



ARBORFIELD GARRISON STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT LOCATION (SDL)

The Crest Nicholson Reserved Matters application for Parcels A - G has recently been approved by Wokingham Borough Council (WBC).

Crest Nicholson has announced that it has sold Parcels H, I and J to Redrow Homes. This 15 acre site which will accommodate 220 homes lies immediately south of Parcels A - G and forms part of the southern gateway to the new Garden Village.

Crest Nicholson has recently submitted an application (reference 162881) for a temporary change of use to allow an existing aircraft hangar building on the northern part of the site to be used as a film studio, prior to the redevelopment of this part of the site. The Parish Council's Planning Committee has considered this application and has no objection to the proposals.

Local events and information

- **Remembrance Day Service**

The Service will take place at the Finchampstead War Memorial at 3pm on Sunday 13 November 2016, with the Parade leaving the Memorial Hall at 2.30pm. All are welcome to attend.

- **Finchampstead Library activities**

There is something for all ages at the Library. Adults can enjoy relaxing activities such as creative colouring, a jigsaw puzzle or a game of dominos. Adults with learning difficulties, Dementia sufferers and their carers are welcome at all sessions. These take place from 10am to 12 noon on the first, second, fourth and last Wednesdays in the month. Young children can enjoy '**There's a Bear on my Chair**' **Storytime** on 25 November from 11am to 11.30am, and also meet the Bookstart Bear. Just drop in to this free event.

Moor Green Lakes Nature Reserve

Created through the restoration of gravel workings, Moor Green Nature Reserve was opened in 1993 and provides a wonderful peaceful local wildlife haven. The site lies within the floodplain of the River Blackwater and consists of three lakes, with several gravel islands particularly attractive to wading birds. Ongoing work to the west of the Reserve to restore current gravel excavations will eventually see the Nature Reserve considerably increase in size in future years. The lakes are fringed with willow, maple and scrub, whilst mature oak trees are around the boundary, making for a variety of habitats for birds.

The Reserve is a lovely place for a walk and there is a free car park off Lower Sandhurst Road. To find out more about the Reserve, including how to become a member or to get involved with volunteer conservation work parties and other activities visit www.mglg.org.uk

The Blackwater Valley

The Blackwater Valley offers many fantastic opportunities for outdoor recreation and relaxation. The 37km Blackwater Valley Path is perfect for an afternoon stroll or a longer walk. Following the River Blackwater it takes you through a variety of landscapes and the 10km flat 'multi user' surfaced section is suitable for bicycles, wheelchairs and buggies. Why not walk the path or try one of the area's many circular walks? There are 31 wildlife sites in the Valley, including the Moor Green Lakes Reserve. Walking, bird watching and fishing are popular, but there are also opportunities for water sports, cycling, golf, horse riding and practical conservation tasks. Find out more at www.blackwater-valley.org.uk



PARISH COUNCIL GRANTS & DONATIONS

Each year we make funds available to groups and organisations for activities and services which bring direct benefit to the Parish and / or its residents. Applications for 2016/17 closed in early September and our Finance and General Purposes Committee considered these applications at it's October meeting, as well as various donations. These awards have now been confirmed by the full Council.

Grants have been awarded to Berkshire MS Therapy Centre; Berkshire Vision; Citizens Advice Bureau; Cruse Bereavement Care; Finchampstead Neighbourhood Action Group; 1st St Sebastian Scout Group; Home Start Wokingham; Keep Mobile; Me2Club; Relate; Wokingham Job Support Centre and Wokingham Volunteer Centre.

Donations have been made to help with the running costs of the California Hall and the Memorial Hall; towards the St James' Church Churchyard extension; to Nine Mile Ride, Gorse Ride Junior and Infant and Finchampstead Primary Schools for extra curricular activities; to the Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership and for the youth activities run by the Finchampstead Baptist Church.

SEASONAL TASKS

- **A good time of year for pruning**
Hedges and branches overgrowing road side footpaths make the paths narrower and can mean that pedestrians have to walk in the road. This is a particular problem for people with pushchairs and young children, and for the less mobile or visually impaired. Please ensure your hedges and trees are maintained to keep the footpaths outside your property clear.
- **Grates and gullies**
With tree leaves falling and increased rainfall gullies can get blocked, which can cause flooding, particularly on our roads. Please become a 'grate mate' and keep an eye on any gullies and grates close to your property. If it is safe to do so you can remove any debris from the gulley grate, but please do not attempt to clear the gulley yourself - report it to Wokingham Borough Council on 0118 974600 or www.wokingham.gov.uk.
- **Could the emergency services find you if you needed help?**
Please make sure your house name or number can be clearly seen, especially in the darker evenings. Even when there is a house number or name, addresses are not easy to find when they are in small numerals or letters at the end of a drive. All emergency services have this problem and can be delayed getting to you or your family, so please make your house number or name clear so it can be easily seen by someone in a moving vehicle approaching from either direction.

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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