

# Winnersh Matters

The community newsletter for the residents of Winnersh and Sindlesham



**Winnersh Parish  
Council**

## *Winnersh Youth Club*

A new youth club started at the Rainbow Centre in Winnersh in November. For young people aged 8-12 years it runs on Wednesdays during term time from 5:30 to 7pm. The youth club will be run by Berkshire Youth and Wokingham Borough Council.

For more information contact Zara Odell at [zara.odell@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:zara.odell@wokingham.gov.uk)



## *Get help this winter from the Household Support Fund*

The latest round of the Household Support Fund is now open for applications. This is open to those struggling with rising costs of living, struggling to buy food or pay bills, as well as people in receipt of benefits. Our partners can provide £120 in the form of food, fuel or cash vouchers.

Pupils getting means-tested free school meals can get £15 per week, per eligible child, during school holidays. This will apply for half term and Easter holidays.

Visit the Hardship Alliance's cost of living help hub for the latest advice for you and your family.

For more information visit our website.

[www.winnersh.gov.uk/get-help-this-winter-from-the-household-support-fund](http://www.winnersh.gov.uk/get-help-this-winter-from-the-household-support-fund)

### **WINTER 2022 In this issue**

Youth Club	1
Allotments	2
Speedwatch	3
Climate Change	4

#### **Winnersh Parish Council**

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## **Sign up for Winnersh Parish e-newsletter**

As part of our Climate Change Action Plan, Winnersh Matters will become a regular e-newsletter. To ensure that you receive a copy please sign up for the e-newsletter on our web site:

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

**OR**

Email details to **[admin@winnersh.gov.uk](mailto:admin@winnersh.gov.uk)**

***Check out the new Winnersh Parish Website at [www.winnersh.gov.uk](http://www.winnersh.gov.uk)***

## Winnersh Allotments

The main growing season at Winnersh Allotments has come to an end, the fourth since the allotments moved to the new site off Woodward Close in April 2019. The site is now looking like allotments as plotholders make their individual mark on their plots.

Despite the long hot summer with little or no rain plotholders have had a good year with good crops of vegetables. Runner beans were poor early on as the heat prevented the flowers from setting and hence no beans. However, the arrival of cooler, wetter weather in September brought on a late flush of flowers with a resulting crop of tender beans into October.



The absence of frosts in late spring meant the blossom was not affected and resulted in bumper crops of apples, pears and plums. Soft fruit, strawberries, raspberries and currants, also flourished with good crops of tasty, juicy berries. There is nothing tastier than a recently picked, naturally sun ripened strawberry.

The highlight of the summer was the siting of two bee hives at the allotments. Pollinators including honey bees have been in steady decline over recent recent years and the National Allotment Society are encouraging all allotments to install hives on their sites.

Winnersh Parish Council has for some years attempted to site bee hives at the allotments but for various reasons it never happened. However, earlier this year another attempt was made. An experienced bee keeper took an allotment and agreed to assist in the setting up and looking after of up to two hives. Approval was granted and with the support of the Winnersh Allotment Association the mandatory two metre high secure enclosure was erected and the frame and hive were built.

The beekeeper then bought a swarm and a queen and installed them in the hive. Unfortunately it was discovered the queen was not laying any eggs and therefore no future generation of bees. Another queen was purchased and is producing a steady supply of eggs and lava.



In July our beekeeper was offered another swarm and queen from a neighbour whose own hives had just swarmed. It had been the intention to start with one hive and if that flourished to install a second hive next year but the offer of a free queen and swarm was too good to refuse so a second hive was purchased and installed and the swarm and queen moved in and is flourishing. In September the hives had a visit from the Government inspector who checks all hives to confirm they are healthy with no parasites or disease. The Winnersh hives passed with flying colours.

Due to not installing the hives until June/July which is quite late in the nectar gathering season it was decided not to take any honey this year but to allow the bees to enjoy it and build up the strength of the hives ready for a good start next year.

Plotholders are being encouraged to grow bee friendly flowers and shrubs such as sunflowers, nasturtiums and lavender to provide the bees with a plentiful supply of nectar. This is not only to the benefit of the bees from the allotments but also has encouraged a wider range of pollinators from wider afield.

The allotments are now going into their winter hibernation and are looking quite sad as plotholders prepare the soil for next spring. However, on a positive note spring is just round the corner.

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***Winnersh Summer Fete will be on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June at Bearwood Recreation Ground. If you would like a stall please email [fete@winnersh.gov.uk](mailto:fete@winnersh.gov.uk)***

## Community Speedwatch

Winnersh Parish Council leads the Community Speedwatch (CSW) in the area. The CSW is a national initiative where proactive members of local communities join with the support and supervision of their local police to record details of speeding vehicles using approved detection devices.

Winnersh and Sindlesham CSW have a schedule of approved sites to monitor traffic speeds and are now actively carrying out surveys at a chosen location. We are now actively looking for more volunteers from the community to enable us to visit more sites and assist everyone in making our roads safer for the travelling Public. Residents can complete an online training course and can then attend a CSW session that normally lasts about 1 hour.

If you are interested in becoming involved with your local CSW group, you can email [Paul.Fishwick@winnersh.gov.uk](mailto:Paul.Fishwick@winnersh.gov.uk) and instructions for applying will be sent to you.

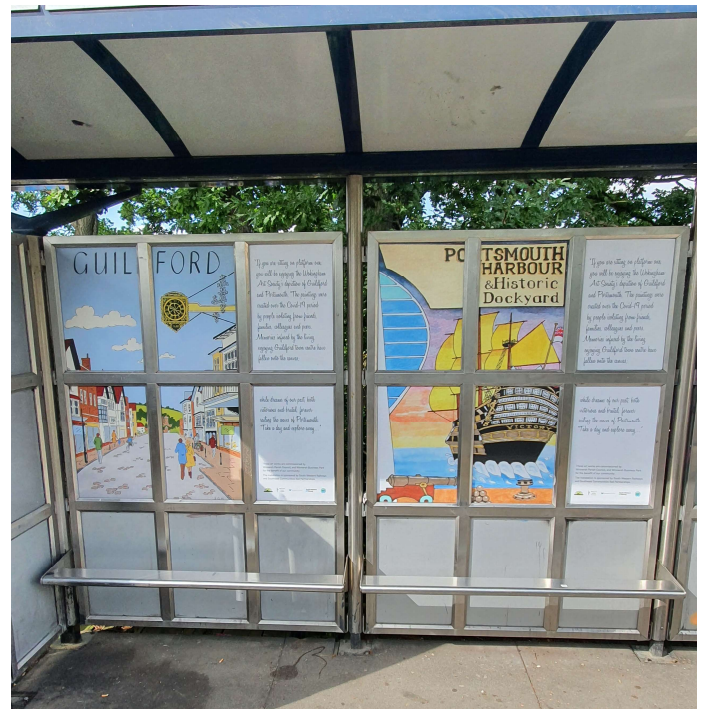
If you are concerned about speeding vehicles, then we would encourage you to join your local Winnersh and Sindlesham group and make a difference.



## Stations adoptions Winnersh and Winnersh Triangle stations

The first set of artwork prints were installed in the shelters at Winnersh Triangle station on 17th May and depict destinations reached by rail from that station.

On Platform 1, it is Guildford and Portsmouth Harbour and on Platform 2 it is Reading and Weymouth.



The same artwork has been installed at Winnersh station. The Parish Council is now working with the Community Rail Partnership and South Western Railway on further projects that could be developed at each station.

If you would like to volunteer to help to look after one of our stations please contact councillor Paul Fishwick email [Paul.Fishwick@winnersh.gov.uk](mailto:Paul.Fishwick@winnersh.gov.uk)

## *Climate Change Working Group - Solar Panels*

A number of years ago WPC invested in a Solar Panel system on the Parish building up at Bearwood Recreation ground. We used the system to supply power to the Community Centre building and also the Council offices. With the recent electricity and gas price increases it became apparent that selling the excess power back to the “grid” is no longer the most cost-effective use of the power produced during daylight hours.

So, what has the Climate Change Working Group done:

- Immersion diverter - we installed a device to direct power to the immersion heater, this means that before we export any power to the grid, we heat the large hot water tank in the Community centre. This helps us to reduce our gas bill.
- Sharing the power – the second community usage building on Bearwood Recreation ground had it's own metered power supply. We combined the power supply so both buildings benefit from the Solar power supply, saving £200 on standing charges alone! and as a bonus we only pay 1 standing charge.
- The latest power cost saving is we connected a lamp post to the building supply, this may sound trivial, but it was on an un metered supply with the recent price increase meant it would cost the Parish over £1000 per year.



So what is next I hear you ask... The drawback with Solar power is that when the sun is not shining we don't produce power, so the solution is Battery Storage. We are currently looking at the costs and benefits of installing a battery, this will reduce our night time power usage for about 8 - 9 months of the year.

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## *Winnersh Parish Council Meeting Dates for 2023*

### **Full Council**

Tuesday 24 January  
Tuesday 21 February  
Tuesday 21 March  
Tuesday 18 April  
Tuesday 16 May (8.30pm)  
Tuesday 20 June  
Tuesday 18 July  
Tuesday 19 September  
Tuesday 17 October  
Tuesday 21 November  
Tuesday 19 December

### **Planning and Transport**

Tuesday 10 January  
Tuesday 14 February  
Tuesday 14 March  
Tuesday 11 April  
Tuesday 9 May  
Tuesday 13 June  
Tuesday 11 July  
Tuesday 8 August  
Tuesday 12 September  
Tuesday 10 October  
Tuesday 14 November  
Tuesday 12 December

### **Recreation and Amenities**

Tuesday 3 January  
Tuesday 7 February  
Tuesday 7 March  
Tuesday 4 April  
Tuesday 2 May  
Tuesday 6 June  
Tuesday 4 July  
Tuesday 5 September  
Tuesday 3 October  
Tuesday 7 November  
Tuesday 5 December

### **Annual Parish Meeting Tuesday 16 May (7.30pm)**

All meetings start at 7:30pm (unless otherwise advertised).

The meeting location will be advertised on the agenda.

### **Finance and General Purposes**

Tuesday 17 January  
Tuesday 25 April  
Tuesday 25 July  
Tuesday 24 October