



ARBORFIELD GARRISON STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT LOCATION (SDL)

To date around 200 new homes on the SDL are occupied, with permission granted for over 600 more dwellings. Work continues to progress on various parcels, with applications for approval for additional parcels coming forward regularly.

The interactive maps at the following link give a useful overview of how the development is moving forward. www.wokingham.gov.uk/major-developments/arborfield-garrison/

Local events and information

- **Understanding the Marine World - 8 November**

This talk will introduce you to some of the most spectacular and fascinating creatures of the sea, and will explain how they have adapted to their environment. 8pm on Thursday 8 November at the Memorial Hall. The event is organised by the RSPB Wokingham and Bracknell Group. Visit www.rspb.org/groups/wokinghamandbracknell for more information.

- **Remembrance Sunday and 'The Battle's Over' - 11 November**

There will be a service at the Finchampstead War Memorial at 3pm on Remembrance Sunday, with the parade to the Memorial leaving the Memorial Hall car park at 2.30pm.

To mark the centenary of the end of the First World War there will be a concert at the St. James' Church Centre at 6pm, featuring the Arborfield Military Wives Choir. This will be followed by the lighting of the beacon on the Church Tower at 7pm as part of the national 'The Battle's Over' tribute. You can find more information at the end of this newsletter.

The Queens Oak will be staying open on Sunday evening if you wish to drop in after the event.

- **California Crossroads improvements consultation - 1, 3, 4 December**

A public consultation on proposals for major improvements to the crossroads area will be held at the FBC Centre, Gorse Ride North on the morning of Saturday 1 December, the afternoon and evening of Monday 3 December and the morning of Tuesday 4 December. Do drop in and have your say on the proposals. Further details will be circulated in due course.

- **New litter wardens**

We are delighted to have two new Litter Wardens hard at work helping to keep our roadsides clean and tidy.

- **California Country Park improvements**

Wokingham Borough Council has now appointed a new Contractor and work on the improvements to the car park and access road has started again. This is expected to be completed in May 2019. The Park will remain open throughout the works.

The second Greenway, connecting the Park with Nine Mile Ride, will be completed shortly as will the outstanding work on gates, access points and links to the first California Greenway.

- **Superfast Broadband**

Gigaclear and British Telecom are working to provide properties in even the most rural areas of Berkshire with superfast broadband. This includes parts of Finchampstead. Unfortunately the work has been delayed, Gigaclear is now due to complete in December 2019, 3 months behind schedule, and BT is due to complete in December 2019, 12 months behind schedule.



Are you interested in the future of Finchampstead?

Finchampstead is a great place to live and work now but what do you want it to be like in 5, 10 or 15 years time? Although at times we may feel that such things are out of our hands, there is a way in which we can have some direct control over the future of our community.

Finchampstead Parish Council is intending to work with the community to produce a **Neighbourhood Development Plan** to map out the future of Finchampstead Parish and we need your help.

Over the next few months, we will be talking to residents, including at public meetings in January 2019, to ask for volunteers to help us with this important task. More information will follow shortly but if you have read this and are already interested in helping, please contact us by telephoning 0118 9088164 or email ndp@finchampstead-pc.gov.uk

Finchampstead: Planning for a Local Emergency

Events such as the storms of winter 2013/14 in various parts of the country overwhelmed many local emergency services. This has shown that no place is safe from some emergency or other and each season can produce its own challenges.

Finchampstead has never had a devastating weather - related or other emergency, but it could happen. Finchampstead Emergency Response has been set up to ensure Finchampstead is prepared for a 'once in a lifetime' event.

A key part of this is having a team of volunteer 'Early Responders' who can make themselves available to help out in the first hours of any emergency, before the Wokingham or Berkshire Emergency Response teams get involved. We are very grateful to those people who have already come forward as 'Early Responder' volunteers, and to our local Halls for offering to act as 'refuge centres' should they be needed.

If you are interested in being involved please contact us on fer@finchampstead-pc.gov.uk If you have any particular skills or equipment you think may be useful do let us know.

We plan to hold an informal meeting for existing and new volunteers over the winter period.

Finchampstead Library activities

Friday activities for under 5's and their parents include **Rhymetime or Storytime** from 11am to 11.30am. The sessions are free - just drop in.

Storytime with the Christmas Fairy - from the Enchanted Players Theatre Company - will be held on Friday 7 December from 11am to 11.30am. Please telephone the Library on 0118 9088176 to book a place.

Regular activities for adults include **Book Group, Computer Workshops, Crochet Group, sessions with relaxing activities such as colouring or jigsaws, and social bridge.** Telephone the Library on 0118 9088176 for details.

The **Finchampstead Society Archive** is open in the Library on the first Thursday of every month from 2pm to 4pm. Discover a wonderful collection of history, local interest stories, maps dating back centuries and a wealth of other information about Finchampstead. Just drop in.



Wokingham Borough Health Walks

If you enjoy walking, and would like to meet some new friends, the Health Walks are just what you need. Every week there are a number of walks around Wokingham Borough, led by trained volunteers, including some of our Parish Councillors.

There are walks for all abilities and everyone is welcome. Walks in or close to Finchampstead are listed below. For the full programme and more information email healthwalks@wokingham.gov.uk or visit www.wokingham.gov.uk

Wednesday 10am - **starting from the Finchampstead Surgery.** A 2.5mile walk through the fields of Finchampstead or the California Country Park.

Wednesday 10am - **starting from the California Country Park.** A gentle 1mile stroll around the lake.

Saturday 10am - **starting from the Tesco car park,** Finchampstead Road. Discover Wokingham's countryside on this 3.8 mile walk.

You can download a map showing the 26 miles of footpaths in Finchampstead Parish from the Parish Council website www.finchampstead-pc.gov.uk Details of 3 different circular walks are also available.

Simple Lunch and Tea & Chat in Finchampstead

These events are a community venture between local churches and both take place in the St. Mary & St. John's Parish Centre, Billing Avenue. Simple Lunch is on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays each month between 12noon and 1.15pm. Tea & Chat is on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month between 2pm and 3.30pm. All are welcome to come along - just drop in.

Friendly Finches

Join the Friendly Finches at the Memorial Hall on the third Thursday of every month from 2.30pm to 4pm. You will receive a warm welcome and can meet new people from the local area for a chat over a cup of tea. For more information call Bev on 0118 9731833 or drop in to the Park View Village Shop/Post Office for a chat.

Would You Like To Make a Difference?

The Link Visiting Scheme is a befriending service for those in our community who feel isolated and lonely. We are looking for friendly faces to cheer someone up and give some much-needed quality time. Weekly visits from someone interested and willing to listen makes a huge difference to someone's life. Training and support will be provided for volunteers.

Please get in touch if you have a couple of hours to spare once a week or once a fortnight. We would love to hear from you! For more information please visit our website www.linkvisiting.org or telephone 0118 9798019 email marjie@linkvisiting.org

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

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WORLD WAR I - 100 YEARS

COME AND JOIN US AS WE COMMEMORATE
THE END OF THE GREAT WAR.

CONCERT ON 11TH NOVEMBER 2018

ST. JAMES' CHURCH, FINCHAMPSTEAD

AT 6PM.

FEATURING THE
ARBORFIELD
MILITARY WIVES
CHOIR.

LIGHTING OF
THE BEACON &
REFRESHMENTS
AT 7pm.

ALL WELCOME

*March no more my soldier laddie,
There is peace where there once was war,
Sleep in peace my soldier laddie,
Sleep in peace, now the battle's over.*



Retiring collection in aid of Military Wives Choir.

When the church is full there will be a video link to the church centre.

For more information contact Finchampstead Parish Council on 0118 9088164 or email
clerk@finchampstead-pc.gov.uk