

WINNERSH MATTERS

The community newsletter for the residents of Winnersh and Sindlesham



Winnersh Parish
Council

Summer 2023

In this issue ...

- Fete roundup ... 2
- Community Speedwatch ... 3
- Allotments ... 3
- Winnersh Stations artwork ... 4

and much more!!

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WILDFLOWERS IN BLOOM

Beautiful wildflowers bloomed this year along Hatch Farm Way and at Bearwood Recreation Ground.

The wildflower areas were planted over the past two years and this year they created an amazing array of colours. Wildflower areas are crucial to providing much needed habitats for local wildlife and insects.



Wildflowers provide bees, butterflies and other pollinators with food throughout the year. On a single day in summer, one acre of wildflower meadow can contain 3 million flowers, producing 1 kg of nectar sugar. That's enough to support nearly 96,000 honey bees per day.

PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

Have you ever considered becoming a Parish Councillor?

Following the elections in May 2023, there are currently two vacancies on Winnersh Parish Council.

By becoming a Parish Councillor you become someone your community will look to for help, guidance and support, a community leader with the power to influence decisions for the benefit of the people you serve.

Seeing your community change for the better, as a result of decisions you have helped make, is something that can give you a sense of achievement and pride.

We hope to co-opt new members at our meeting September 2023.

To find out more about the role or to apply, contact the Parish Clerk or speak to one of your Parish Councillors.



WINNERSH COMMUNITY CENTRE SOLAR PANELS

New battery installed to use more solar energy

In 2016, as part of our plans to combat climate change, we installed solar panels on the roof of the Winnersh Community Centre.

This has dramatically reduced the amount of energy used directly from the national grid.



Now we have taken another step towards reducing our usage by installing a battery unit to store excess energy and use it during the evening and overnight.



By utilising the energy produced from the solar panels and stored in the battery, not only have we reduced our utility expenditure, we have also saved over 17,000kg of CO2 emissions, equivalent to over 1,000 trees planted.

ALL THE FUN OF THE FETE!



Another fabulous Winnersh Summer Fete was held on Saturday 17th June at Bearwood Recreation Ground.

The event, which has been running for many years, is the Council's key event of the year, providing a fun filled afternoon of entertainment for local residents.

This year the weather was extremely kind and the sun shone for the whole day.

The arena hosted a packed programme of dance and competition. Dance performances came from The Dance Zone while Bearwood Primary School performed traditional maypole dances.

The wheelbarrow races and tug-of-war competitions were hugely popular and Winnersh Rangers FC were finally knocked out as reigning tug-of-war champions by Hatchwood Mill residents.

Visitors were entertained with music from Saxcelerate and Circus Scene gave everyone the chance to try their hand at circus skills.



We also presented our annual Civic Awards to three worthy members of the community for their contributions to Winnersh: Graham Clifford, Nadine Chapman-Shave and Harry Peksa. Certificates and prizes were presented by WBC Mayor, Cllr Beth Rowland.



The theme this year was King Charles III Coronation and to commemorate the occasion, our three primary schools, Bearwood, Wheatfield and Winnersh created some amazing artwork which is now displayed in the Winnersh Community Centre. A commemorative bench was also installed in the play area.



Local organisations, charities and businesses offered various tombola, games and gift stalls and the bouncy castles, archery and football were very popular attractions.



There were numerous refreshment offerings including a BBQ laid on by 1st Winnersh Scout group beautiful cakes provided by our local churches, fabulous coffee and brownies supplied by Gorilla Bakes and liquid refreshments from Southern Bar Services.



We are extremely grateful to our local community organisations and charities for attending and supporting the event, to our sponsors (**Legacy Law, Roy Wood Transits and South Western Railway**) and to **Wokingham Borough Council Tenancy Involvement** for provision of inflatables and archery.

Our ever popular raffle had some fantastic prizes kindly donated by local companies (**Reading Football Club, Nirvana Spa, Fraser Properties, Avocado Property, Berkshire Cycles, Mayfields Guest House, Wheelwright Arms, Reading Buses**) and raised vital funds for our two chosen charities, **Link Visiting Scheme and First Days Children's Charity**.



Planning for our 2024 event will start soon and we will be working towards another spectacular event, so save the date - **15th June 2024**.



COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

Community Speedwatch 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.

Registered keepers of vehicles exceeding the speed limit are contacted - initially with a letter explaining the potential risks and consequences of their dangerous behaviour.

Repeat offenders will receive a visit from the local police, irrespective of where they live. Beyond these friendly gestures, focused enforcement and criminal prosecution follow based on the collated evidence.

If you are interested in volunteering to be part of Community Speedwatch, contact **Paul Fishwick** on **07932864636** or at **paul.fishwick@winnersh.gov.uk** to find out more. Details of the scheme can be found at **www.communityspeedwatch.org**

ALLOTMENTS

Would you like to keep fit, join a growing community of like-minded people, improve your mental well-being and at the same time, grow your own fabulous fruit and vegetables? Then why not consider applying for an allotment plot?



Our allotment site, consisting of over 100 plots, is situated at Woodward Close, behind the Royal British Legion building. We are currently accepting applications from Winnersh and Sindlesham residents.



Allotment gardening is great fun and extremely rewarding, but it is also a lot of hard work. If managed properly, an allotment can produce enough food to supplement a family's weekly shop, with fresh fruit and vegetables over the year. There is a growing awareness of the role that gardening plays in both preventing and alleviating mental ill-health.

To find out more or to apply for a plot, call us on 0118 9780244.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Winnersh Parish Council is committed to looking at opportunities to tackle climate change.

A Climate Change Emergency Working Group has been established at Winnersh Parish Council to investigate ways that the Council can reduce its carbon footprint with an aim to become carbon neutral by 2030.

Apart from the solar panels and battery mentioned earlier, all lighting in our buildings have now been changed to LED, we are planning to plant fruit trees at our allotment site later this year, we have connected our pavilion building and car park lighting to the solar panels, created a wildflower area at Hatch Farm Way in partnership with Bovis Homes and Persimmon Homes, installed an immersion diverter in the community centre to heat the hot water using the solar supply, moved to an e-newsletter rather than printed and are looking into the feasibility of EV charging points in the car park.

Do you have any ideas of ways we could reduce our carbon footprint? We would love to receive your ideas of ways we can mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Email: clerk@winnersh.gov.uk



WINNERSH TRIANGLE STATION

Following the installation of 'destination' artwork at Winnersh and Winnersh Triangle stations in 2022, in partnership with Network Rail we are planning to incorporate some fabulous new artwork on the underpass at Winnersh Triangle station.



It is planned that the artwork, in the form of murals, will be created by local artists and students. Suggested themes have included a montage highlighting some of the key locations around Winnersh parish, such as the business park, Winnersh

Meadows, Bearwood Recreation Ground, schools and local shops.

The Sustainable Transport Working Group will be liaising with the local art society and local schools to drive the project forward.

Watch this space!!

SUPPORTING LOCAL BUS SERVICES

The 128 and 129 bus service operated by Thames Valley buses provides a crucial service connecting Wokingham to Reading via Twyford and Sonning.

Winnersh Parish Council is working in partnership with Wokingham Borough Council to provide funding over the next three years to keep the service operational. The funds will be taken from our Community Infrastructure Levy reserve, a charge levied on new development in Winnersh and Sindlesham.

LOVE TO RIDE

Winnersh Parish Council has joined the Love to Ride scheme to get more people cycling. You can track your bike miles, see your carbon savings, set goals, and find help and support to ride more often.

A new challenge is launching soon ... Cycle September, and we are looking for members to join our 'Winnersh Parish Council' workplace. By joining you are also in with a chance of winning some fantastic prizes, just for riding your bike!

Whether you are an experienced rider or you haven't taken to the pedals for some time, join us in the biking challenge on Love to Ride! **You can register here:** <https://tinyurl.com/3rhavmf> or by scanning the QR code



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NEW PLAY EQUIPMENT

Have you seen our new piece of play equipment at Bearwood Recreation Ground?

A new Kompan Motivator unit was installed in May 2023, replacing a previous under-utilised piece of equipment.

The varied activities on the Motivator support children's play and encourage richer play times.

After climbing up either of the steps, using cross-coordination and strength to get to the platform, the varied slides offer rewarding ways to return to the ground, alone or with a friend.



We hope children will find the Motivator great for meeting for play, with all the play variation. The Megaphone adds a social dimension when used to calling friends to the Motivator for more play.