

Winnersh Matters

The community newsletter for the residents of Winnersh and Sindlesham



**Winnersh Parish
Council**

Winnersh Summer Fete is Back!

*Saturday 4th September 1:00 – 4:30pm
at the Bearwood Recreation Ground*



Later than usual this year, the Winnersh Fete is back with all the range of attractions we last saw in 2019. Come and support the many voluntary groups and local businesses that will be there while enjoying the varied entertainment in the arena.

There will be lots to entertain the young with a multi-activity bouncy castle, inflatable assault course, climbing wall and circus skills – all free to use. Why not get involved by entering the wheelbarrow races or tug of war contest in the arena before watching the ever-popular birds of prey display?

Catering options will include burgers from the Scouts and cakes and hot and cold drinks by the Winnersh Churches as well as ice cream, candy floss and a bar. Our main charities this year are The Cowshed (local recycling of essentials for those in need) and Place2Be (children's mental health).

We hope to welcome you on 4th September!

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Winnersh Parish Council

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Winnersh Allotments

It is just over two years since the Winnersh allotments relocated from behind the BP garage on the Reading Road to the new site behind the British Legion Club in Woodward Close. What a transformation in that period, as the two photos show, the allotments have gone from bare soil to an orderly structured site with lush crops, fruit bushes and trees. The ploholders have worked extremely hard to achieve this transformation and their efforts show in the crops and fruit they are now harvesting.



Like any new venture there have been teething problems. The first was that Wokingham Borough Council, the landlords, had a dispute with Thames Water which delayed water connections until December 2019.



Without water the allotments could not have prospered. Fortunately, a good fairy came to the rescue. The farmer, Paul, who leased the land adjacent to the allotments ran a water pipe from the mains on his land to a standpipe on the allotments.

Resourceful ploholders then brought water tanks to their plots which were used as dip tanks to fill watering cans. Not ideal but allowed enough water to be available to keep crops growing and newly planted shrubs and trees alive. The second major problem was too much water. The building of the two roadways through the allotments interfered with the natural drainage so during prolonged periods of heavy rainfall the water could not drain away which made some plots unworkable.

One of the fruit trees in the newly planted orchard died as its roots were sitting in a pool of water. The replacement tree is growing strongly. After Winnersh Parish Council made representations to Wokingham Borough Council drainage was installed along the majority of the motorway side plots and down the bottom five plots on the top row of allotments.

There is now almost no standing water following heavy rainfall. Further representations are being made to continue the drainage to the end plot of the motorway row that will finally alleviate all the bad drainage problems down that side. Life has settled down now and ploholders are enjoying and reaping the benefits of their labours.

Parish Contacts and Meetings

Staff

Parish Clerk - Philip Stoneman clerk@winnersh.gov.uk

Assistant Parish Clerk - Kate Lang kate.lang@winnersh.gov.uk

Community Engagement & Lettings Officer - Joanne Yeomans Joanne.yeomans@winnersh.gov.uk

Caretaker - Chris Fazey

Caretaker (P/T) - John Rees

Meetings of the Parish Council

Recreation & Amenities Committee (first Tuesday of the month - except August)

Full Council (second Tuesday of the month - except August)

Planning & Transport Committee (third Tuesday of every month)

Finance & General Purposes Committee (fourth Tuesday of the Month held quarterly)

The meetings all start at 7.30pm and take place at Winnersh Community Centre.

Checkout the new Winnersh Parish Website at www.winnersh.gov.uk

Climate Change Locally

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Report of November 2018, highlighted insufficient real progress towards capping global temperature rises to 1.5c.

In action will lead to an array of increasingly severe negative impacts locally, nationally and globally.

- Even a further half a degree rise would have catastrophic consequences including:
- Even greater frequency and severity of extreme weather events,
- Further loss of bio diversity,
- Harm to human livelihoods and quality of life.

This year will see the United Nations 26th Conference of the Parties (COP 26) coming together for a major climate change summit in Glasgow. The world is taking this necessary step to change human behaviour for the next generation.



Winnersh Parish Council established a Climate Change Emergency Working Group on the 10th December 2019 to investigate and propose to the parish's Full Council the ways that it can reduce its carbon footprint with an aim to become carbon neutral by 2030.

It will undertake this role by:

- Reviewing all the functions of the Parish Council, including lighting, land management and supply chains with an aim to reduce carbon.
- Reviewing and updating all Policies of the Parish Council in relation to carbon reduction.
- All proposed projects put to Full Council or any Standing Committee to include a Climate Change Impact Assessment.
- Work with neighbouring Town and Parish Council's as well as the Borough Council on the Climate Change Emergency.
- Develop a 'live' Parish Council Action Plan that will compliant with the Borough Council's Climate Change Emergency Action Plan where it is relevant to Winnersh Parish Council.

Some successes included the completion of replacing the more energy hungry fluorescent tube lighting in the Parish Council facilities with low energy usage LED. Changed its waste and recycling contractor to enable more to be recycled. Installed dual use waste and recycling bins at Bearwood Recreation Ground.

Our 64-panel solar system generated 15.259 MWh of electricity in the past 12 months.

6 new trees and a small Sindlesham Oak sapling grown from an acorn as well as hedging were planted in the corner area of Bearwood Recreation Ground.

We have eradicated bonfires from all Winnersh Parish Council controlled land and have commenced the establishment of a Wildflower meadow off Hatch Farm Way in partnership the developers Bovis Homes and Persimmon Homes.



Winnersh Parish Council e-Newsletter

From September a monthly e-newsletter will replace the paper version of Winnersh Matters. The newsletter will be available to view on-line on our website or we can email it direct to you. To receive the e newsletter by email please register your details on our website or email admin@winnersh.gov.uk

Your email address would only be used for the purpose of sending the e-newsletter and for no other purpose.

Observing the weather Part 4 Days with....

In previous articles the following observations have been covered rainfall, air temperature and wind. These all require instruments and open space to enable accurate measurements to be taken, but 'Days with'

For example, fog it is much easier to make observations.

Fog is measured when the visibility in any direction from the observer is less than 1,000 metres.



The first step for the observer is to obtain the distance of certain objects away from their observation point, for example their back garden, window etc. This could be a building in the distance, a tree or river. It is helpful to have several at 1,000, then if you want to choose other distances such as 750 m, 500 m etc this allows for the observer to note how thick the fog was at the time of the observation.

Distances can be measured using a scale rule and an Ordnance Survey map or using electronic means.

Fog can occur at any time during the day, but the key observational time is 09:00 GMT.

Photo of fog observed on 5th November 2010 across Bearwood Recreation Ground. The tree in the foreground is the Sindlesham Oak.

Thunder heard is measured when the observer hears thunder. It is always useful to note if the thunder was loud or distant and note the time. If a storm carries on for some time, then the final time that thunder was heard is noted. Lightning may be seen in the distance, but if thunder is not heard then a note is made that lightning was observed only. This is because thunder is rarely heard over 20km away.

As a guide, when a flash of lightning is seen, count the time in seconds between the flash and the start of the thunder, then divide this by three. This will give a rough estimate of the distance to the storm in kilometres.

Snow falling is measured by observing snow or sleet falling at any time of the day. The snow or sleet does not need to settle on the ground.

Snow lying is measured when snow is observed covering 50% or more of the ground, excluding surfaced areas. The depth of the snow is measured in centimetres. The key observation time is 09:00 GMT, but a note can be made at other times.

Hail is measured when hail stones are observed to be falling. These balls or pieces of ice tend not to be around for long as the air or surface temperature is usually well above freezing level and they are melting quickly. The size of the stones can be measured, less than 5mm is common, but above 5mm do occur and over 10mm are noteworthy.

Winnersh Parish Council seeks Four new Councillors

Would you like to help your local community by becoming a Parish Councillor? Do you have a few hours you could spare to attend meetings and help with the running of the Council? If so, we would like to hear from you. This is a voluntary role so you will not be paid, but there is a lot of satisfaction to be gained from helping run local services for local people.

Winnersh Parish Council is based at the Winnersh Community Centre (located at Bearwood Recreation Ground) where we maintain the open space, sports pitches, play areas, outdoor gym and the community centre. We also manage the newly created allotment garden in Woodward Close. More details about what we do can be found on our website www.winnersh.gov.uk.

If you would like to find out more then please contact the Chairman of the Council, Cllr Paul Fishwick, Tel: 0118 989 3769 paul.fishwick@winnersh.gov.uk or Philip Stoneman (Parish Clerk), Tel: 0118 978 0244 clerk@winnersh.gov.uk

An application form is available from the Parish Clerk (or downloadable from our website) and you will need to complete and return this by noon on Monday 30 August 2021. A shortlist will then be drawn up and applicants meeting the requirements of the role will be invited to attend a meeting of Full Council on the evening of the 14 September, and that will be an opportunity to meet councillors and staff, and to present your application. We look forward to receiving your application.

Winnersh Railway Stations Adoptions

Both railway stations are important gateways to Winnersh and the Parish Council are determined to help ensure these are kept clean, safe and attractive for our commuters and visitors.

We are fortunate to have two railway stations on this important railway line and see rail as a key mode to sustainable travel from and to the area and an asset to help tackle Climate Change.

The plan to adopt the stations has taken some time and we have been engaging with the Community Rail Partnership, South Western Railway and Network Rail since April last year. One issue at Winnersh station had been the amount of litter and graffiti track side that cannot be cleared by anyone except Network Rail



This has always been classed as a 'low priority' by Network Rail but following the adoption of the station we managed to get them to raise the priority and scheduled the clearance work over two weekends during March 2021 when the trains were not running. This was very much appreciated by the Parish Council, residents, and users of the station. The waiting shelters are in poor condition, and the plan was to upgrade these with specific artwork but the Covid pandemic had delayed progress on this. However, draft designs are now in progress. Once the Parish Council are in a position that they are satisfied with this next part of the project the Parish Council would then welcome a wider participation of Winnersh residents to get involved in the station adoptions. Any volunteer accessing the station to work including maintenance on any of the assets within the agreement would require training.

Finally, the Parish Council have been and continue to be in discussions with the Local Neighbourhood Police and South Western Railway/British Transport Police about security of station users.

Tell us what you want - what you really really want



The Winnersh Community Centre and Allnatt Pavilion (at Bearwood Recreation Ground) have served the community well for half a century. They have been well maintained but are in need of significant upgrade or replacement to bring them up to modern standards. We also want to ensure they are energy efficient and can offer more attractive and flexible spaces for a wider range of activities.

It is the Parish Council's dream and ambition to have the best possible facilities and activities available for the community.

In deciding whether to upgrade or replace the buildings to achieve the dream and ambition we need to know what type of activities and services our community require. We want our offering to be enticing enough for people to want to spend time at our facilities, whether that is before, during or after any groups or classes you may attend. So, for example, a café to meet up with family and friends, perhaps after dropping children at the local school or just enjoying a day in the park.

Alternatively, you may just want to use the Bearwood Recreation Ground in which case are there any changes or improvements you would like to see in our park?

To help us understand and create a plan for the facilities we would like to hear your suggestions, however diverse they may be, so we are creating a questionnaire so that you can easily tell us what you really really want. We are keen to get as many responses as possible so we are asking you to please complete the questionnaire – it will only take a few minutes of your time, and your responses will shape the parish council plans for the future. Once we have your input we will pull together all your ideas and share with you those we are able to include in the plans going forward. We are keen to move this project forward, so please return your questionnaires by 30th September 2021.

The questionnaire can be completed on our website www.winnersh.gov.uk or you can download and email it to parishclerk@winnersh.gov.uk or drop it into our post box at Winnersh Parish Council, Community Centre, New Road, Sindlesham, Wokingham RG41 5DU.

St Catherine's 175th Anniversary

2021 marks the 175th anniversary of the consecration of St Catherine's Church in Bearwood Road in 1846 by the Bishop of Oxford in whose diocese the parish of Winnersh resides. It was built by John Walter II who owned the Times, a very popular newspaper at the time, and at its peak he owned 8000 acres stretching from Twyford to Finchampstead. John Walter also built Bearwood House now Reddam House School, the Walters Arms, Bearwood Primary School and the red brick cottages along Bearwood Road.

He bought the Bearwood estate, Sindlesham, in 1816 and, two years later, married Mary Smythe; their first child, John Walter III was born nine months later. They went on to have Catherine (1819), Henry (1822) Edward (1823) and Fanny (1825).



In January 1844, John Walter II's daughter, Catherine sadly died from enteritis and, following this tragic event, he decided to build a church in the village, dedicating it to St Catherine of Alexandria. On 23rd April, 1846, the service of Consecration was conducted by the Bishop of Oxford, Samuel 'Soapy' Wilberforce, son of William Wilberforce, who led the campaign to abolish the slave trade.

On that first occasion, the congregation arrived at 10.30 in order to 'view' the church and Bishop Wilberforce arrived at 11am to conduct the service. The service took some considerable time as they did not emerge again until 2.30pm, after which the congregation repaired to the 'big house' for a reception.

John Walter II died in 1847 and is buried in the family plot in the churchyard.

In order to commemorate that first service in the church, on Sunday, 12th September, the Bishop of Oxford, the Rt Rev Dr Stephen Croft, will be conducting a commemoration service, which will take place at 11am at St Catherine's. Everybody is welcome.

Over the weekend of 12th/13th June the supporters of St Catherine's held a Flower Festival in the church to celebrate the 175th Anniversary. It was a sunny and warm weekend and the Flower Festival was well supported by local residents and generated much welcome funds in aid of the church. The photo is of an exhibit by Teresa Wingfield entitled The Times that is being retained within the church as it is appropriate to the Church builder, John Walter.



Rev James Warren - Farewell

The Reverend James Warren, Priest in Charge of St Mary the Virgin in Church Close, Winnersh and St Catherine's in Bearwood Road, Sindlesham, has now come to the end of his three-year stay in the parish: he took his last service on 27th June 2021.

During his relatively short time here, James has been a popular priest who was always approachable and supportive of his parishioners.

Following the first lock down, the Rev James opened both the Winnersh Churches for a service every Sunday, Covid restrictions being applied and, while 80% of churches across the country were closed, he continued to preach every week throughout the second lock down, which started before Christmas 2020. He also attended a morning opening of each church midweek – during which he led lively discussions on different aspects of Christian teaching.

For those parishioners who could not attend church, he produced online services and sermons and even, for those with no Internet, hand delivered sermons to their homes.

The Rev James and his wife, Jill, are retiring to a small village just outside Truro in Cornwall where the Rev James intends to while away his retirement fishing off the Cornish coast.

The Parish of Winnersh all wish The Rev James and his wife a very long and enjoyable retirement - and wish him luck with the fishing.

Bearwood Recreation Ground

The area of land now known as Bearwood Recreation Ground was originally part of Sindlesham Common. In the 19th Century many of the local Commons were bought by large and rich landowners in the area. Under the 1843 Winnersh Enclosure Act the land was bought by John Walter II who had bought the Bearwood Estate in 1816. At that time the land was meadows and used for grazing.



In 1926 the Revd William Henry Bailey, who was the Priest in Charge at St Catherine's and the Winnersh Parish Clerk at the time, entered into negotiations with the Bearwood Estate to lease the land for use as cricket and playing fields. Use started in December 1926 and a three year lease was signed in March 1927 at a rent of 10 shillings (50p) per annum. A cricket and sports pavilion was erected, but all traces are long gone. In 1936 Winnersh Parish Council bought the land outright for £500. The area covers just over 10.2 acres.

The land was originally known as Bearwood Sports Ground but was later changed to Bearwood Recreation Ground. It has also been known as King George V Playing Fields. This is a reference to a memorial fund set up when George V died to provide and buy land for playing fields. There are other playing fields, about five, in the vicinity of Winnersh that participated in the fund and are called King George V Playing Fields, Farley Hill and Wokingham are two.



In the 1970's the Bearwood Estate agreed to vary one of the covenants to the purchase and allow the building of the Community Centre, Alnatt Pavilion and Pavilion House. Today the Bearwood Recreation Ground is a vibrant open space enjoyed by its residents. It is the home of Winnersh Rangers who provide youth football every Saturday morning during the season for boys and girls in 13 teams.

History Group

Did you know that we have a massive collection of records and artefacts about Winnersh? For the last couple of years a small group of passionate story tellers have been cataloguing the records and capturing the stories they tell about how Winnersh has evolved to what it is today, the characters that have lived and do live in the village, and the way people have earned and do earn their living.

The stories are tantalising. The pictures and maps are rich and full of detail. The artefacts are moving. The aim of the History Group is to make the archive available to the public and to bring the stories to life. Currently the History Group are working on capturing memories by picking the brains of people who have personal or family memories of Winnersh over the years, myths and legends, the weather, aerial views, and transport. New projects waiting in the wings include Mills, St Anne's, and Covid.

As you can imagine many of the items in the archive collection are fragile. The group was lucky enough to get some advice on conservation techniques and as a result there is huge conservation task to be tackled to keep the records and artefacts in good condition so they can be used by community groups, schools, and individuals for research or just to satisfy curiosity about the past. For example, you might want to know who lived in the house you live in now, you might want to know what it looked like many years ago, you might be curious about the darker side of Winnersh, you might be curious about transport infrastructure such as roads and pathways.

The Group welcomes any information that could be included in the archive and any people who have special areas of interest who would like to join this very active group. If you would like to be involved in the projects, or contribute to the archive or if you think you have any skills the group might need then please contact the parish council at the Community centre – contact details are on the website.

Christmas Join-a-Party at Bearwood Lakes 2021

You are invited to join us with friends, family and colleagues
for a night of Christmas celebrations

Included in your evening will be prosecco on arrival,
a delicious 3 course dinner with festive novelties,
dancing courtesy of our resident DJ
and plenty of laughs with our Magic Mirror

Book now to avoid disappointment
For more information or to make a booking,
please contact Mandy, our Events Manager on
m.hurst@bearwoodlakes.co.uk or 01183048201



£46.50 per person

(includes an optional 5%
service charge on food and beverage)

Join-a-party nights available are
(for groups from 6 to 110):
Friday 3rd & Saturday 4th December
Friday 10th December
Thursday 16th, Friday 17th &
Saturday 18th December

Bearwood Lakes Golf Club
Bearwood Road, Sindlesham,
Nr. Wokingham, RG41 4SJ
01183048200



Non-Members welcome

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