

# Arborfield News



No. 152

Summer Edition—July 2024

# Chair's Update

By the time you read this we will be well into the “summer” and possibly enjoying a respite from what has seemed like an unseasonably cold and wet year; whatever you have planned for the summer holidays, all of us at Arborfield and Newland Parish Council would like to wish you a warm, sunny and relaxing time. If you are one of the 1.2m young people across the UK waiting for GCSE or A-Level results this year, we also wish you every success.

As usual, I will make a plea for anyone interested in becoming a councillor to come forward for a no-obligation, no-pressure chat about what it means to be a councillor. I am particularly interested in ensuring that the council represents the views of all residents in Arborfield, from different parts of the parish, from different backgrounds and all races, genders and sexual orientations. We are a non-political council focused on doing the best we can to make Arborfield an even better place to live – so if you share that goal then please get in touch.

Here are some of the things we have been doing over the past quarter, you can also read more in the Clerk's report where our tireless clerk, Hilary, talks about just some of the things that have been keeping her busy.

## ***Looking after and improving parish owned assets***

In May, we officially opened the new Parish Council office at the completed pavilion (many thanks to all of you who turned out despite the pouring rain). It is great to have this permanent home for the Council and a dedicated room to host our council meetings. The project to refurbish and extend the pavilion has been talked about for more than 20 years, and it's a great tribute to the council, and especially Councillor Murphy and our Financial Officer, Colin Watts, that we finally completed the project.

If you are spending your summer in Arborfield then I hope you will find time to enjoy the new games equipment that the Parks Committee, led by Councillor Starkey, has installed in Arborfield Park. Combining a basketball hoop, football goal, cricket stumps within a secure frame so you don't have to chase the football miles across the grass, it is a great addition to the park and can be enjoyed by all generations.

We are very proud of the equipment that we have in the park, and it is all funded by, and maintained by, the council tax precept that you pay each year. It is therefore deeply annoying when the assets that you have paid for are



damaged as happened to the walkway on the castle structure. Fortunately, since we installed CCTV, we have excellent images of the two teenage girls who were responsible for the damage and these have been passed to the police. We are certain these are local people and they, or their parents, may well be reading this article. While the council, and ultimately their parents, will have to pay to fix the damage, if they wish to make amends then please contact [parishclerk@arborfield.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@arborfield.org.uk) and we can discuss together how to give some time to the Parish in reparation. I'm sure this would be preferable to gaining a criminal record. We have also noticed damage to a couple of the trees in Pound Copse caused either by an axe or a machete. If anyone has any information on who might have caused this, please contact the council.

### ***Working with Wokingham Borough Council***

In May, we thanked Councillor Gary Cowan for his many years of dedicated service to the Parish as Arborfield's ward councillor on Wokingham Borough Council. Gary achieved so much for the community: both tangible improvements, such as the footpath on Swallowfield Road to Henry Street and less visibly, tirelessly representing the Parish within WBC. We presented Gary with a beautiful, human-sized cat sculpture carved by Councillor Stevens from a tree that was felled in the Park; the cat will soon be sited outside the pavilion for everyone to enjoy.

As most of you are aware, WBC has moved to a system of three councillors representing expanded wards and Arborfield (together with Barkham and part of Finchampstead) is now represented by one Liberal Democrat and two Conservative councillors. Depending on the number of votes that each received they will serve either two, three or four years before re-election. This clearly isn't as simple as the old system of a single councillor who could truly represent the Parish but we are building relationships with the three councillors and they are already taking up local issues with officers in the Council.

### ***Local Plan Update***

The next big event in WBC will be the publication of the Local Plan. This is the key planning document that will set out the Council's plans for development until 2040. We understand that WBC will be re-publishing essentially the same plan that was put on hold when the Liberal Democrats took minority control of the Council. If this is correct, then circa 4,000 houses on Hall Farm will be the main proposal at the heart of the Local Plan. Regardless of your

need for house-building, I am sure you will agree that, with more than 3,000 houses being built on the Garrison, this area has already had far more housing than was required to satisfy local needs. We are all experiencing the adverse effects of increased congestion, difficulties accessing primary healthcare and the destruction of local green spaces. While the Garrison site was, in part, brownfield, Hall Farm would represent a whole new level of environmental destruction wrought on our landscape by WBC and the University of Reading, both organisations which proclaim their positive environmental credentials. Hall Farm is prime farmland, a beautiful environment alongside the River Loddon (which regularly floods), an historic landscape that was the site of the ancient Arborfield village where the old Arborfield Church ruins can still be visited. It is also a habitat for bats, skylarks and the native English crayfish. The site is also completely unsustainable: there is no infrastructure and we understand more than £200m will need to be spent on laying down roads, building a new bridge over the M4 and building other facilities across this pristine landscape. This high up-front cost explains why the development needs to be so extensive i.e. the volume of houses sold to pay for the huge amount of infrastructure work needed, and which far exceeds the number of houses that WBC is required to put into the local plan.

There are alternatives which WBC has chosen not to bring forward while enjoying a “strategic partnership” with the landowner, the University of Reading. These alternative sites include Twyford, which benefits from a railway station with fast trains to London and Reading and the Elizabeth Line; Ashridge, adjacent to the M4 junction and within easy reach of Bracknell and Wokingham town centres; or further expansion of the South of Wokingham development. All these sites are more sustainable as they provide easy access to existing population centres, transport and other facilities. They would also deliver much needed houses to other parts of the Borough which have been significantly under-developed compared to the Arborfield, Winnersh and Shinfield area.

The Parish Council will be making a robust response to the Local Plan when it is re-published by WBC and we would welcome any residents who share our concerns over this proposed development to join us in defending our Parish. If you care about our local environment, feel you can assist us in analysing and responding to the Local Plan, then please register your interest with the Parish Clerk [parishclerk@arborfield.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@arborfield.org.uk)

Please enjoy the rest of the Arborfield News, and your summer holidays and again if you would like to join the Parish Council please contact me on [chair@arborfield.org.uk](mailto:chair@arborfield.org.uk)

## ***Andrew Clint***

Chair of Arborfield and Newland Parish Council



## **Did you know?**

E-scooters are classed as motor vehicles - just like cars so the same rules apply: e-scooters need to have a licence, insurance and tax. It's not currently possible to get insurance for privately owned e-scooters, which means it's illegal to use them on the road or in public spaces. If you're using a private e-scooter you risk the vehicle being seized under S.165 Road Traffic Act 1988 for no insurance.

Fixed penalty notices may be issued if you ride an e-scooter with no insurance or with no licence. An offence is being committed if an e-scooter is ridden on the pavement, whilst using a mobile, going through a red light or whilst under the influence. If you're using an e-scooter in public in an antisocial manner, you can also risk the e-scooter being seized under S. 59 of the Police Reform Act. This has recently happened in **Woodley**. **Please take care!**



## The Coombes CE Primary School Arborfield, Berkshire

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### STEM Week

During our Science Week the children had an exciting visit from some very special guests. Through a range of experiences, the children explored the earliest time periods, how things change and develop over time and how our world will continue to change! We wanted to inspire a love of Science and empower our children to become the innovators, thinkers and problem-solvers of tomorrow!





### Eco Day

Another successful Eco Day, to help prepare the area outside our new Eco Room. With the valued help from our parent volunteers they did an amazing job clearing out the pond, digging and preparing the planting area.



**We are still taking applications  
for September nursery  
admissions!**

Please contact us on 0118 976 0751 or  
[office@coombes.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:office@coombes.wokingham.sch.uk) for  
enquiries or to arrange a visit!





What do bricks, bodies and branches all have in common?

Well it's not just the letter they begin with!

In the New Testament (2nd half of the Bible) these are all different ways that the Church is described. In biblical language, the Church isn't the building, it's the people — the community of people who gather to sing God's praises, pray together and listen to the bible being taught... together.

Those three pictures of bricks in the same building, members of the same body and branches of the same root all help give understanding to the importance of community. They're pictures of our dependence on, and need for, one another.

And so it is that each church community is to be a local expression of the church worldwide. Each made up of people from different backgrounds and cultures and languages, with different hobbies and interests, likes and dislikes, gifts and flaws... all called by God to love one another, serve one another, and bear with one another.

There really is nothing else like it on earth! For while each local church community is full of diversity, they're also united in community through their shared understanding of, and love for Jesus Christ.

And it's a growing community too, which is open to everyone. So whether you would prefer to think of yourself more as a brick or a branch, you're always welcome to join us on any Sunday... it may just be the community you're looking for?

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*"so in Jesus Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others"*

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Romans 12:5

Andy Kearns - Minister of Arborfield Church

We meet every Sunday at 10am Arborfield Church

4pm Arborfield Green Community Centre.

[www.abch.org.uk](http://www.abch.org.uk)



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## News from Arborfield Village Hall

On 10th July Village Hall Trustees met with experts from WBC to review energy efficiency at the hall. Despite having been built in the 1930's, the hall is reasonably efficient in terms of heating and lighting, but we felt it well worth our time to investigate what potential savings there were to be made.

We are still going through the process as some questions, like should we fit SOLAR PV panels on the roof, require careful thought on issues such as how long it will take to get a return on our investment. Other things we can do, like filling gaps around doors and putting reflectors behind radiators, are relatively cheap and easy with a quick return in terms of energy savings. Changing our fluorescent lighting to LEDs is a mid-range investment which should be worth it in terms of both energy savings and improved health and safety.

The Doctors have responded to our draft lease agreement to say they have had two-thirds of the funding approved through a Minor Improvement Grant via NHSE. They are still looking at other options to cover the final third, but we hope to hear more from them soon.



On 19<sup>th</sup> July the Arborfield Social Club went out again on a boat trip. This was our second outing on the Thames, last year we visited Mapledurham, this year we went the other way past Sonning. Photos courtesy of Lorna Parker, to whom we all owe a great vote of thanks for organising us! Should you wish to join the club we meet every Friday at the Hall for a “bring and share” lunch. We start at 12.00 and finish at 2.00 pm, all welcome.

I have also been meeting with our Trustees to discuss our “Community Engagement”. We have several ideas which we will be sharing with you all soon in more detail, but as an outline or starting point we have come up with the following:

Saturday and Sunday afternoons are available when the hall does not have any regular bookings. We are considering a few options, including tabletop games and miniatures gaming, arts and crafts, amateur theatre group and E Sports (online gaming). We will be sharing with residents a questionnaire soon and any other ideas you may have for our greater engagement with you, the community, are invited. Get in touch : [chair@arborfieldvillagehall.org.uk](mailto:chair@arborfieldvillagehall.org.uk) or drop a note in the village hall post box (by the front entrance).

There are a wide range of activities already happening at the hall covering many different age groups. We are also available for occasional bookings at weekends. Get in touch via [booking@arborfieldvillagehall.org.uk](mailto:booking@arborfieldvillagehall.org.uk) for more details. See below for an indication of current regular activities:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Pilates	Pilates		Chinese Exercise	Social Club	Toddlers Dance	Pole Fitness
	Sing with Soph	Yoga with Jude	U3A Showtime	Chant with Jude	Wellbeing Music	
Brownies		Dance School	Street Dance	Cheerleading		
Yoga with Julie	Pole Fitness	Morris Dancing	Pilates	Al-Anon		

*Paul Stevens*

Email: [chair@arborfieldvillagehall.org.uk](mailto:chair@arborfieldvillagehall.org.uk) or drop a note in the village hall post box



# Getting ready for the Local Plan Update (LPU)

As the dust settles following the general election and we have a new MP in Wokingham, we can expect to see the updated LPU from WBC shortly. This will be the plan that is submitted to the Planning Inspector.

Whilst the final details are still not available, in recent conversations with both WBC and the University of Reading, it is clear that the next version of the LPU will be largely unchanged from the November 2021 version, with the plan to build 4,500 houses at Hall Farm.

This means that the LPU will include the following:

- The Hall Farm site will be at the heart of the LPU with 4,000-4,500 houses in what will be called Loddon Garden Village. This will mean 30 years of construction in our area with building on a much larger scale than the Arborfield Green development we have seen in recent years.
- The Loddon Garden Village plan will create a swathe of housing from Observer Way in Arborfield through to Mill Lane at Sindlesham Mill, bordered by the M4 and Mole Road/Church Lane.
- To get road traffic off the Loddon Garden Village site, a new bridge will be built across the M4 linking up with Lower Earley Way at the Meldreth Way roundabout.
- The LPU will assume that the Arborfield sewage treatment works can be upgraded to cope with the vast number of new houses. But can we really trust that Thames Water will be in a position to make such an investment?
- We can be sure that the University of Reading will have paid for consultants who will claim that the flood risk on the site can be mitigated, but those of us that live in the area don't need to see hypothetical data. Don't we all regularly see with our own eyes how much flooding already occurs, causing travel chaos and sewage discharge?

Once the updated LPU is published we will have only a short period of time to look into the details and comment. It is therefore vital that we prepare for the public inspection NOW. So keep in touch with the SOLVE – Hall Farm group via the [green4grow.org](http://green4grow.org) website and better still sign up on the [Get Involved](#) page of the



[green4grow.org](http://green4grow.org) website and be involved in the campaign.

**Say No to the Loddon Garden Village.**

### Landscapes of Hall Farm



Photos: courtesy of [green4grow.org](http://green4grow.org)

# Time to explore Arborfield.....

The Parks Committee of the Parish Council has been busy creating three walks for the enjoyment of residents and visitors. All walks start from **Arborfield Park** where **free car parking** is available. Green disks mark the way. You can access the walks on our website [www.arborfield.org](http://www.arborfield.org) or by the QR codes below:

## Walk 1

This walk take you from Arborfield Cross, down into the Coombes Woodland (owned by Arborfield & Newland and Barkham Parish Councils). You will then complete a circuit of part of the woodland. (3.5km /approx. 50 minutes)



## Walk 2

This longer walk explores Carters Hill, crosses Barkham Brook a couple of times and ventures into the beautiful, rural Hall Farm landscape. It also passes by the Old Churchyard (maintained by Arborfield & Newland Parish Council). (6.5km/approx. 90 mins)



## Walk 3

This walk takes you along Wokingham Lane, across Observer Way, over fields (footpaths currently rather overgrown!) and through Pound Copse (owned and maintained by Arborfield & Newland Parish Council). (5.75km/approx. 75 mins)





## Spaces available

Charles Kingsley's (CE) Primary School is a sought-after single-entry primary school in the heart of Eversley village.



Due to the relocation of some of our families we have spaces available. **Please contact the School office on 01189 732187 to arrange a visit.**

## **SHARE in Arborfield**

Bring a £1 donation and a shopping bag. SHARE offers fresh produce, like bread and vegetables, for those who need it. This is surplus stock from local supermarkets and food suppliers—over 40 tonnes of food which would otherwise go to waste. More than 2,000

people use SHARE each week across the borough at 15 different sites.

Running on some **Thursdays** at the **Royal British Legion on Eversley Road, RG2 9PR** from **3.30pm to 4.00pm**. **Dates for the next three months are: 1, 15 and 29 August, 12 and 26 September, 10 and 24 October.**

**More info at:**



# A report from Joseph Barley, one of our Borough Councillors

I am honoured to have been elected as one of your local representatives at Wokingham Borough Council (WBC). I have lived locally for my entire life, attending Barkham Pre-school and Finchampstead Primary School in my early years before moving on to Leighton Park School in Reading.

For the May elections, Barkham & Arborfield were in the unique position of having no incumbent councillors standing and I hope to be a new local voice which can represent you and your views in the best way possible.

Over the last two months I have been getting to grips with my new role at WBC ensuring you, our residents, can rely on us, your new councillors. A topic currently on everyone's minds is development in the local community. Throughout my campaign I promised to combat unsustainable development—particularly as our ward has born the brunt of this for far too long. Last month I attended a WBC planning committee meeting intending to object against the proposed development of, what could potentially be, up to over 100 houses at 31 Barkham Ride. Many of you may already be aware, from the front cover of Wokingham Today or through local residents who attended, how poor an example of the democratic process this meeting was. The committee was plagued with issues including attempting to prevent me from speaking in objection, refusing one committee member a vote as well as some factually incorrect comments and improper behaviour from planning officers. Multiple councillors have already lodged complaints about how poorly the meeting was handled and we will continue to make our case heard to WBC until we reach a satisfactory conclusion.

On top of this with the local plan update due imminently and other developers looking to build further houses, such as the proposal down School Road, we are going to be busy. I am keen to keep a careful eye on proposed developments, especially as to where they lie on the spectrum of sustainability, so that we can fight any unsustainable developments to the best of our ability.

Our local roads are another issue I have been keeping on top of. With another accident taking place at one of the traffic calming islands, it is clear something needs to change before a serious accident occurs. I have been collecting information and been in contact with WBC with the hope that we can get some of the more dangerous islands moved or removed. The School Road closure consultation is also close to many people's hearts in our ward and the new consultation will be an opportunity for residents to make their voices heard to ensure everyone gets a fair deal. I encourage anyone with views on the matter to comment.

In other news, I have been getting in contact with various local businesses and organisations, reaching out to them to ensure they can come to us with any local issues. Recently I met with St. Eligius Church to discuss their new position and involvement within our community following the purchase of the Church from the MoD. I am always looking to keep in touch with residents too; without all your eyes on every corner of the ward, it would be impossible to address every issue we face, whether that be as an individual, or one that affects our whole community. So, if there is anything you would like to discuss with me, please do not hesitate to contact me at:

[joseph.barley@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:joseph.barley@wokingham.gov.uk)

**Joseph Barley**

Barkham and Arborfield Ward  
Councillor



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# A day in the life of a Parish Clerk.....



Well—another three months have flown by in a whirlwind of craziness! There’s been lots happening—including The Pavilion Opening, which unveiled the glorious cat sculpture made for Gary Cowan by Councillor Paul Stevens—soon to be displayed outside the Pavilion. The Annual Parish Forum, showcasing what the Parish Council does as well as a number of local societies and charities, was very poorly attended—any ideas how we can change this would be gratefully received!

The Parish Council has installed a MUGA in the Park (see p. 29) , is about to undertake repairs to the playground and is working towards CCTV installation at hotspots in Arborfield. It’s heartbreaking to see how much anti-social behaviour goes on in such a small and pretty Parish—we’ve had deliberate damage to trees in Pound Copse and to the bridge on the play castle (clear CCTV footage has been passed to the Police on the latter). The only question I have is : Why? The former has damaged a beautiful bit of our natural landscape and the latter has stopped *littlies* playing on their *fave* piece of equipment while the sun is shining. Tragic.

On a lighter note, I have spent a chunk of time gaining rather unwanted knowledge on sewage pumps. The one at the Pavilion failed in early May, after a good 20 years, causing issues (!) so emergency work had to be done pumping out sewage and replacing the pump at a significant and unbudgeted cost.

Along with the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO), another chunk of time has been spent starting to work through the 7 filing cabinets of paperwork going back to Year Dot - 2 down, 5 to go! I’ve also been working with the Diocese and Historic England to help us to maintain the Old Churchyard more effectively—it is an at-risk heritage asset. This will be a long process but hopefully with positive results!

Achievements have been: WBC resolving the long-term drainage issue on Baird Road/Tyler Drive; the PC refurbishing the Eversley Road bus shelter; working with WBC towards achieving our two allotment sites; how much more tidy everything is thanks to our Handy Person; sending press releases to Wokingham Today, plus all the usual stuff!!

*Hilary Carlless*

## What does your Parish Council actually do? How can you have your say?



Arborfield & Newland Parish Council is **YOUR** Parish Council. The Council's aim is to make Arborfield and Newland Parish an even better place to live and work.

The Council has a number of duties and powers that allow it to act; it also has limits its activity—but in all cases, it tries hard to achieve its aim within these boundaries whilst getting the most out of the public money available to it.

The Councillors have a number of matters they would like to ask your opinion on. It seems the best way to do this is through the Arborfield News as it is delivered to every household in the Parish (thanks to our wonderful Street Wardens!).

The sorts of things the Council would like your opinion on are: housing and development; Arborfield Park and Pavilion; Pound Copse; rural Arborfield; community events; litter, anti-social behaviour; your parish council. There is also the opportunity to comment on anything else you feel is relevant.

A survey has been set up on Survey Monkey which is very easy to use and can be accessed via the QR code on the right. Please reply by 2 Sept.

If you would like to receive a hard copy of the survey, please contact the Parish Clerk at:

[parishclerk@arborfield.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@arborfield.org.uk)

If you feel passionately about your Parish, wish to preserve what makes it special and make a difference in your community, please think about becoming a Parish Councillor.

Contact [chair@arborfield.org.uk](mailto:chair@arborfield.org.uk)



## Words with.....the owner of an award winning café



*Paul Scarrott (left) owns and runs The Stables Café in Arborfield Green.*

*What did you do before The Stables?* I worked in the fitness industry for many years in the UK and Australia. On coming back to the UK, I worked in the food service sector for 10-12 years to gather sufficient knowledge to set up my own café.

*What inspired you to set up a café like The Stables?* In Australia, cafés are community hubs—the community revolves around them. This is what I want The Stables to be like so I fully support the community activities of Engage and as many local businesses and events as I can. My colleague, Scott, and myself are starting to roast our

own coffee. This will be readily available to buy for the first time at a stall at the upcoming Engage Summer Fête on 26 August.

*Has it been worth all the hard work?* Definitely. We won the Muddy Stiletto Award for Best Café in Berkshire this year after being open for only 6 months. On top of this, we were in the National Finals which means that we were named one of the top 5 cafés in the UK. I am absolutely passionate about roasting our own coffee and the café community hub. I would love to scale the café but would not want to dilute the quality of product or service we provide or tarnish the brand in any way.

*Why Arborfield Green?* By luck, really! I felt the UK high street was saturated by cafés and I had a friend who lives in Arborfield. I entered talks with Crest Nicholson about the District Centre café but that would not be available for several years. They offered me this space instead which is perfect. I was worried it was too big at first—but now I'm very happy with the space as we have so many customers!

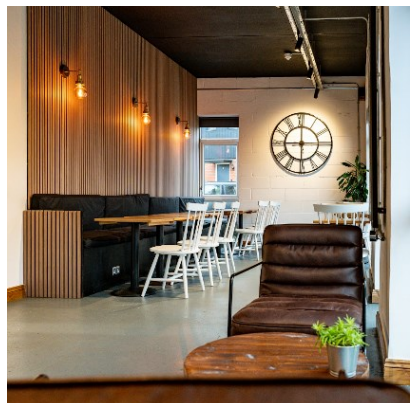
*Is there anything you secretly munch from the café counter?* I'm a clean eater so I'm not tempted by cake — it would have to be smashed avocado and eggs.

*What is your favourite song?* On the odd occasion that the café is quiet, I like to play Sacrifice by Elton John.

*What is your favourite meal?* Steak (medium) and new potatoes.

*Coffee or a pint?* I don't drink alcohol so it would be coffee—an Oat Flat White.

*If you haven't already, why don't you pop along to The Stables for fabulous coffee, great food and a friendly ambience with a real sense of community!*





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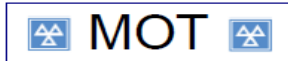


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## Building Connections and Enhancing Lives with The Link Visiting Scheme

Have you ever thought about volunteering? Life is busy and demanding and for many it's hard to think about finding time to do an extra thing. But what if you knew that by carving out a couple of hours once a week or once a fortnight to volunteer would yield amazing benefits to you?

Perhaps it's not the main reason we put our hand up to offer our help but there is scientific evidence that volunteering has a positive impact on your mental health, it lowers our risk of low mood and increases well-being. The social connections formed through volunteering provide a sense of belonging and purpose which are vital for mental health.

Volunteering can act as a buffer against stress and studies have shown that volunteers tend to have lower blood pressure and a reduced risk of heart disease, a stronger immune system and faster recovery from illness!

At The Link Visiting Scheme we connect volunteers with older people who would love to see a friendly face, have some good conversation and maybe an opportunity to go out for a coffee. These simple things are in fact life changing as we realise we are not forgotten or invisible.

Feeling trapped in loneliness can leave us feeling helpless and stuck. At Link Visiting we recognise the seriousness of this struggle and tirelessly endeavour to unlock the transformative power of friendship.

We understand that everyone's schedule is unique, so we tailor volunteer opportunities to suit individual preferences, ensuring flexibility in timing. Our comprehensive support system includes ongoing training and assistance, empowering volunteers every step of the way.

Whether you're a parent with young children, a full-time employee, retired or someone wanting to make some positive changes to your life, we would love to hear from you.

If you're interested in making a difference and joining our community, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to us and learn more about how you can get involved. We eagerly await to hear from you!

Marjie Walker – The Link Visiting Scheme [www.linkvisiting.org](http://www.linkvisiting.org) 0118 9798019

# From the History Archives

## OUR SCHOOLS – Part 2

### Newland, Arborfield and Barkham Church of England

As a result of the Education Act 1870, the school was opened in 1873 as an “all age” school. The National School, in Greensward Lane, became disused and the premises were sold for £100 in June 1874. The money was transferred to Mr John Walter of Bearwood, the owner of “The Times” newspaper, who had contributed £800 out of £1,200 expended on the erection of the new school.

The aim of the school was to follow the principles of the Church of England for poor children belonging to the parishes of Arborfield, Wokingham and Barkham, and parts of the other parishes. The school was in Newland at this time was part of Hurst.

The Master’s House was built at the same time, alongside the school-rooms. These rooms had gas lighting and large open fires. Note the Master, Arthur Austin, wearing his mortar board and gown (right).

School life was dominated by the farming year - holidays were for harvest, haymaking, acorn gathering, beating and hopping etc.

Measles, whooping cough and smallpox also forced the school to close several times. School started at 9 am. They had a break at 10.00 am lasting 15 minutes and an hour for dinner. School closed at 4 pm, followed by a long walk home for many children. Any misdemeanour was dealt with by the cane across the hand.



*“At Arborfield Grange, Captain and Mrs Rickman took a great interest in the children. They provided a Christmas treat every year when a sumptuous tea was prepared in the Grange kitchens. This was followed by an entertainment: ventriloquist, conjuror, or Punch & Judy show. The girls were given new scarlet cloaks, made in the Grange, and the boys grey jerseys” (left)*

In May 1908 a flag staff, made of wood from the Coombes, was erected—the gift of Mr John Simonds of Newlands. The Union Jacks were gifted by the Rickmans. The “Jack” was raised every Sunday, religious and royal days, saints’ days and Empire Day, etc.

The first extension to the original school was built in 1910, doubling the frontage (right). The first central heating was installed at this time, open fires remaining in the other two rooms. The school comprised four rooms, one divided by a curtain. One room was set aside as a play-room which the children could use before school or when it was not playtime. They also had swings in the playground.



James “Jimmy” Hayward (1902-1921) the new Headmaster, allowed the children to bring potatoes to bake in the ashes of the open fireplaces and in winter allowed them to slide on the frozen pond. Winters were colder then so this often happened. It presented a colourful picture, with the girls in their scarlet cloaks and it says something for the standards of behaviour in that supervision was unnecessary. The girls in their black stockings and button-up boots were expected to curtsy to everyone from the Rector upwards.



The school now had the capacity for 182 children (150 on opening).

We wish to continue this history and story of the school and would welcome any contribution from former pupils and/or parents. **Contact Barry Salter—Tel: 0118 976 0070**

#### Sources:

*My Arborfield* by Harry Emblem, compiled by Fred Fox

*Reminiscences of old Arborfield as portrayed by Miss A.M. Edwards*

*Post Offices Directories 1842-1939*

*School Log Book 1892-1915*

*Bygone Arborfield*





WABA | WORLD BREASTFEEDING WEEK 2024



**Berkshire Healthcare**  
Children, Young People and  
Families services

# World Breastfeeding Week

## The Health Visiting Service will be celebrating in your area!

We will be out and about on our Health Bus at the following venues:

- **2<sup>nd</sup> August 2024** Newbury Library
- **5<sup>th</sup> August 2024** Princess Square, Bracknell
- **6<sup>th</sup> August 2024** Market Place, Wokingham
- **7<sup>th</sup> August 2024** Morrisons, Basingstoke Road, Reading

This year, the theme is “Closing the Gap”, breastfeeding support for all.

If you would like to come and chat to your Health Visiting team about your breastfeeding journey or if you have any breastfeeding issues, please join us from:

**09.30-16.00** on **2<sup>nd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> August 2024**

**We look forward to seeing you!**



For more information, you can text our ChatHealth Service on:



**07312 263283**



**[cypf.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk](https://cypf.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk)**

Please send any comments or suggestions on articles you would like to see in your Arborfield news to

[parishclerk@arborfield.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@arborfield.org.uk)

Distributed free to all residents in the Arborfield and Newland parish, by residents. Content provided by local groups, the parish office, your local councillors and the community.

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[Arborfieldrbl@outlook.com](mailto:Arborfieldrbl@outlook.com)

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## Is it a bird ? Is It a plane?

Did you know that a number of racing pigeon enthusiasts regularly release their birds from Arborfield Park?

I recently had the pleasure of meeting Mr Meer from Maidenhead. He was releasing his young birds, born earlier this year, to practise for their first race. The following week, they were due to fly home from Weymouth for their



first competition—a total of 95 miles.

I wonder how they got on?

What a fascinating hobby—and great to see the Park having so many uses!

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# *New installation at Arborfield Park!!*



Have you seen the new Multi—Use Games Area (MUGA) at Arborfield Park? It's a great new piece of kit that your Parish Council has financed to provide an option in the park for older children.

The MUGA comprises cricket stumps, a football goal and a basketball hoop all in one place. Hopefully it will provide hours of

fun for children at a loose end over the summer holidays!

The Parish Council asked some footballers from The Coombes School to come and try it out. The students from Years 5 and 6 were accompanied by their PE teacher, Mr Weeks, and their Teaching Assistant, Mrs Burjer. The boys had great fun and definitely did not want to go back to school when Mr Weeks told them their time was up!

The talented youngsters made the quarter final in the Berks and Bucks County Cup this year under their Captain, Oscar, who plays No 7.

In addition, No 9, Vinny, was able to demonstrate his skills in the District National Cup at the Stoke City ground earlier this year.

A big Thank You to the students and staff from The Coombes School who came along to enjoy our new MUGA! And Thank You to Stacey in the School Office for making it possible!





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## What would be the impact to you if Royal Berkshire

### Hospital moved?

The Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust is looking at options for a new Royal Berkshire Hospital as part of the government's New Hospital Programme. The Trust have so far identified two sites which could be suitable and want to understand the impact for staff, patients and the wider community including residents and local businesses if the hospital moves.

The two potential sites they are seeking your views on are:

**Thames Valley Park** at the end of A329M – 2.2 miles north east of the current site between East Reading and Woodley

**Thames Valley Science Park** – 3.7 miles south east of the current site off the M4 near Shinfield

Please fill in the survey via the QR code to have your say or email [bbt@royalberkshire.nhs.uk](mailto:bbt@royalberkshire.nhs.uk) with your feedback.

For further details including a map of the sites please see [www.buildingberkshiretogether.co.uk/impact-assessment](http://www.buildingberkshiretogether.co.uk/impact-assessment)

Building Berkshire Together -  
Royal Berkshire Hospital Location  
Impact Assessment Survey



### **ARBORFIELD NEWS**

**EDITORIAL COMMITTEE** Andrew Clint, Jim Murphy, Vanessa Starkey, Parish Clerk & Linda Fothergill. Tel: 07496 819 553 Email: [parishclerk@arborfield.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@arborfield.org.uk)

**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.

## Useful Contacts

<b>Ambulance/Fire/Police</b>	Emergency	999
<b>Arborfield &amp; Newland Parish Council</b>	parishclerk@arborfield.org.uk	0749 681 9553
<b>Arborfield Aces Youth Football Club</b>	Secretary - Barney Jones a.k.jones@reading.ac.uk	0773 933 3581
<b>Arborfield Football Club</b>	Secretary - Sara Brown arborfieldfc@btinternet.com	0790 834 3381
<b>Arborfield Garrison Residents Action Group (AGRAG)</b>		www.arborfield-garrison-rag.org.uk
<b>Arborfield Local History Society</b>		www.arborfieldhistory.org.uk
<b>Arborfield Village Hall</b>	bookings@arborfieldvillagehall.org.uk (Bookings) chair@arborfieldvillagehall.org.uk (Admin) treasurer@arborfieldvillagehall.org.uk (Finance) www.arborfieldvillagehall.org.uk	
<b>Brownies 1st Arborfield</b>	Village Hall - Mondays Val Milam	0118 973 1133 0798 606 2198
<b>Bus Service</b>	Route 3—Reading Buses	0118 959 4000
<b>Churches</b>		
Arborfield & Barkham St Eligius Church	Rev Andy Kearns office@pfc-church.uk	0118 976 0285 0118 973 0133
<b>Chinese Exercises</b> (Philip Larsson)	Berkshire Tai Chi info@berkshiretaichi.co.uk	0781 496 9540
<b>Citizens Advice Bureau</b>	Wokingham	0808 278 7958
<b>Doctors</b>	Swallowfield Medical Practice Finchampstead Surgery NHS Direct	0118 988 3134 0118 973 2678 111
<b>Employment Advice</b>	Job Centre, Reading Wokingham Job Support Centre	0845 604 3719 0118 977 0517

<b>Environment Agency</b>	24 hour Emergency hotline Floodline	0800 80 70 60 0345 988 1188
<b>Farley Hill Cricket Club</b>	Simon Longfield	0759 411 0592
<b>Garrison Community Centre</b>		0118 976 3283
<b>Hazebrouck Day Nursery &amp; Pre School</b>	Lana Wilson	0118 976 2054
<b>Helplines</b>	Alcoholics Anonymous Age UK Childline Crimestoppers Dementia—Alzheimer’s Society Drugs - Talk to Frank Missing People UK NSPCC National Debtline Relate, Reading RSPCA Samaritans - Free Phone	0800 9177 650 0800 169 6565 0800 1111 0800 555 111 0333 150 3456 0300 123 6600 116 000 0808 800 5000 0808 808 4000 0300 100 1234 0300 1234 999 116 123
<b>Hospitals</b>	Royal Berks, Reading Wokingham	0118 322 5111 0300 247 3000
<b>Move It or Lose It</b>		
Over 60s exercise	nigel@fiftyfit.co.uk	0118 989 4001
<b>Library Services</b>	Wokingham Library	0118 978 1368
<b>Morris Borderline Dancers</b>	Bob Jones	0118 971 2658
<b>MP</b>	Rt Hon Sir John Redwood MP	0207 219 4205
<b>Police</b>	Neighbourhood Team, Non Emergency	101
<b>Poperinghe Pre-School</b>	Manager—Gail Prewett	0118 976 2427



<b>Post Office</b>	Barkham Stores	0345 611 2970
	Co-op, Finchampstead	0345 611 2970
<b>RoADAR</b>		<a href="http://www.roadartvg.org.uk">www.roadartvg.org.uk</a>
Advanced Drivers and Riders		
<b>Royal British Legion</b>	Arborfield Club	0118 976 1255
<b>Schools</b>	Bohunt	0118 907 6237
	Coombes CE Primary , Arborfield	0118 976 0751
	Emmbrook School, Wokingham	0118 978 4406
	Forest Boys School, Winnersh	0118 978 1626
	Holt Girls School, Wokingham	0118 978 0165
	Oakbank, Three Mile Cross	0118 988 3616
	St Crispin's School, Wokingham	0118 978 1144
<b>Shinfield Voluntary Car Service</b>		0118 988 3400
<b>Sing for your Self</b> with Soph Tarttelin		07973 311580
Village Hall on Tuesdays 12.30—2.00pm		<a href="http://www.singforyourself.co.uk">www.singforyourself.co.uk</a>
<b>Finchampstead Children's Centre</b>		
Play & Learn Session every Tues 9.30am – 11am - Drop in session		0118 908 8166
<b>Theatres</b>	The Anvil, Basingstoke	01256 844244
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	Mill at Sonning	0118 969 8000
	Wokingham Theatre	0118 978 5363
	Shinfield Players	0118 975 8880
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<b>Water</b>	Thames Water—Bill Advice	0845 920 0888
	- Report a leak	0800 714 614
<b>Wokingham Borough Council</b>	Main Switchboard - all enquiries	0118 974 6000
<b>Wokingham and Emmbrook</b>	<a href="mailto:secretary@wefc.club">secretary@wefc.club</a>	0118 976 0914
<b>Football Club (WEFC)</b>	Club Secretary; Anne-Louise Doe	
<b>Wokingham District Veteran Tree Association</b>		
Arborfield Co-ordinator: Di Thorne		<a href="http://www.wdvta.org.uk">www.wdvta.org.uk</a>



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