

# Winnersh Matters

The community newsletter for the residents of Winnersh and Sindlesham



Winnersh Parish  
Council

## Winnersh Fete 21st June

Winnersh Summer Fete will be on Saturday 21st June, 1-4:30pm, on the Bearwood Recreation Ground. There will be lots of stalls and other attractions and a jazz band will be playing to get everybody in the mood. The fete is run by the Parish Council to bring the Winnersh community together. Local groups can fundraise by having stalls (at no charge) and commercial stalls donate part of their takings to charity, this year Age Concern (Slough & Berkshire East) and Thames Valley Air Ambulance. Young people are well catered for with a bouncy castle, obstacle course and a climbing wall. And this year you can try riding a Segway scooter. There is a full afternoon of arena attractions including the Yateley Morris Men with audience participation, wheelbarrow races and the ever popular dog agility display. Why not come along and support your local community? Entry and parking are free.



## Winnersh Litter Pick

Once again the annual Litter Pick held on Sunday 23rd March was a great success. The group met in Sainsbury's car park at 10:30am and walked around the local area filling bags of general rubbish and recyclables. Thanks go to all the volunteers especially the Winnersh Brownies, Beavers and Scouts that gave up their Sunday morning to help keep the village tidy.



### SPRING 2014

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Do you have a message that you need to get out to the community? Get in touch with the Parish Clerk.

#### Winnersh Parish Council

Winnersh Community Centre,  
New Road, Sindlesham,  
Wokingham, RG41 5DU  
Phone: 0118 978 0244  
Email: [clerk@winnersh.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@winnersh.gov.uk)

To Advertise in the next issue please contact the Clerk for more details.

[www.winnersh.gov.uk](http://www.winnersh.gov.uk)

## Would you “Adopt a Street”?

Does litter annoy you, especially along your own road? Following the recent Litter Pick several people expressed an interest in helping to keep their own patch of road clear of litter. By going out whenever it suits you, perhaps for half an hour once a week, you can achieve a cleaner, tidier Winnersh for everyone. You can ‘adopt’ just your stretch of road or a wider area and put out what you collect with your weekly rubbish. The Borough Council can supply you with a litter picker and bin bags. Keeping the streets clear of litter has been shown to deter litter droppers too. If you’d like to help or for more information please contact the Winnersh coordinator David Baker at [david@opendoorconsulting.co.uk](mailto:david@opendoorconsulting.co.uk) or on 0118 978 6772 or 07802 448756.



### Winnersh Parish Council Funding

The Parish Council earns some of its income from letting the playing pitches, main hall, and other facilities at the Community Centre in Mole Road.

It also raises money through the parish precept, which people pay as part of their Council Tax bill. The annual precept for a Band D property in 2014/15 is £28.36.



*The Parish Council is based in the Community Centre, next to Bearwood Rec in Sindlesham*

## WINNERSH COMMUNITY CENTRE

**Big play area for children aged 3 to 15**  
**Outdoor gym equipment**  
**Extensive play grounds**  
**Table Tennis meeting rooms**

Many different groups hire our facilities  
Lots of activities for all ages

Car parking available

**Why not hire our hall, bar or other rooms for your group, family or company event?**

Call the Council Office on 0118 978 0244 for details and availability. For smaller events or meetings the John Grobler or Sindlesham Rooms can be hired for as little as £13 an hour.

### WINNERSH COMMUNITY CENTRE HALL

Recently decorated throughout  
Licensed bar  
Capacity for 190 people (150 seated)  
Kitchen facilities  
Professional catering available  
Car parking  
Facilities for disabled  
A pleasant green field setting  
For hire costs contact Parish Clerk  
0118 978 0244





# Local News

## ***Wheatfield Opening Soon***

Wheatfield Primary School is on track to open in September 2014 after the opening was postponed last year due to a lack of interest. The primary school is one of three built across the borough over the last year to cope with the rising demand for places.

The school is expected to sit empty until it greets its first pupils in September.

An open day held in January by the school's provider welcomed prospective parents to view the new school's facilities.



## ***Annual Toy Run***

Once again Christmas festivities were kicked off by the Reading Christian Bikers 28<sup>th</sup> annual Toy Run. The bikers all dressed up and carried presents. They made their way through Winnersh along the Reading Road, cheered on by the crowds of spectators lining the streets, before reaching their final destination of Barnardo's in Wokingham, where the presents are distributed to children across the UK.

The very first Toy Run was held in 1985 with fewer than twenty riders taking part. Since then it has grown to well over a thousand riders and over a hundred marshals and volunteers.



## ***Winnersh Lights UP***

The switching on of the annual Winnersh Christmas Lights took place on the 6th December 2013 at the Community Centre in Sindlesham. It was a dry night well attended by local residents who enjoyed traditional Christmas refreshments of hot mulled wine and mince pies, generously donated by Sainsbury's, while they were entertained to a selection of Christmas carols and songs by the pupils of Bearwood Primary School. Special thanks go to Jane Barlow from Bearwood Primary School and all the pupils who obviously put in a lot of hard work and practice to make it a very enjoyable experience.

There was a slight panic as the Mayor of Wokingham Borough Council, Councillor UllaKarin Clark, was delayed by traffic congestion in the Winnersh area, but she arrived in time to officiate at the switching on of the lights, which was followed immediately by a firework display arranged by Winnersh Parish Council. Our thanks also go to the ladies of St Catherine's Church, who provided hot refreshments, and the residents who generously donated over £60 on the night towards the Mayor's charity for the year, "Building for the future".

## ***Northern Distributor Road***

Wokingham Borough Council is committed to 1500 new homes in north Wokingham. The North Wokingham Distributor Road is designed to provide access to this new development. The Borough Council ran a public consultation exercise between September 2013 and November 2013 regarding the various options for the new road.

The proposed new distributor road will be in two parts. A single alignment was identified for the majority of the route between Twyford Road and Coppid Beech as there is no realistic alternative. This is called the Eastern Section.

Three alternatives were considered for the Western Section between the Reading Road and Twyford Road. Alternative B is currently the preferred route with a new roundabout just after the M4 motorway bridge, then through Winnersh allotments, over the railway via a new bridge, through the Millennium Arboretum, round the back of the Toutley Industrial Estate following the A329(M) before linking with Twyford Road.

## *What does W.F.A.T stand for?*

The Winnersh Fuel Allotment Trust (WFAT) is a local charity founded in 1892 by a local benefactor who allowed the poor of the parish of Winnersh onto his land at Christmas to gather fuel (wood), so while they might not have a particularly merry Christmas at least they would be warm.

When he died he left a parcel of land just off Old Forest Road, the revenues from which were to be distributed to the poor of Winnersh at Christmas to purchase fuel. WFAT was formed to independently administer this on behalf of the parish.

The Trust has continued to uphold this tradition since 1892 and the Trustees met just before Christmas to review the funds available and to agree suitable beneficiaries. The Trustees then visited each of the beneficiaries to present them with the money and wish them a Merry Christmas.

The Board of Trustees can have a maximum of nine Trustees; there are currently seven and every Trustee has to put themselves up for re-election every four years if they wish to continue as a Trustee.

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## **Winnersh Civic Awards 2014**

*Do you know someone who deserves some recognition for all the work they do in the Community?*

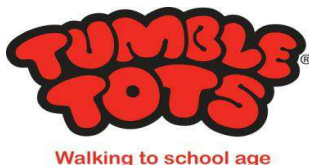
*Then why not nominate them for an award?*

Winnersh Parish Civic Awards are made annually to individuals or voluntary organisations that have made an outstanding contribution to the community within the parish of Winnersh.

Nominations must be submitted in writing by the end of May. Contact the Parish Clerk for more details and a nomination form or visit:

[www.winnersh.gov.uk/civicawards.html](http://www.winnersh.gov.uk/civicawards.html)

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**Britain's leading physical play programme  
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**Sessions at Winnersh Community centre  
and also Wokingham, Woodley, Finchampstead and Reading**

**FREE TRIAL SESSIONS AVAILABLE**

**Contact Helen Davey for details**

**0118 9736711**

**[helen.davey@tumbletots.com](mailto:helen.davey@tumbletots.com)**

**[www.tumbletots.com/reading](http://www.tumbletots.com/reading)**



**Winnersh Library:** Winnersh has a well-stocked library in the grounds of Forest School in Robinhood Lane. The library is shared with the school but is open to all Winnersh residents during these hours:

Tuesday	2 pm - 8 pm
Wednesday	10 am - 6 pm
Thursday	2 pm - 8 pm
Friday	10 am - 5 pm
Saturday	10 am - 1 pm

You can buy paper sacks for garden waste from the library.





## ***Flooding in Winnersh***

Winnersh residents should be aware that some areas of the Parish near to the River Loddon and the Emmbrook are liable to flooding. If you are unsure whether your home is affected, call the Environment Agency (EA) on: 0345 988 1188 or visit their website <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/floods/>. This website also has useful advice and includes maps showing the areas which have a higher probability of flooding from rivers and streams.

Residents in areas at risk of flooding can register with the EA for flood alerts to be sent as SMS/text messages to their mobile phones and as automatic voice messages to home telephones and also as emails.

In addition, Wokingham Borough Council Highways Department issue warning messages by e-mail or SMS giving details of major traffic incidents and road closures. You may register for these services via the Wokingham Direct Customer Service Centre on 0118 974 6000 or via the website

<http://wokinghamalerts.datasquirt.co.uk/ManageAlerts.aspx>

After exceptionally heavy rainfall or a 'cloud burst', some roads and streets across Winnersh (and other towns) may become flooded by excess rainwater, which the drains cannot carry. This rainwater may run off roads and into gardens or collect in dips or low points in some roads or streets. It is suggested that residents may wish to consider whether water could collect near to their home and what they might need to do if it rose sufficiently to enter their garages or even their home. This 'surface water flooding' may occur in places well away from the river and streams and at times when there are no flood alerts.

Experience from the recent flooding across England suggests that there is a possibility that power supplies might be disrupted. Loss of mains power obviously affects not only domestic central heating, lighting and television services but also equipments like cordless telephones, modems for internet access and PCs. Residents with only a cordless telephone might wish to consider also having a conventional telephone to use during power failures. While mobile phones may continue to work, it is worth considering how the phone battery could be recharged without mains power; for example with a car charger lead but this normally only works with the motor running.

The Loddon Valley Residents Association (LVRA) is a successful and proactive community-led group working with both Wokingham Borough Council and the Environment Agency dealing with local flood risk. The group is run by Phiala Mehring Tel: 0118 3484807.



Get fit and have fun this year with Fitness in the Park. Exercise with like minded people with hour long sessions in the park at Bearwood Recreation Ground on Tuesday and Thursday evenings between 7pm and 8pm. All abilities welcome. Pay as you go for £6 a session, or sign up to ten sessions for just £48.

**The first session is free.**

[www.facebook.com/intheparkwokingham](http://www.facebook.com/intheparkwokingham)

[www.inthepark.me.uk](http://www.inthepark.me.uk)

**Vicki: 07989 742044**

**Michelle: 07833 224899**

**[inthepark@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:inthepark@hotmail.co.uk)**



## ***Planning Chairman will be missed***

Cllr John Grimson sadly died in December. He joined Winnersh Parish Council in May 2007 and had chaired the Planning Committee for the last five years. In that role he had carefully examined each planning application for the parish and campaigned against inappropriate developments. He also represented the parish on the Wokingham District Association of Local Councils and helped organise the annual conference between the Borough and Parish Councils. Having spent much of his career working for BT he latterly worked in support roles at Waingels College and the Forest School and became an enthusiastic beekeeper. He will be sorely missed for his jolly countenance and for his very active commitment as a councillor.

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## ***News from the Allotments***

The new year is now upon us and the days are getting longer and hopefully warmer and drier. With the arrival of spring thoughts at the Winnersh allotments are now turning to planning this year's crops. Last year there was a late cold spring and the soil was not warm enough to plant early potatoes, peas and carrots etc until way into April rather than March as is the norm. However, nature has a way of compensating and the late spring was followed by an excellent dry and sunny summer.

The blossom of soft fruit like strawberries, raspberries, black and red currants missed the spring frosts and had their best crops for a very long time with a glut of fruit. In the late summer blackberry bushes were laden with their plump juicy fruit and with a good crop of apples blackberry and apple pies were on the menu.

This year there are high hopes again and the dry and warm autumn and early winter has enabled plots to be dug in anticipation of the coming growing season. What will it bring? Who knows? There are two favourite sayings in having an allotment, "any crop has a 50/50 chance, it either grows or it doesn't", the second is, "there is always next year".

The Winnersh allotments have been in existence since 1948 and there are 74 plots, some of which have been divided into half plots to enable more people in Winnersh to have one. They are situated just off the Reading Road behind the BP garage. The site has running water with taps at regular intervals that enables the soil to be kept moist so encouraging good growth.

There is currently a very short waiting list, so if anybody who lives in the parish of Winnersh would like an allotment now is the time to apply. Contact the Parish Clerk at the Community Centre, Sindlesham or ring him on 0118 9780244.

One last word of warning. Allotments are extremely pleasurable and give a great deal of satisfaction but also require ongoing hard work and involvement.



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## ***WINNERSH ALLOTMENTS OPEN DAY***

**Saturday 14th June 2014 13:00pm - 16:00pm**

Winnersh Parish Council is holding an Open Day so come and view the hidden wonders of the Allotments for yourselves. Talk to the allotment holders, discover the joys (and hard work) in owning an allotment. Entrance between the Motorway Bridge and the BP petrol station.

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## ***Wokingham Information Network (WIN)***

Your guide to services and organisations in the Wokingham Borough. Adults, vulnerable adults, families and professionals can use the online directories and telephone services to find local information.

For Adults Tel: (0118) 974 6772

Email: [info.win@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:info.win@wokingham.gov.uk)

For Families Tel: (0118) 935 2255

Email: [info.families@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:info.families@wokingham.gov.uk)

**[www.wokingham.gov.uk/win](http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/win)**





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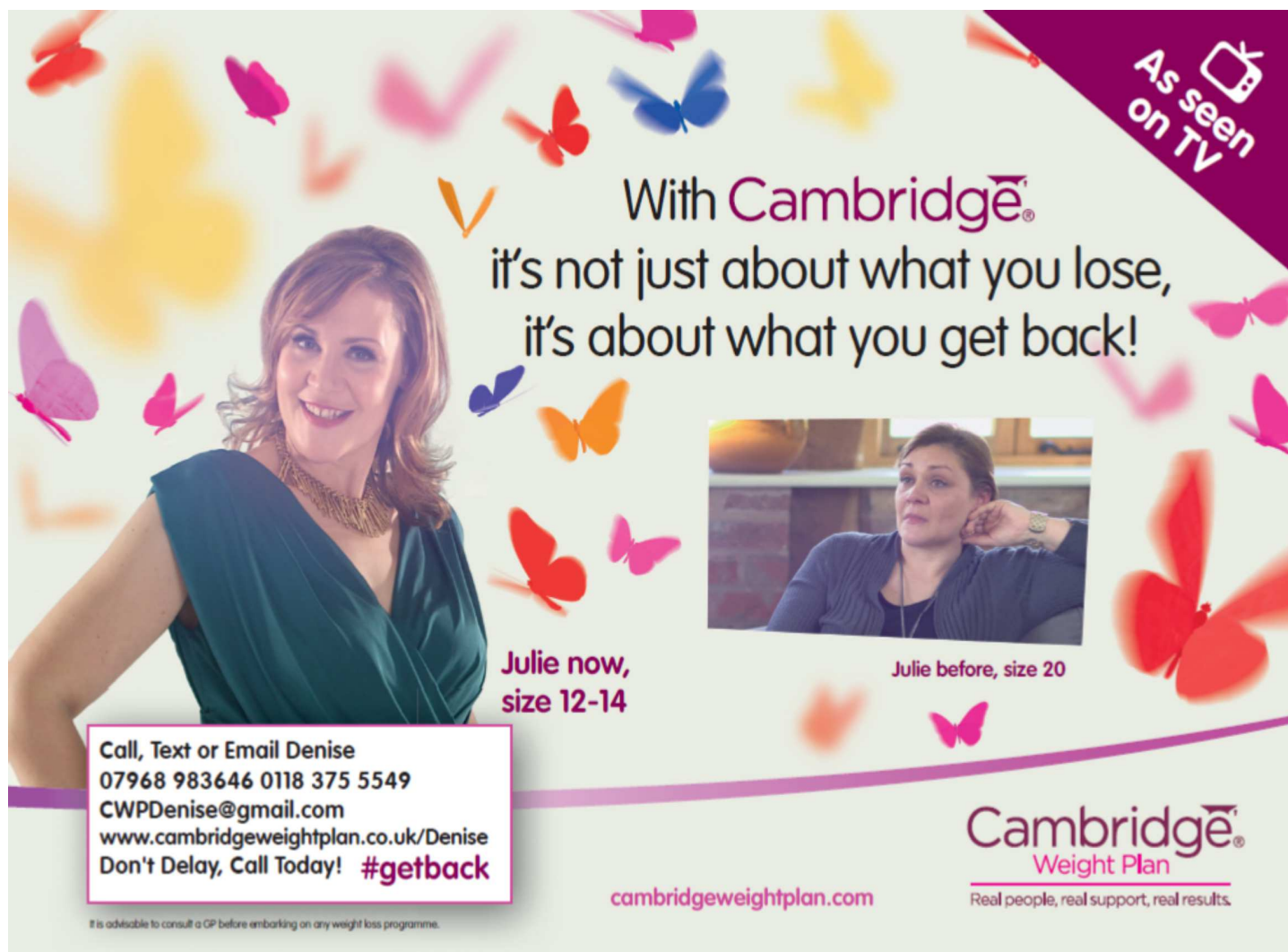
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It is advisable to consult a GP before embarking on any weight loss programme.

## Useful contacts

### Thames Valley Police

Emergency calls dial 999  
Non-emergency calls dial 101  
Crime Stoppers 0800 555 111  
NHS Direct dial 111

To find your next "Have Your Say" session with your local PCSO.

[www.thamesvalley.police.uk/yournh-tvp-pol-area-n258-meet](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/yournh-tvp-pol-area-n258-meet)

### Community Wardens

Telephone: 0118 974 3798

or email: [communitywardens@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:communitywardens@wokingham.gov.uk)

### Community Development, Rainbow Park

Rose Green: 0118 989 4280

### Winnersh Neighbourhood Action Group

[www.winnersh-nag.org.uk](http://www.winnersh-nag.org.uk)

**Floodline:** 0845 988 1188 or 0345 988 1188

[www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)

### Winnersh Parish Council

The Parish Council meets on the second Tuesday of each month (except August), starting at 7.45 pm in the John Grobler Room at the Winnersh Community Centre, Mole Road, Sindlesham (by Bearwood Recreation Ground).

See [www.winnersh.gov.uk](http://www.winnersh.gov.uk)

### Wokingham Borough Council

Wokingham Direct 0118 974 6000 or  
[Wokinghamdirect@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:Wokinghamdirect@wokingham.gov.uk)

Website: [www.wokingham.gov.uk](http://www.wokingham.gov.uk)

### Veolia

To order a garden waste bin or to organise the collection of bulky items: 0118 909 9360 or  
[Wokingham.enquiries@veolia.co.uk](mailto:Wokingham.enquiries@veolia.co.uk)

### Winnersh Adopt-a-Street Litter Pick Scheme

Telephone David Baker: 0118 978 6772  
or email: [david@opendoorconsulting.co.uk](mailto:david@opendoorconsulting.co.uk)