



# Happy New Year

## New year, new start

### GORSE RIDE

A major milestone in the regeneration of Gorse Ride was celebrated just before Christmas with a topping out ceremony to mark the first 16 homes in Phase 2A reaching their full construction height.

Parish Councillor, Steve Bowers, who chairs the Gorse Ride Steering Group, attended the ceremony.

At the start of the new year perhaps it is a good time to try something new.

Every week there is a Finchampstead Health and Wellbeing walk through the fields of Finchampstead or California Country park.

If you enjoy walking and would like to improve your health and meet some new friends the health walks are just what you need..

The walks are led by trained volunteers and the emphasis is on brisk walking to improve your health, but there is always a leader and a backup so that everyone can walk at their own pace.

The walk starts at the Finchampstead Surgery at

10.00 am on a Wednesday and the walkers meet in the surgery car park. If coming by car, please park in the public car park at the rear of the shops and arrive about 10 minutes early. Look for the leader in a red shirt.

Walks are typically around 2.5 miles and take about 50 minutes.

Simon Weeks has led these walks for the last 21 years but retired as leader at the last walk in December.

Councillors would like to thank him for his commitment and dedication to this community activity.

More walk leaders are required and if anyone is interested please contact the Parish Office.

Contact details on last page.

Simon Weeks and walkers on his final walk as leader.



### PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY

The Parish Council is seeking to appoint a forward thinking and proactive Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

Applicants must be able to demonstrate that they have relevant experience; a track record of service achievement and innovation, commitment to public service, be motivated, community focused and possess sound communication and organisational skills.

A Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) qualification is highly desirable, or candidates should be willing to work towards the qualification. Ideally candidates will have an understanding of local councils and local government organisation and procedures including GDPR.

Further details and an application pack is available from our website  
<https://www.finchampstead-pc.gov.uk/job-opportunities>

For an informal discussion about the post contact Simon Weeks Parish Council Chair, by email,

[simon.weeks@finchampstead-pc.gov.uk](mailto:simon.weeks@finchampstead-pc.gov.uk)

The closing date for receipt of applications is  
**12 noon on Monday 5th February.**

## Finchampstead Litter Pick and Spring Clean



**Saturday 23rd March**

**Sunday 24th March**

The Parish are looking for volunteers to take part in the annual litter pick and clean up of the Parish.

Large groups will be working from the FBC Centre and The Village ( meeting at The Greyhound, Longwater Rd).

There will also be smaller groups in other areas of the Parish. Bags and equipment will be provided.

Please contact the Parish office to register your interest and for more information.

Contact details on last page.



# Finchampstead

Parish Council

## STORM HENK

Finchampstead suffered at the hands of Storm Henk by way of large fallen trees across footpaths, bridle ways and roads.

WBC managed to clear trees from major roads to keep us all moving without excessive delays.

However thanks go out to the Councillors together with the volunteers who were out and about in pouring rain, with their power tools, to remove trees which had fallen across the footpaths and bridleways.



Footpaths in the vicinity of the Blackwater river and river Loddon were covered with water but nature has to take care of those!



## Affordable Housing Awards



Steve Bowers, a Finchampstead Parish Councillor, is a member of the Tenant and Landlord Improvement Panel (TLIP) which includes council staff, councillors, the voluntary sector and tenant volunteers.

The volunteers are all WBC tenants and are committed to improving the communities they live in, reducing stigma of being a council tenant and being involved at all levels including housing service contract management and staff appointments.

The partnership ensures tenants are part of decision making and have a voice in the services their landlord provides, ensuring improvements are identified, developed and implemented.

The TLIP wrote "The Tenant Charter" which was placed top in the "Excellence in Community-led Decision Making" category.

## Parish Defibrillators

Councillors monitor the defibrillators monthly to ensure they will be in full working order when required.

In the lead up to Christmas a life was saved at the FBC as a result of this equipment.



Defibrillators can be found :

- ◆ Outside JATS Pharmacy
- ◆ Outside main door Ratepayers Hall
- ◆ Reception at FBC Centre
- ◆ To the right of Main entrance to St James Church Hall
- ◆ To the right of main entrance to The Memorial Hall in The Village

**Citizens Advice will be at:**

**FBC Centre**

**Tuesday 6th February**

**9.30am—12noon**

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



# Finchampstead

Parish Council

## WBC Waste and Recycling changes August 2024

We're changing how we collect household waste in August 2024 – and we're urging you to get ready by considering whether you could reduce, reuse or recycle more rubbish.

These changes, which we've consulted you on, offer us the chance to become one of the top areas in the country for recycling while meeting or exceeding the Government's future targets.

From next summer, most of you will be putting your **general rubbish into a 180-litre black wheeled bin which will be emptied fortnightly**, replacing the weekly blue bag collections.

**Recycling** will still be collected from **free green reusable recycling sacks**, with no limits on how many you put out, but this is going **fortnightly** on the weeks when your rubbish isn't collected.

Weekly food waste collections and subscription-based fortnightly garden waste collections aren't changing.



## Adopt a Street

If you can't join us on 23rd/24th March for the big community "Litter Pick & Spring Clean" and you would like to do some litter picking do consider joining our "Adopt a Street Scheme".

We welcome all volunteers who want 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 your

local area.

We'll provide the kit and you can do as much or as little litter picking as you want, when you want.

We are really grateful to our current volunteers for helping to keep the Parish clean and tidy.

If you would like to get involved please contact us, details on last page.

## ADOPT a STREET and



## Wokingham Transport Scheme needs you

All you need is your own car and some time- there is no cost to you as we reimburse all your expenses.

We are looking for drivers who can provide transport for older people to attend vital medical appointments such as hospitals, local doctors, dentists, opticians, physiotherapists.

We are also looking for drivers who can help with one off social trips (such as shopping

and visiting friends/family in hospital/care homes etc.) and more regular social trips (such as to a lunch club or activity). This may involve dropping them off and picking them up later rather than waiting with them.

Time commitment can be very flexible. If you live in Finchampstead or Barkham and you would like to help, please get in touch!

You must have a full driving

licence and your own car. No specialist car insurance is needed.

Unfortunately, we cannot take on any new volunteers aged under 21 or over 75. Commitment is ongoing and we ideally need a minimum of one day (or a couple of mornings or afternoons) per week of your time.

The vast majority of our drives are weekdays and daytimes, so your availability would need to align with this.

### Please contact

Helena Badger,

Volunteer Services Manager

Email: [volunteer@wok-vol.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@wok-vol.org.uk)

or call 0118 977 0749 to discuss.



# Finchampstead Parish Council

## The Parish Council are pleased to advise over the last few weeks we have:

- In the absence of a full time Parish Clerk, two part time members of staff are managing the affairs of the Parish, together with Parish Councillors, to ensure essential operations are covered. Please bear with us if a communication is not responded to immediately.
- Installed new gates at the allotments.
- Given a grant to the California Association, amongst others, to enable the provision of solar panels on the Ratepayers Hall. This should benefit all those who use the hall for years to come.
- Held regular meetings according to the schedule on the Parish website (see details below)
- The Parish AGM, known as the "Annual Gathering" has been postponed from March 2024 until May 2024. Date to be confirmed.
- The Parish are hoping to run a Basic First Aid/Defibrillator training course in the Spring if the numbers warrant it. Please contact Parish (details below) if you would be interested.



## COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

Community speed watch really does make a difference - in the last year 868 vehicles have been reported to Thames Valley Police for exceeding the speed limit in Finchampstead.

We aim to run a roadside **speed watch** session each week, needing two volunteers per session, but at the moment we are really short of volunteers which limits

the sessions we can run.

Sessions take place on weekdays during the morning or afternoon and last an hour.

After setting up the equipment, the volunteers note down the details of any speeding vehicles.

Training is provided.

Please get in touch if you would like to find out more.



Contact details below.

Volunteering for just one session a month would be really helpful.

### Coming soon....

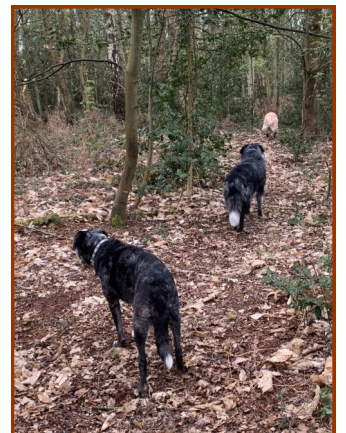


...a friendly neighbourhood  
café & bar

### Attention Dog walkers

A case of ALABAMA ROT has occurred in this area and sadly this can be fatal for dogs. It is believed to have been caught in Simon's Wood but there is a chance it could have been picked up in Minley, Hawley Woods or even Rook's Nest. The most important action to take is to wash the dogs' paws and legs after a walk. For further information go to:

<https://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/diseases/alabamarot>



### FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

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