverend Leonard Onugha, followed by veterans and a huge number of young people from the local uniformed groups - Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, Guides, Brownies and Rainbows - plus their leaders.

The Service held at the War Memorial included a rededication of the Memorial in its new setting adjacent to the Park.

We estimate that around 300 people were present at this important local event.



Finchampstead C of E (Aided) Primary School held a Remembrance Assembly at the War Memorial on 11 November.

The Head Teacher described it as a 'magical event' and said that the School will make wonderful use of the Memorial in its new location.



Thank you to the Barkham Hookers Crochet Group for the lovely decorations at the California Crossroads.

The Parish Council gave the group a donation last year toward the cost of materials used for the decorations.





## Cost of living help

Visit the Hardship Alliance's cost of living help hub for the latest advice for you and your family.

<https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/cost-of-living/>

The hub includes information on how you can get support with food and fuel, your health, household bills, household essentials and more.

There is also help if you are unemployed and seeking work, or not working.

### Support if you're job hunting and feeling the pinch from cost of living

Check help you could get on  
the cost of living help hub

[www.wokingham.gov.uk/cost-of-living](https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/cost-of-living)



### Help if you're not working

Support while you find a job:

- Extra financial help
- Cheaper broadband
- Adult education options
- Learn new skills
- Volunteering

[www.wokingham.gov.uk/cost-of-living](https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/cost-of-living)



**Citizens Advice will be at:**

**FBC**

**Tuesday** • 6th December 2022  
• 3rd & 31st January 2023  
**between 9:00 and 12:00**

**with our Mobile Advice Unit.  
Providing free, confidential  
advice, information and support.**







## **Ground-breaking regeneration work starts at Gorse Ride**

The regeneration continues with ground works starting on Phase 2A of the project.

The contractor, Wates Residential, will be on site for 36 weeks undertaking enabling works including trenching for new drainage and infrastructure for services, levelling the ground, digging and building foundations up to the damp proof course level. Works will also start to form the new roads.



The project will see 249 new modern homes built on site which includes an incredible 74% of affordable homes to meet growing local demand. Four properties will be designed to accommodate the needs of people moving into the regenerated new homes for example wheelchair accessible with level access to shower facilities.

The housing regeneration scheme will see homes built for the future with sustainability in mind. This includes high levels of insulation and low carbon innovations to help residents heat their homes efficiently, helping to tackle the fuel poverty crisis whilst also reducing the borough's carbon footprint.



## **Closure of the Gorse Ride Woods play area**

Following a safety inspection of the Gorse Ride Woods play area, the Borough Council has announced that unfortunately it needs to be closed immediately.

Works on utilities need to take place underground beneath the park for the Gorse Ride redevelopment and the hoarding initially installed is too close to the play equipment.

The Borough Council said that it had hoped to keep some of the park open whilst work takes place, however the safety of residents is the priority.

A new park will be provided in the regenerated community. In the meantime, please do make use of the nearby play areas at the FBC and California Country Park.

For any queries regarding the Gorse Ride regeneration, please contact [gorseride@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:gorseride@wokingham.gov.uk)

For queries regarding play areas, please contact [cleanerandgreener@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:cleanerandgreener@wokingham.gov.uk)

## **Roads open!**

The Ridges (B3348) finally re-opened on 27 November after being closed for over 18 months due to subsidence.

The Nine Mile Ride Extension opened on 10 November.





## CALLING ALL COMMUNITY HEROES



Finchampstead Parish Council  
**NEEDS YOU!**

MAKE A CHANGE  
BECOME A COUNCILLOR

### Councillor vacancies

We have two vacancies on the Council. 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.

If you are interested in joining our busy and enthusiastic team of Councillors please get in touch with Katy Dagnall, the Parish Council Clerk, for an informal chat.

Telephone 118 9088164 or email  
[clerk@finchampstead-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@finchampstead-pc.gov.uk)



### WHAT DO LOCAL COUNCILS DO?

Your local (parish and town) council has overall responsibility for the wellbeing of your local community. Their work falls into three main categories:

- Delivery of services
- Improve quality of life for residents
- Give communities a democratic voice

Local councils run numerous services, depending on the size of the council. Many you will see day-to-day, but some are less known. These include introducing solar panels, setting up dementia-friendly groups, organising community buses, creating neighbourhood plans, implementing suitable housing, establishing youth projects, managing allotments and open spaces, maintaining footpaths, public seating and litter bins.

### BECOMING A LOCAL COUNCILLOR

As a local councillor you can become a voice for your community and make real change. Local councillors are the champions of their community who invest time in local projects and issues to the benefit of residents and the neighbourhood.

Local councillor responsibilities fall into three main categories:

- Decision-making
- Monitoring
- Getting Involved locally

Local councillors attend to local needs of residents, local groups and businesses, make decisions on local services, collaborate with district and borough councils to adhere to local needs, and progress vital projects to invest in the future of the community.



## Rigid Plastics



### **Recycle broken plastic buckets, plant pots and more**

Do you have any rigid plastic items at home that you want to throw away?

Common rigid plastic items in households include plastic buckets, milk crates, laundry baskets, storage boxes, garden furniture, pet carriers, toys, plastic plant pots and more.

Instead of throwing them away and having them sent to landfill, things like old toys or garden furniture, if they are still in good condition, could be given a second life by donating them to a charity or sell them to the others.

If they can't be re-used or repaired anymore, take them to the re3 household waste recycling centres in Reading and Bracknell. They will be recycled and turned into high-quality, almost 100%-pure secondary raw material for producing new products.

<https://re3.fccenvironment.co.uk/site-facilities/>

However, rigid plastic items contaminated with paint can't be accepted. Neither will fibreglass sheets, garden hoses, plastic film, or car seats with textiles.

Recycling rigid plastic also reduces carbon (CO2) emissions. It is estimated that every 100 tonnes of recycled rigid plastic can contribute to avoid 250,000 kg CO2 emissions, which is equivalent to the consumption of 180 cars.

To learn more, visit the re3 website <https://re3.fccenvironment.co.uk/>



### **Seal your green bags**

As we have entered a wet season, please don't forget to seal your green recycling bags whenever they are out. Remember to also tuck the two sides of the bags in to better protect the recycling from the rain.

Recently, four loads of recycling were rejected at the recycling plant because of the soaked paper and cardboard inside. It can still be processed as recycling if it is a bit damp, but when it is soaked through it will most likely be rejected.

If the load is rejected, it has to be disposed of like general rubbish. It is not only worse for the environment, but also costs us twice as much.

### **Christmas and new year rubbish and recycling collections**

See the last page of this newsletter for details of waste and recycling collections over the festive period.





## Staff vacancy on the Council

We have a vacancy for a part time Deputy Clerk. If you or anyone you know is interested in a varied and busy role supporting the work of the Clerk and the Parish Council please get in touch.

Contact Katy Dagnall, Clerk, on 0118 908 8164 or 07802 669004 or email [clerk@finchampstead-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@finchampstead-pc.gov.uk)

Full details of the role can be found on our website at <https://www.finchampstead-pc.gov.uk/job-opportunities>



## Library consultation

Each of the 9 libraries in Wokingham Borough provides a wide range of services including book and audiobook lending; online books, newspapers and magazines; music streaming, children and adult activities and events. Also on offer is free public computers; free public Wi-Fi, which can be used on own devices; printing and scanning, and space for studying. Libraries act as a community hub where people can collect refuse bags, seek advice and information, apply for jobs, apply for benefits and other online applications and access and find out more about council services.

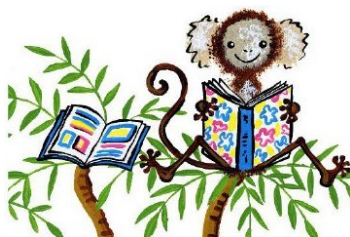
The survey will inform the council how libraries can best meet the needs of residents and communities now, and in the future.

The survey is open until Tuesday 6 December at <https://engage.wokingham.gov.uk/en-GB/>

## Let's build!

**Finchampstead Library** has a drop-in LEGO Club session on December 1st. If you love LEGO, then stop by and see what you can build. This session is open to ages seven to fourteen.

**The Little Explorers Book Club Library Challenge** is a great way for young children to discover their local library. It is open to library members aged 7 and under.



- Each child needs to have their own library card
- Children collect a stamp each time they borrow books
- Collect six stamps to get a certificate
- Ten certificates to collect



Drop into the Finchampstead Library for more information.  
<https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/libraries/>



## What a way to spend a Winter's Day !

In November the regular volunteer team from the Friends of Finchampstead Ridges were joined by our corporate partners from Salesforce to assist with the Heathland clearance.

The Heathland is a precious habitat in the UK and particularly in the South of England. It is important that the invasive self-seeded Birch and also Bracken is regularly removed to encourage the growth of the Heather.

We aim to manage this environment so that there is an age range in terms of plants this can then benefit birds who look for this habitat which include Nightjar, Dartford Warbler and Stonechat also a number of invertebrates make this habitat their home. The ideal time to carry out this work is out of nesting season.



Another area South of the this pocket of Heathland also needed attention following the removal of Rhododendron in recent years. The task here was to cut and burn the previously cut Rhododendron and to discourage further by cutting back the regrowth.

[www.finchridges.co.uk](http://www.finchridges.co.uk)

## Early bird rewards for winter riders

Register for Love to Ride Wokingham's Winter Wheelers cycling scheme before 30 November and you could win an early bird prize of a £100 bike shop gift card.

The competition runs from 1 to 25 December and encourages people to get riding on even the coldest months, with prizes available daily to those who saddle up for just 10 minutes or more.

The star prize is a bike worth £1,000, with the winner to be announced on Christmas Day - and it only takes 30 seconds to sign up!

<https://www.lovetoride.net/wokingham>



Until 13 December each journey you take by bus in Wokingham borough will gain you an entry into a prize draw to win a £50 Waitrose voucher.

Full details can be found here

<https://www.innovationvalleyrewards.co.uk/>

or scan the QR code in the poster.





## 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:

- Held meetings of the Planning Committee, the Amenities Committee and Main Council.
- Attended meetings of the Gorse Ride Steering Group (Cllr Steve Bowers chairs the Group), the Finchampstead Park Management Committee (Cllr Simon Weeks represents us), the Borough Parish Liaison Forum (Cllr Roland Cundy is the Vice Chair); the Berkshire Association of Local Councils (Cllr Roland Cundy is the Chair) and the Finchampstead Allotment Association AGM (Cllr Gordon Veitch and the Clerk are our representatives).
- Met the new Emergency Planning Manager from WBC to discuss Finchampstead Emergency Response. We plan to reinvigorate FER and will be contacting our volunteers soon!
- Met WBC Highway Officers to discuss the next stage with the future improvements to the 'war memorial junction'. For the latest update visit <https://www.finchampstead-pc.gov.uk/history/war-memorial/war-memorial-junction>
- Drafted our budget for 2023/24.
- Attended the Remembrance Parade and service on 13 November, held at the Memorial Park by the newly relocated War Memorial.
- Continued roadside community speed watch sessions and welcomed two new volunteers to the team.
- Let an allotment plot, and added more applications to the waiting list.
- Had 1247 users and 3323 page views on our website.



The Finchampstead Future Group, made up of Parish Councillors and local volunteers, has submitted the **Finchampstead Neighbourhood Development Plan** to the Borough Council. The Regulation 16 consultation has now closed and the next stage will be the independent examination of the Plan.



[www.finchampstead-pc.gov.uk/community-projects/neighbourhood-development-plan/](http://www.finchampstead-pc.gov.uk/community-projects/neighbourhood-development-plan/)

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

*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](mailto:clerk@finchampstead-pc.gov.uk) [www.finchampstead-pc.gov.uk](http://www.finchampstead-pc.gov.uk)



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## YOUR RUBBISH AND RECYCLING COLLECTIONS DURING CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

Original collection day	Change to
25 December (Sun, Christmas Day) No scheduled collections	
26 December (Mon, Boxing Day)	*27 December (Tues, Bank holiday)
27 December (Tues, Bank holiday)	28 December (Wed)
28 December (Wed)	29 December (Thurs)
29 December (Thurs)	30 December (Fri)
30 December (Fri)	*31 December (Sat)
1 January (Sun, New Year's Day) No scheduled collections	
*2 January (Mon, Bank holiday)	No change
3 to 6 January (Tues to Fri)	No change



### \*Earlier start

Collections on  
27 Dec, 31 Dec and 2 Jan  
will start earlier from 5.30am

Put out your waste  
the night before collections



### Garden waste

Collections will follow  
the schedule above



### Christmas tree

If you use our garden waste  
collection service, cut up your real  
tree, place it in your brown bin or  
sack on your collection day

You may also take it to re3  
household waste recycling centres



### Wrapping paper, Christmas cards, cardboard packaging

Reuse or recycle where possible  
Metallic paper and cards with glitter  
go into blue rubbish bags



### Leftover food

Turn your leftovers into new meals

If you can't eat them all, put any food  
waste into your food waste container  
to turn it into fertilizer

Visit our website for more information on rubbish and recycling  
[www.wokingham.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling](http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling)

