

E - NEWS

**SEPTEMBER 2016** 

### ARBORFIELD GARRISON STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT LOCATION (SDL)

There is no further news to report at present. The next Community Forum will be held on Monday 10 October 2016 at 7pm at Henry Street Garden Centre, Swallowfield Road, Arborfield.

# Local events and information

- Walk About Britain 3 11 September 2016
  - Walk About is the Ramblers biggest ever nationwide walking festival, encouraging everyone everywhere to discover the joys of walking and to find the best that Britain has to offer on foot. Visit <a href="www.ramblers.org.uk/walkabout">www.ramblers.org.uk/walkabout</a> to find out about walks from short 15 minute health walks to day-long hikes, plus free festival routes to download and an online tracker to log your walking activity and compete for prizes.
- Moor Green Lakes open day Sunday 4 September 2016 from 9am to 1pm.
   See our August newsletter or visit www.mglg.org.uk for details.
- Hogwood Park public consultation event Friday 9 September 2016
   Proposals for residential development and public green space on the training ground at
   Hogwood Park, Park Lane, Finchampstead will be on display at this event on Friday 9
   September 2016 from 4pm to 7.30pm at the California Ratepayers Hall, Finchampstead
   Road. All residents should have received a leaflet about this event.
- Reading Crown Court Open Day Saturday 10 September 2016 from 10am to 2.30pm See our August newsletter or telephone the Crown Court on 0118 9674400 for details.
- Dinton Pastures Country Park Pirate Weekend 17 & 18 September 2016
  Every year there is a pirate quest on Black Swan Lane to celebrate international 'Talk like a Pirate' day. For ages 4+, Adults £8 and children £6. Booking essential.
  Visit www.wokingham.gov.uk/dac for details.
- Wokingham Dementia Alliance Information Day 29 September between 10am and 2pm
   The Alliance exists to encourage and develop awareness and an understanding of Dementia
   in the Community. To find out more come along to this event at Wokingham Library.
- Charity Volunteer Recruitment Fair Saturday 8 October 2016
   Do something amazing! Come along and meet over 25 local charities at this Fair being held at The Bradbury Centre, Rose Street, Wokingham from 10am to 1pm. For details see www.volunteercentrewokingham.org.uk or email volunteer@wok-vol.org.uk
- California Country Park events 9 October 2016
   California Speedway is a free event running from 10am to 4pm. See the original motor bikes from the 1930's 1950's on display.

   Fungus Foray hands on learning about these wonderful life forms. For ages 12+, £8 per person booking essential. Visit www.wokingham.gov.uk/dac for details.
- Book on Finchampstead
   This fascinating new book, produced by the Finchampstead Society, covers the history and character of the Parish. Copies are £10 and are available through the Finchampstead Society see www.thefinchampsteadsociety.co.uk or from the Parish Council Office.

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## **LOCAL WALKS**

Finchampstead has a wonderful network of over 25 miles of rights of way. You can download a footpath map from our website, as well as details of two circular walks starting from St James' Church and Simon's Wood. If you walk regularly you will find the Ordnance Survey Explorer Maps helpful - numbers 159 and 160 cover our area and are available from local bookshops or online.

Through our Rights of Way Committee we aim to ensure that the network of footpaths and bridleways is kept in good condition, well signed and as accessible as possible.

We employ a part time Footpath Warden who carries out maintenance work - mostly on paths in the south of the Parish - to supplement the work undertaken by Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) which is responsible for the majority of paths.

We also work with others over rights of way maintenance, improvements and issues, and are grateful to the Loddon Valley Ramblers Volunteers for their recent help with installing new kissing gates, as well as to local landowners for their co-operation and support over this.

Other current activities include

- Looking into solutions for ongoing drainage issues on some paths.
- Looking into redesignation of a footpath to a bridle path to improve routes for horse riding.
- Monitoring progress with restoration of the mineral extraction workings at Manor Farm and Fleet Hill Farm - when complete these sites will include additional footpaths and bridleways, and links to rights of way in Hampshire on the south of the Blackwater River.
- Monitoring progress with the Green Way network being developed by WBC, a series of connecting routes for walking, horse riding and cycling linking various local facilities and amenities.

A new updated edition of 'Rambling For Pleasure in East Berkshire' - 24 country walks around Wokingham, Bracknell and Maidenhead - has just been published. Copies can be purchased for £7.99 from Heron Maps www.heronmaps.com The ISBN no. is 9781908851239

# **DEFIBRILLATORS & FREE FIRST AID TRAINING**

Just a reminder that there are 3 publicly accessible defibrillators in the Parish - all provided by the Parish Council. These are located at Bathroom Concepts at the California Crossroads, the Memorial Hall and the FBC Centre. We are pleased to report that none of the units have been used to date! If you would like to suggest other potential locations do get in touch.

Free first aid training is available from Heartstart Swallowfield, part of the British Heart Foundation's initiative to provide free short courses for people of all ages equipping them with skills for life. Book your place at <a href="https://www.heartstartswallowfield.co.uk">www.heartstartswallowfield.co.uk</a> or call Gary on 07768 068270

#### FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

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