

Arborfield News

Welcome to the first online issue of the Arborfield News

In this issue:

- Parish Chairman's welcome
- Parish Council News
- Where to seek help during the current Covid-19 lockdown
- Borough Councillors report
- Police update and advice from Superintendent Felicity Parker, Commander for Bracknell and Wokingham LPA (Local Policing Area)
- News from Arborfield & Barkham Churches, Farley Hill Bowling Club and St Eligius Church lunchtime concerts
- The 1000 Years of Arborfield story
- And of course the local companies adverts

April—May 2020

Issue Number 134

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

As I sat down to write my bit for this issue I couldn't help but think how the world has changed since writing in the last issue! Not least of all that this issue will be online and won't be dropping through your letter box by our amazing volunteer deliverers. We have no idea how long the current restrictions will be in force for so this may be the first of a few issues which are only published electronically.

We know that not every resident in the Parish is on line so please pass on any information in this issue to a neighbour or friend who you know won't see this electronically.

I'm sure none of you will mind me thanking, on everyone's behalf, all of our front line and key workers who are out there day after day caring for those who have fallen ill or who are unable to care for themselves. Also to everyone who is carrying out a service in order to keep the country going.

My thanks also go to the amazing people who responded to the Clerk's plea for help to deliver a leaflet to every household in the parish from Wokingham Borough Council providing information on where to get or offer help. This information is also available on the village website under the COVID-19 menu heading.

The recent government guidance has meant a number of changes to the Council which is detailed in the Parish Council News article, and which follows my welcome.

Please everyone, stay safe, stay in and help to keep everyone staying well.

Mark Picken
Chairman

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Where do we start! Nothing is operating normally within the Parish Council at the present time.

- The Parish Office is closed for the foreseeable future and the Clerk is working at home on her kitchen table.
- Arborfield Park is closed to vehicles and the playground equipment is also closed.
- Freckles Pre-School has had to close in line with the government's directive on schools.
- After losing so many football matches to a waterlogged pitch the FA stopped all matches as of the beginning of March, and then the sun came out and dried up the pitch.
- Council meetings can't be held in person so a whole new world of meeting remotely has been thrust upon the Council. New legislation for this has had to be written along with legislation to delay when the Council's Annual Return must be with the external Auditor.
- The Arborfield News can't be delivered by the volunteers so is being posted on the website.
- And so the changes go on.....

Contacting the Parish Council

If you need to contact the Parish Council the best way at the moment is to email parishclerk@arborfield.org.uk. If you are unable to email please call 0118 976 1489 and leave a message. The phone and post is being checked a couple of times each week so we will get back to you.

Arborfield Park

The pedestrian access gate on Swallowfield Road remains open for residents to be able to take their daily exercise. Please remember the importance of social distancing—there are several signs placed on the fencing to remind everyone.

Please also remember to pick up your dog's mess and put it in one of the bins placed around the park.

Please do not use the play equipment. The fenced playground gates have

been secured but it hasn't stopped one parent spotted lifting his children over the fencing so they can play. This is totally unacceptable and irresponsible behaviour!

The bottle banks and bins continue to be emptied.

The vehicle gates have been closed in line with Wokingham Borough car parks to discourage people driving to a place of exercise. Several cars have still been arriving and parking up—please do not park in front of the gates, access is still required.

Council meetings

These will be held remotely for the foreseeable future. The platform for this hasn't yet been decided as there are a number of things to consider including security, the length of time needed for a meeting, the number of people who can be included and how members of the press and public can be included. We will post information once this is decided. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 21st April at 7.30pm just as it would have been if it were being held in person.

Audits

The internal auditor was due to visit the Parish Office on 31st March but this has been put back to later in the year now that a time extension has been granted to submit the Annual Return to the external auditor.

The Arborfield News publication

As already mentioned, this issue is available online only. With the length of lockdown not currently known it may be that the next issue will be published in the same way—we will have to wait and see.

The advertisers have been informed and in order to support the businesses they have been offered the opportunity to write an article about their business and how they have had to adapt because of the Covid-19 outbreak. Please take a bit of your time to read what they have said and support them where possible.

Freckles Pre-School

In line with the government's direction for all schools to close other than for key workers children, Freckles has closed until further notice. The Parish Council is supporting them where possible.

Where can you get help and advice from during the Covid-19 outbreak?

Please do not feel alone or stuck without help and advice. Wokingham Borough Council deployed some members of staff to where help is needed and has been working tirelessly with local charities and the numerous volunteers who have put themselves forward to help. In the first instance please contact:

**Citizens Advice Bureau on 0300 330 1189
(if prompted please call 0118 978 7258) or contact
them via admin@citizensadvicewokingham.org.uk**

Wokingham Borough Council has dedicated pages on its website

<https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/health/public-health-campaigns/coronavirus/>

Information can also be found on the village website at <https://arborfield.org.uk/covid-19/>

For Police assistance please see pages 13 and 14 in this issue.

Helpful bits of information during lockdown

If you are on social media and have Facebook follow Wokingham Borough Council for all the latest information and news from the borough.

Refuse—the kerbside refuse and recycling services are continuing as normal.

Brown garden waste bags can be purchased and delivered to you by calling 0118 974 6000.

Food waste caddy liners—this service has been suspended for the present time. Please use alternative bags such as bread bags or line the caddy with newspaper or just put the food waste direct into the caddy.

A number of scams are operating – please do not open your door to anyone unless you were expecting them. Please pass this information on to friends, relatives and neighbours, particularly if they are vulnerable.

Need to entertain the children—check out Wokingham Borough Libraries and the Scouts websites for activities

Guidance for employees and employers can be found at this link <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19>

Most important of all is to stay in, stay safe and save lives.

From Alison the Parish Clerk

Whilst working away on Parish Council business in its new home on the kitchen table at home, I took a few minutes to stop and wander round our garden on a lovely sunny afternoon.

Among all the seriousness and uncertainty of the current situation we all find ourselves in I decided to take a few photos. I am certainly no photographer but I hope, no matter what you might be going through right now, you enjoy the shots I took of some of the spring growth.



Two thousand years ago, there was a man born in poverty, and reared in obscurity. He didn't travel extensively. He possessed neither money nor influence.

As a toddler, he frightened a king; as a child, he amazed religious teachers; as a man, he demonstrated authority over nature and sickness, hushing the sea to sleep and healing multitudes without medicine or charge.

He never wrote a book, yet thousands of books have been written about him. He never wrote a song, yet he has been the subject of hundreds of songs that are still sung around the world today. He never founded a school - yet his students are found on every continent.

He never commanded an army, drafted a soldier, nor picked up a sword, yet no leader has ever had more volunteers who, under his orders, have sought to love their enemies and bring about peace and justice.

Although two thousand years have passed since his crucifixion, he still lives today. Herod could not kill him. The devil could not distract him, death could not destroy him, and the grave could not hold him.

He sits in glory on his heavenly throne, acknowledged by angels and adored by those who trust in Him as their living Lord and Saviour!

Do you know this man?

His name is Jesus and once again this Easter we will be celebrating some of the most remarkable events of his life: his death and resurrection.

You would always be most welcome to join us on Sundays to find out more. We meet at Arborfield church at 10am, and Church at the Green at 4pm in the Arborfield Green Community Centre.

We look forward to seeing you.

Andy Kearns

Minister of Arborfield Church

www.abch.org.uk



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Lucy 07738 304248 lucyh.one2onediet@gmail.com

BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT

Coronavirus and its impact on the public at large is without a doubt the most serious threat to our community since the second world war. The pandemic's spread seems to be accelerating at a rapid rate and by the time you read this the advice will have changed so please keep up to date by all the means available to you.

Sadly, though some people's greedy stockpiling of all sorts of food stuffs has made life very difficult for the vulnerable, elderly, hospital staff and other essential workers needed to keep our society functioning. It's so sad when the actions of a greedy few ruin it for the vast majority of residents.

Wokingham Borough Council has lots of advice and help so it's well worth visiting their website for the latest local information and advice. The website will have a comprehensive action plan to co-ordinate and target a community response.

wokingham.gov.uk A good FAQ has also been compiled by the NHS. Locally what is most important though is if any of you have vulnerable, elderly or infirm residents living close by then please

check if they are OK.

Flooding has been a big problem recently. I did ask the Council to hold a meeting to investigate the causes. The meeting took place recently with Officers which was very positive. The outcome was that the Council has engaged an external consultant (WSP) to investigate. As part of the investigation I requested that they interview affected residents and this was agreed. I will update all when the outcome of the investigation is known.

Tree felling along the A327 and Baird Road has caused concern. Some of the work was approved to protect overhead power cables on the A327 and a diseased TPO tree on Baird Road was felled for safety reasons. Although this work was authorised, by not informing myself or the Parish Council it led to many concerned residents' complaints. I have raised communications with the Borough Council as an issue that needs to be improved.

Damaged fencing on Baird Road has been reported to the Council as has

the state of the litter on the side of the A327 towards Eversley. The Council has been informed and I am awaiting confirmation when the repairs/clean-up is planned to take place.

Fencing along Baird Road by the Bramshill Hunt appears to be encroaching on to highway land and the Borough Council has agreed to look into it.

A planning application to demolish the Bramshill Hunt Pub and replace it with a retail shop has been submitted to the Council. The Planning Application Number is 200362. The Consultation end date is 27-3-2020 and the determination date is 7-4-2020.

CCTV has been erected by the entrance to Poperinghe Way which hopefully will deter the many cases of fly tipping there. So far it seems to be working but it's a case of

watch this space. Many thanks to the residents who worked tirelessly to bring this about.

With the pressures on everyone with the Coronavirus pandemic, I have asked the Leader of the Council to extend any outstanding Council consultations especially the New Housing Local Plan to past its current end date of the 20th of March. This was agreed and now the deadline to respond has been extended to 5pm 3 April 2020.

It's very difficult to know what the future holds with the Pandemic. I will keep the Parish Council and our residents updated as best I can as the situation evolves but in the meantime stay safe.

Cllr Gary Cowan.
Borough Councillor for Arborfield
1 Barker Close, Arborfield, RG2 9NQ
0118 976 0281
gary.cowan@wokingham.gov.uk

Arborfield News—article deadline dates:

June/July issue—5th May
August/September issue—5th July
October/November issue—5th September
December/January issue—5th November
February/March issue -5th January
April/May issue—5th March

1000 years of Arborfield

In the months of April and May we concentrate on mainly two subjects, Arborfield Court and Arborfield Street 1910, but before that there is a display board on the Bentley Family.

The Bentley family were at the heart of the village, both geographically and metaphorically, in their endeavours to make Arborfield a better place to live in. Guy, especially being involved in the cricket club, the gardening association, Parish Council, etc. The three brothers lived in Magnolia Cottage and 1 and 2 Whitewell Cottages. Before the Village Hall was built the doctors' surgery was in Magnolia, then 1 Whitewell Cottages.

Arborfield Court was built in 1906, for Mrs Bunce. We thank Kate Rudd and Sylvia Sussman for researching the fascinating story of this house and providing a comprehensive history of the building.

When Guy Bentley reached the age of seventy he wrote a story of his boyhood days, around the age of seven.

This was a walk from Newland Farm and then down the Eversley Road. He called the story 'Arborfield Street 1910', as the road was then known, mentioning the buildings and people as he remembered them.

To this story we have added a map and pictures of the houses as they were in 1910.

APRIL 2020 THE BENTLEY FAMILY (display board 113)
 ARBORFIELD COURT (114-118)

MAY 2020 ARBORFIELD STREET 1910 (119-123)

As the Village Hall is currently closed to all users the above display will remain in place so it can be viewed once the Village Hall reopens.

If you would like to read more about the history of Arborfield please visit www.arborfieldhistory.org.uk

Message from Supt Felicity Parker Commander for Bracknell and Wokingham police area

I understand that this is a difficult and worrying time for a lot of people as we all make significant adjustments to our daily lives to follow the measures set out by the government. These measures have been put in place to stop the spread of the virus, protect the NHS and save lives.



You will be aware that the police were given new powers to help reinforce these measures and whilst these are an option to us, we will only use them as a last resort. Officers will routinely be stopping members of the public and vehicles to ensure the Government's advice is being adhered to so please don't be alarmed if you are stopped and work with us if you are told to return home.

Here in the Bracknell Forest and Wokingham Borough areas we are out in the parks, shopping areas, housing estates, rural villages to encourage people into staying at home in order to save lives.

This current climate offers up a lot of uncertainty which can make people feel anxious, unsettled and fearful but I want to reassure you that my team and I are still policing your communities, responding to emergencies as well as effecting the Government's restrictions to stay inside and only go out in very specific circumstances.

I want to say a huge thank you to all of you for staying inside and keeping our streets clear and for all the messages of support you have been giving our PCSOs and officers over the last few weeks. Although a large part of our work currently is to make sure people are staying at home, we are also investigating crime, arresting offenders and holding

them to account. Policing still goes on 24/7 and my teams are here to protect you and prevent crimes from happening.

By continuing to stay home, you can protect the NHS and save lives. Thank you again for your co-operation during these challenging times.

Superintendent Felicity Parker

Commander for Bracknell and Wokingham LPA (Local Policing Area)

Useful information and advice

For more information on the Government's restrictions, please [visit the GOV.UK website](#).

You can find a number of frequently asked questions and messages from Chief Constable John Campbell [on our website](#).

You can report a suspected breach of coronavirus measures [through the dedicated form on the Thames Valley Police website](#).

If you need to report anything to us that is not an emergency, you might experience some delays calling 101 so where possible report through [the Thames Valley Police website](#). In an emergency always call 999.

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Mark Picken, Andrew Clint, Vanessa Starkey, Parish Clerk & Linda Fothergill

Tel: 0118 976 1489

Email: parishclerk@arborfield.org.uk

Deadline for the next issue is strictly

5th March 2020

DISCLAIMER

This is a Parish Council publication for the Community.

Any views or opinions expressed in this magazine are those of the writers and are not necessarily shared by the Parish Council.

News from South East Water

Key water workers continue to be on hand to help throughout COVID-19 crisis

'We're keeping our distance, but still here for you' – that's the message from South East Water as almost its entire 250-strong Kent based contact centre has relocated to home working.

With water employees designated as key workers, a mammoth operation has been completed in just under two weeks to install the necessary equipment and systems to keep the call centre open by basing its staff at their homes.

In total more than 600 employees working in different roles across South East Water sites in Kent, Sussex, Surrey, Hampshire and Berkshire are based at home.

Customer Service Director Tanya Sephton said: "It has been a huge undertaking to make sure as many of our employees as possible are able to work from home and this has included our customer service staff, who are crucial to solve any issues and deal swiftly with water emergencies.

"While we are always happy to talk to our customers directly, our website also has a lot of information which answers general queries along with our social media channels and the self-service MyAccount online customer account portal which is quick and easy to use.

"You will still see South East Water staff in the community carrying out vital work including fixing burst pipes, critical maintenance and laying new water mains. They are designated key workers by the Government and will be practising social distancing in line with official the advice, so please, don't approach them.

"We are really proud of all our workforce which has pulled together during this unprecedented situation to make sure our essential workers carry on with their essential work [keeping the water supply going](#) for our customers."

For more information contact Sarah Crowdy on 01634 276434 or email press.office@southeastwater.co.uk

For out of hours media calls please call 0333 000 0365 to arrange to speak with the duty press officer.

FARLEY HILL BOWLS CLUB NEWS – April 2020

If you would like to try your hand at this sport, you will be unlucky this year due to the coronavirus and the lockdown! Our two open days have been cancelled along with all our matches until the end of June. We will be reviewing the situation with other clubs towards the end of June, in the hope that some matches can be played from July onwards. We are a small friendly club in a country village setting, with ample easy parking; at the Victory Hall Church Road Farley Hill RG7 1TR; which is less than 1 mile off the A327 between Eversley and Arborfield.

If you want any further help or information, please contact

Bill Dowling, Club Secretary, on 01344 772130 or
E-mail: secretary@farleyhillbowlsclub.org.uk or
visit our website:

www.farleyhillbowlsclub.org.uk



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Please try to support local businesses
during these difficult times.

The regular advertisers in the
Arborfield News are included in this
issue and up to date information on their
current services can be found on the
village website.



Lunch-time Music

at St Eligius Church, Arborfield Green

Dear Editors,

It is with great regret that the Lunch-time Concerts planned for St Eligius Church, Arborfield Green, in May, August and November 2020 and February 2021 are having to be postponed. This reflects recent government guidance to avoid non-essential gatherings and contact between individuals.

Once we know that it is safe to resume, I will contact you again with a re-scheduled programme, hoping to keep to the same sequence of Concerts as planned before.

I am sure that this comes as a great disappointment to performers and members of the audience alike. We look forward to the time when we are able to get together again with excellent music and a delicious lunch!

I would be grateful if you would publish this information in your Newsletters and Papers.

In the meantime, I hope you stay safe and healthy.

Warmest regards,

Rita Le Var
Organist & Concert Organiser



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