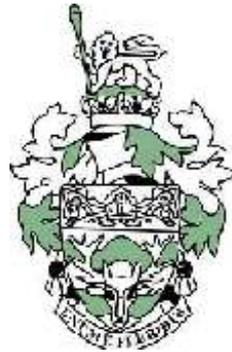


PLACE & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES e-BULLETIN



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

No. 60 July 2010 - **5th Birthday Edition**

All Enquiries - Wokingham Direct (0118 974 6000)

PLANNED WORKS ON THE HIGHWAY

Dates may be subject to change

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Contractors: **Balfour Beatty WorkPlace Ltd.** Engineers for the Works: **WSP UK Ltd**

- **Arborfield** - Swallowfield Road - extensive road patching - 26-27 July
- **Barkham** - Barkham Ride (Rooks Nest Farm - off site) - Construction of car park - 5th July to 10th August
- **Charvil/Hurst** - Park Lane (approaches to Lands End Ford) - Surface dressing to carriageway - 2nd - 4th August
- **Earley**
A3290 Shepherd's Hill House East Bridge - bridge repairs- on site until September 2010.
A3290 between Winnersh and the A4 - installation of safety barriers - on site up to 16th July.
Compton Close - Road resurfacing 21 June to 9th July
- **Finchampstead** Dell Road - Extensive road patching - 26th to 29th July
- **Shinfield**
Hollow Lane/Church Lane - construction of roundabout and signalised pedestrian crossing until end of July.
M4 Junction 11/Mere oak Improvement Scheme - On site until August
Kybes Lane (Hartley Court Road to Grazeley Green Road) - carriageway resurfacing - 21st July to 4th August
White House Lane - extensive road patching - 22nd to 26th July 2010
Whitley Wood Road - erection of noise barrier - 26th July to 27th August
- **Swallowfield** Kingsbridge Road - extensive road patching - 23 July
- **Wargrave**
A4 Bath Road (Cooks Hill Cottae to the Old Devil Inn) - Road resurfacing - 19th July to 2nd August
Crazies Hill (Blakes Road to Crouch End) - Road resurfacing 29th July to 5th August
- **Winnersh/Hurst** Robinhood Lane/Davis Street - Embankment stabilisation commencing approximately 26th July.
Road closure for 6 weeks from 10 am Sundays to 6 am Thursdays for 6 weeks. (Two way temporary lights for remaining parts of the week) (*Subject to confirmation - further details will follow in August Bulletin*)
- **Wokingham**
Gipsy Lane (Southlands Road to Murdoch Road) - 12th to 20th July - Road resurfacing
Binfield Road - construction of site access, roundabout and zebra crossing - on site until 31st July
- **Woodley** Waingels Road - construction of new accesses and associated works - on site until May 2011

UTILITY COMPANIES

ADVANCE WARNING - MAJOR ROAD WORKS - WOKINGHAM/ WOKINGHAM WITHOUT

South East Water will be laying replacement mains in Easthampstead Road & Heathlands Road from September 2010 - February 2011. Further information to follow.

- **Earley** - Elm Road - 23rd July to 30th September - *Southern Gas Networks Renewal Main & Services*
- **Finchampstead**
Lower Wokingham Road (temporary traffic lights), Barkham Ride, Nashgrove Lane, Nine Mile Ride, Gorse Ride North, Woodside Close - on site until 23rd July 2010 - *Scotia Gas Networks*
Finchampstead Road Wokingham (between Evendons Lane and Sandhurst Road) - 23rd July 2010 - Monday 6th September 2010- Replacement of 3" cast iron and 8"upvc mains c. 1940 and 1968 respectively (*South East Water*) **Temporary traffic lights 6th to 18th September - disruption to traffic flows likely**

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If possible - PLEASE THINK GREEN AND READ ON SCREEN!!*

- **Shinfield** - St Barnabus, Westlands Avenue - 12th July to 31st August - *Southern Gas Networks*
- **Winnersh** Mole Road (Mayfields-Harrow Way temporary traffic lights) on site until 3rd August - *Scotia Gas Networks*
- **Wokingham**
 Waterloo Road between Easthampstead Road and Rances Lane - road closure until 23rd July - *Scotia Gas Networks*
Woodley- Scotia Gas Networks
 Loddon Bridge Road, Headley Road, Headley Road East Roundabout - 19th July to 18th September - **3-way lights in operation** - *Scotia Gas Networks*
 Loddon Bridge Road between Fosters Lane and Headley Road - **Road closure** 28th June to 25th September.
 Wyndham Crescent, Wheble Drive - on site until 23rd July
 Western Avenue, Duffield Road - 23rd July to 27th September

WORKS IN NEIGHBOURING AUTHORITIES

Windsor and Maidenhead Relief Road

Visit http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/werr_intro.htm to get the latest updates on this major scheme which may affect Wokingham's commuters.

M4 Junction 11

The first new bridge over the M4 motorway to form part of the Junction 11 Improvement Scheme opened to vehicles on 23rd June in what is a major milestone for the £65 million project.

The East Gyratory Bridge at Junction 11 is made out of 1,250 m³ of concrete, and is supported by 250 tonnes of steel beams and has a span of more than 40 metres. It is one of two being built around the existing motorway junction, is 20 metres wide and will eventually carry 4-lanes of traffic.

The West Gyratory Bridge - will be open to traffic at the end July, meaning (to everyone's relief) that the temporary traffic arrangements north of the motorway will come to an end and the permanent alignment will begin. The pedestrian and cycle bridges are also nearing completion and will be opening in August.

TRANSPORT

Free Tesco Bus Service, Wokingham

Recently Tesco have increased their investment in Wokingham's bus network. The free Tesco bus continues to operate between Wokingham Broad Street and Tesco, Finchampstead Road as a 122 and now as a 121 service. The free service operates Monday to Friday from Broad Street between 0910 and 1438 at 01, 08 and 38 minutes past the hour. Return journeys operate from Tesco between 0916 and 1446 at 16 and 46 minutes past the hour. For full timetable information please see the Council's website at <http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/transport-roads-waste/publictransport/bus-timetables/wokingham-tesco-bus>

WASTE AND RECYCLING SERVICES

More recycling is coming to Wokingham Borough

In a bid to make recycling second nature for its residents and to encourage everyone to send less waste to landfill, Wokingham Borough Council is planning to change how it would collect waste from April 2012.

Under the proposals being discussed by the council's decision-making executive on 24 June, more households would be encouraged to put more waste in the recycling bin and less in the rubbish sack by providing an improved recycling collection scheme - with unlimited boxes available to households - and the garden waste scheme would be expanded to the whole borough.

2012 may seem a long way off, but we wanted to let residents know as soon as possible how this would be done. Under these proposals recycling collections would be made weekly using the existing black boxes, rather than fortnightly, and would be free and unlimited. The green waste service would be expanded across the whole borough and the weekly sack collection would continue. And all this would be done with an annual saving to taxpayers of approximately £922,000 per year.

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We believe this is a fairer system and would encourage residents to think about recycling first, what they buy and what they throw away. If we throw less away, we can reduce the amount that goes into landfill, a process which contributes to global warming. Our residents are already very committed to recycling and we want to provide them with an improved service.

Around the country, many local authorities have brought in wheeled waste bins and fortnightly collections which have been unpopular with residents. I am sure everyone will be pleased to know we won't be introducing these collection methods in the Wokingham Borough.

To achieve the increase in recycling and the cost savings the council needs to make, households would be encouraged to put more waste in the recycling bin and less in the sack by the council supplying **80 official sacks free each year** and only these official sacks would be collected each week. Special arrangements would be made for large households to have more bags so that they are not penalised in comparison with smaller households.

Under these proposals, the garden waste scheme would be completely optional and available to the whole borough meaning a further 10,000 households would be able to take part in the scheme. **Residents would get a choice of either a brown-wheeled bin for an annual charge or, where a wheeled bin can't be stored within the property boundary, they would be able to buy 75 litre compostable sacks** - both would be collected every fortnight. For those residents who do not wish to pay an additional charge for this service, they can compost at home or take their garden rubbish to one of our household waste recycling centres in Bracknell or Reading. Garden waste will not be collected with normal household waste.

Between October, when these plans are finalised, and the start of the new waste contract in 2012, residents will receive a range of information about the proposed new arrangements and further information will follow in future bulletins.

Warning!!

Take extra care when getting rid of your rubbish

When having building or garden work carried out, please ensure that whoever is carting the rubbish away has a valid Waste Carriers Licence which permits the rubbish to be disposed of legitimately at one of our household amenity sites.

Householders are often prey to individuals who trawl through our roads looking for properties where work is being carried out and may have items such as old bathroom fittings or fence panels piled up in the garden awaiting removal. These individuals offer to take the items away for cash, which is often a very attractive offer compared to the cost of a skip or the inconvenience of making a number of journeys by car to the 'tip'. In an attempt to make it seem authentic, these individuals may wave a bit of paper in front of the householder, saying that they are licensed to transport rubbish and, if you agree to the transaction, the rubbish is taken away and you feel you have a bargain. Everything seems very satisfactory at first but a few days later you may find that you are subject to an investigation for fly tipping, because the items that you disposed of were not taken to the tip but were dumped down a country lane or at a remote location.

A Waste Carriers Licence allows contractors to legitimately take rubbish and dispose of it safely. All reputable builders will have a licence and should not have a problem in producing this at the time they are invited to quote for the work. The licence should be carefully examined and a note made of the licence number and the name and address of the person/company licensed to take the rubbish and the registration number of the vehicle removing the rubbish. Recently a householder did not check if the carrier had a licence and has now been prosecuted because his old bathroom fittings were dumped in a country lane and tracked back to him. The householder was prosecuted on the grounds that had failed to take reasonable care to ensure his rubbish was to be disposed of legally.

Please spread the word - these 'helpful' individuals could help you end up in Court if you don't insist on checking they have a proper licence.

REPORT A FAULT ON LINE

The WBC website enables fault reporting to be made on one site. Visit : <http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/website-information/online-services/online-forms/highwayfaultsreport/> to report any of the following:

Abandoned Vehicles/Fly-tipping and dumped rubbish/Highway faults, eg potholes/Highway flooding, eg blocked gullies/Public Rights of Way, eg: damage or blockages/Street Lighting faults/Traffic Light faults.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AND ROAD SAFETY

Permanent Traffic Order Consultations

The Traffic and Road Safety Team have a website page <http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/transport-roads-waste/roads/traffic-order-consultations/> detailing current Permanent Traffic Regulation Orders that are within the 21 day consultation period. Traffic Regulations Orders relate to all traffic schemes that are enforceable, such as introductions to/changes in speed limits, parking restrictions (such as yellow lines, waiting restrictions, etc).

All directly affected residents will still receive a letter from the team and it will still be advertised in the local press but is hoped that this page will provide more information on the proposed schemes.

New drink driving legislation proposals

The Thames Valley Safer Roads Partnership, of which Wokingham Borough Council is a member, made clear in its response to the DFT Road Safety Compliance Consultation in February 2009 that it considered high priority should be given to a change in the prescribed alcohol limit for driving. The Partnership are pleased that the North Review has concluded that the drink drive limit should be reduced, bring the UK into line with most other developed countries.

Sir Peter North conducted a comprehensive review of the case for changing the laws on drink and drug driving and published 51 recommendations on how the government and enforcement agencies should make progress in this vital area of road safety. The Thames Valley Safer Roads Partnership has consistently argued that this should be a high priority for the government as we try to reduce the 12% of road deaths where alcohol is a factor in the crash. The proposal to lower blood alcohol limit from 80mg to 50mg of alcohol per 100ml of blood should therefore be welcomed.

Since January 2005, there have been nearly 2,500 casualties, in incidents that the police attended in Thames Valley, where someone was drinking & driving. If the findings of the North Review are implemented, reducing the limit and simplifying the prosecution process, we believe it will make tackling this problem easier and will result in safer roads for all.

The effect of alcohol on road traffic collisions is significant, a study of crashes in Thames Valley where alcohol was reported as factor shows that alcohol is reported in around 5% of collisions overall, however this rises to over 11% in fatal crashes.

Percentage of All Thames Valley Collisions since 2005 (attended by a police officer) involving Alcohol as a reported factor

	Percentage
Fatal	11.1%
Serious	7.8%
Slight	4.5%
Total	5.0%

FREE SWIMMING HIT BY GOVERNMENT CUT BACKS

The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, on behalf of the five funding Departments, announced on 16th June that the resource funding for the Government's Free Swimming Programme would cease on 31 July 2010.

The council is disappointed to learn that the government has ceased funding for free swimming for the over 60s and under 16s. We would have dearly liked to have been able to offer free swimming until March next year but as the council's resources are already every constrained we cannot carry on with this scheme past July without government funding.

However we are working with our contractor Leisure Connection to provide favourable rates so that our residents can continue to swim at a reasonable cost at all our sites across the Borough.

HIGHWAYS DEVELOPMENT CONTROL

Planning Applications

The Highways Development Control Team provides highway advice on planning applications throughout the area. Please refer to the Planning page on the Council website www.wokingham.gov.uk/planning for full details of current applications and planning policies.

CORPORATE SERVICES

Achievements in the past 5 years

- Our Animal Warden was awarded - Dog Warden of the Year, 2009
- Our Animal Warden team was awarded - Dog Warden Team of the Year, 2010
- Landlord Accreditation system established to recognise quality private rented accommodation
- Launched Flexible Loan Scheme to assist elderly owners to finance repairs and improvements to their homes
- Engaged Home Improvement Agency to process Disabled Facilities Grants at reduced cost to the Council
- Completed survey of Contaminated Land sites in the Borough
- Handled 30,757 Requests for Service from the public
- Processed 348 Disabled Facilities Grants enabling adaptations to the homes of disabled persons to enable them to stay in their own homes
- Achieved 100% of our Programmed Food Premises Inspections
- Launched 'Scores on the Doors' which makes public the hygiene standard of all food businesses in the Borough, with over 76,000 hits in the last two years
- Implemented the Licensing Act which passed control of alcohol sales to the Borough from the Magistrates
- Implemented the Gambling Act, controlling premises where gambling takes place
- Launched an on-line system for Licensing enabling applicants to apply remotely
- Moved to a shared Trading Standards service with West Berkshire Council, reducing costs and increasing service level at the same time
- Part Night Lighting Trial
- Replacement of Ticket Machines
- Establishment of NRSWA
- Joint QMS Accreditation
- Successful pilot of Information Security Management System by Building Control
- Implementation of Disability Awareness Training for all WBC licensed taxi drivers.
- Finally achieved wheelchair access to the Shute End Offices, garden and pond by creation of a new path.

COMMUNITY WARDENS

Police Community Messaging

Police have received a number of reports of daytime burglaries in houses in the Finchampstead and Wokingham areas where offenders have smashed glass doors and windows to get in, and one house where the glass was removed.

An old shape white transit van has been seen driving very slowly in one of the areas. Please be aware of this, check your own security, lock side doors to houses, and, despite the hot weather, it is important to keep windows closed if you are out and maybe keep a radio on in the house. If you hear the sound of smashing glass or see someone acting suspiciously please ring the police on 0845 8 505 505.

Hate Crime

As a result of reports of bullying between school children and members of the community with learning disabilities, the Community Wardens are delivering workshops to the Holt School in conjunction with some disabled adults from the 'Take Notice' group. The workshops were designed to tackle the problem of Hate Crime towards adults with learning disabilities.

The Wardens have been working closely with a group of adults who are part of the 'Take Notice' Group and have designed the workshop specifically for Secondary Schools. The aim of the workshop is to raise awareness about learning disabilities, educate young people about what a learning disability means and help them to build relationships with each other. The project has been supported by Support Horizons and Community Care who have helped with the design of the workshop.

The workshops were initially introduced into all Year 8 classes across the Wokingham Borough starting with The Holt School on Thursday 24th June. The workshop concludes with a quiz to highlight to the pupils that not all disabilities are visible, neither do they prevent you from doing the things you want to do in life

Rushey Way subway gets a community face lift

A street art project to brighten up a subway in Lower Earley has seen the borough council's community wardens once again working alongside the local community to create a fantastic piece of artwork in conjunction with a local artist, Rory during the June half-term holiday.

The subway, originally decorated as a community project in March 2009, needed a fresh artistic look to it after it suffered damage in recent months. We were disappointed it had been damaged as it's a popular and frequently used subway. The community wardens decided to hold two sessions during half term and urged the local community to come along and brighten it up with some new designs. The uptake for the sessions was a tremendous success, with 20 to 30 young people passing by at varying times to help renew the scene. In addition to this, several older residents, including a very energetic 78-year-old, took part in helping to paint the new mural!

Working with no set theme, apart from the previous art work, the volunteers had plenty of vivid imagination to get them going on this project. The young people's designs went onto the walls with everyone who came along being given an opportunity to make a contribution. The designs incorporated the previous ocean scene, country theme and space ship, which was on the ceiling, and now includes the new sketches which were created including SpongeBob Squarepants and a smiling sun!

COUNTRYSIDE SERVICES

(All enquiries and advance bookings to (0118) 9342016 or email countryside@wokingham.gov.uk)

California Paddling Pool will be open from 7th July - two weeks before the official school summer holidays begin. The pool is available to children of any age but under 8s must be supervised. Adults who wish to enter the pool area must also purchase a ticket. Tickets, which are £1 each, can be bought from the car park ticket machine or the pool attendants. Please have the correct money available as the café does not give change and the attendants only carry a limited amount of money. **Please note** that on occasions when demand for the pool is high, it may be necessary to operate a wrist band system which will change on the hour.

Why doesn't the pool open earlier in the year?

There have recently been questions raised as to why the Council waits until the first week in July before it opens the pool to the public. The timing has been the same since the pool was first opened because, in late May when the threat of frost is generally assumed to be over, the surfaces to the edges and base of the pool which become damaged over the winter (cracks etc) have to be rendered and allowed to cure for a minimum of two weeks before the surface can be painted. Once the surface is sound and the paint is dry, the water and chemicals have to be added. There has to be a period when the chemicals have to be checked and re-checked each day to ensure they are stable. Only then will the pool be safe and available for use. The whole process takes between 6-8 weeks.

Country Parks Activities

What's On in July

Friday 2nd July - Junior Rangers - Barbeque and Bat walk

Join us for a barbeque at California Country Park, followed by a walk in the twilight to look for bats. 7.30 - 10.30pm, please book. £2 per child

Saturday 3rd July - RSPB walk

Join the Wokingham and Bracknell branch of the RSPB for a stroll around Dinton Pastures. Meet main car park at 9am. £1 per adult.

Sunday 11th July - Friends of Lavell's lake bird walk

Morning stroll around Lavell's Lake. Meet Sandford Lane car park at 9am. £1 per person

Sunday 25th July - Lavell's lake work party

Practical conservation experience. Meet at Sandford Lane car park at 10am.





Mondays to Fridays - 26 July - 27 August Tri Golf

Mini version of golf with games and challenges for 6-11 year olds. Hurst Golf Course, practice area, off main entrance, Dinton Pastures 9am to 12 noon. Booking essential please call the Sports Development Unit on (0118) 974 6264

Tuesday 27th July - Beginners fishing

A beginner's session in fishing, going over the basics then setting up of equipment before fishing for the rest of the session and the chance to fish all day. Ages 8 and above only. 10.30 to 12.30 and 13.30 to 15.30. £12 per child.

Booking essential.

Friday 30th July - Bat walk and talk

Illustrated talk with live rescued bats followed by a walk to look for bats with bat detectors. Meet Loddon Room at Dinton Pastures Country Park. 8pm to 9.45pm Cost: £3. **Booking essential.**



Saturday 31st July Art in the Park at Dinton

Free art workshop doing activities like puppet making, mask making, textile jewellery etc (depending on which artists are available) on the events field at Dinton Pastures Country Park; turn up anytime between 11am and 3pm.

Walkers celebrate 10 years of Health Walks

To celebrate the 10th anniversary of Health Walks, 60 walkers completed the 3.5 mile walk around Arborfield and Farley Hill before meeting back at the Henry Street café for a cup of tea and a slice of a huge birthday cake donated by Henry Street Garden Centre. A few words were said by the manager of the café and also by David Bentley who organised the event and who has been one of the volunteer Walk Leaders for many years.

These walks not only help to maintain physical health but are also an excellent way to meet new friends. Anyone interested in learning more should contact Countryside Services direct.

Dragonfly Café

The impressive extension to the café at Dinton Pastures, which will provide additional seating for 40 persons, is due to be opened on 9th August. The current facilities have become increasingly popular and this extension is now an absolute necessity to cope with increasing demand.

LIBRARY SERVICES

What's on in your library July 2010

What's on for children and families

Toddletime* for babies aged 12 to 36 months (Free)

Action Stories and Songs

- Winnersh Library on Wednesday July 7 between 10.15am to 10.45am
- Lower Earley Library on Thursday July 1 between 9.45am to 10.15am
- Wokingham Library on Thursday July 8 between 10.30am to 11am

Get Arty for families with children aged between five and 10-years-old (£1 per child) - *No*

- Woodley Library on Saturday July 3 between 11am to 12noon.
- Wokingham Library on Saturday July 10, between 10.30am to 11.30am
- Lower Earley Library on Saturday July 17 between 11am to 12noon
- Woodley Library on Saturday July 24 between 11am to 12noon
- Woodley Library on Saturday July 31 between 10.30am to 11.30am.

No need to book - just drop in!

Bookstart Read and rhyme -under 5's(Free)

Stories and rhymes for parents and children to enjoy together. Collect your Bookstart pack at the same time.

- Finchampstead Children's Centre on Tuesday July 6 between 1.30pm to 2.30pm.
- Riverdale Children's Centre on Monday July 26 10.15am to 11.15am
- The Starlings Children's Centre on Wednesday July 28 between 2pm to 3pm
- Rainbow Children's Centre on Friday July 30 between 10am to 11am

No need to book - just drop in!

Storytime for under fives (Free)

Stories and rhymes for parents and children aged under five to enjoy together

- Twyford Library on Monday July 12 between 2.30pm to 3pm.
- Spencers Wood Library every Monday between 4pm to 4.30pm
- Lower Earley Library every Thursday between 2.30pm to 3pm
- Woodley Library every Thursday between 2.15pm to 2.45pm
- Wokingham Library every Tuesday between 2.15pm to 2.45pm

No need to book - just drop in!

Woodley Kids Book Club* for seven to 11-year-olds and their parents (Free)

• Talk about books and reading, • Share your favourite books, • Quizzes, competitions and games • For seven to 11-year-olds and their parents (Delete)

Woodley Library on Monday July 19 between 4pm and 5pm

What's on for Teens**Teen Book Group* for 11 to 18 year olds (Free)**

Wokingham Library on Thursday July 1, between 4.45pm to 5.45pm

Manga Club* for 11 to 18 years olds (£1 per session)

Discuss favourite manga books and anime films and share your manga drawings. (Delete)

Wokingham Library on Thursday July 8 and Thursday 29 July between 4.30pm to 5.45pm

Winnersh Library Gaming Club for 11 to 17year olds (£2 per session)

Winnersh Library on every Saturday between 10.30am to 12.30pm.

What's on for Adults**Wokingham First Thursday book group* (Free)**

Book group meet to discuss new books and favourite books.

Wokingham Library on Thursday July 1 between 6.30pm to 7.45pm

Woodley Book Group* (Free)

Woodley Library on Thursday July 1, 2010 between 10.30am to 11.30am

Tea at Twyford in aid of the Alzheimer's Society (Free)

Have a cup of tea and meet the staff at Twyford Library on Tuesday July 6 between 2pm to 3pm. No need to book - just drop in

Woodley Library Chess Club* (Free)

Join our new chess club at the library. All abilities welcome.

Woodley Library on Wednesday July 7 between 2pm to 3pm

Winnersh Book Group* (Free)

Book group meet to discuss new books and favourite books.

Winnersh Library on Thursday July 8 between 7pm to 8pm

Mobile Phone workshops* (£2)

Student volunteers answer questions about how to use your mobile phone

Wokingham Library on Friday July 9 between 10am to 11.30am and 11.30am to 1pm

Family History Drop-In (Free)

Expert advice from the Berkshire Family History Society

- Woodley Library on Tuesday July 13 between 2pm and 4pm.
- Wokingham Library on Tuesday July 27 between 2pm and 5pm

No need to book - just drop in

Twyford Reading Group (Free)

Themed book discussion

Twyford Library on Tuesday July 13 between 2pm to 3pm.

Wargrave Library coffee morning (Free)

Drop in for coffee and see what Wargrave Library has to offer on Wednesday July 14 between 10am to 12 noon.

Bringing the Past to Life* (£3)

Illustrated talk about the work of a photographer in the tombs of Ancient Egypt
Wokingham Library on Thursday July 15 at 6.30pm

Wokingham Library Non-Fiction Book Group* (Free)

Join our non-fiction book group! Discuss biographies, travel, history, philosophy and more...
Wokingham Library on Thursday July 15 between 6.30pm to 7.45pm

Mobile Phone workshops * (£2)

Student volunteers answer questions about how to use your mobile phone
Wokingham Library on Friday July 16 between 10am to 11.30am and 11.30am to 1pm

Wokingham Day Group* (Free)

Book group meet to discuss new books and favourite books.
Wokingham Library on Friday July 16 between 10.30am to 12.30pm

Wokingham VIP Group* (Free)

Book group for the visually impaired
Wokingham Library on Friday July 16 between 2pm to 4pm

Creative Writing Group* (Free)

Sharing ideas and writing with others.
Wokingham Library on Saturday July 17 between 10.00am to 11.30am. However, this group is currently full. To put your name on the reserve list please contact Wokingham Library on (0118) 9781368

Wargrave Book Group* (Free)

Book group meet to discuss new books and favourite books.
Wargrave Library on Monday July 19 between 6pm to 7pm

Knit and Natter* (Free)

Drop in for a chat and knit squares for charity. All abilities welcome
Twyford Library on Tuesday July 20 between 2pm to 3pm

History Beneath our Feet* (£3)

Illustrated talk about metal detection and fascinating discoveries
Wokingham Library on Thursday July 22 at 6.30pm

Spencers Wood Book Group* (Free)

Book group meet to discuss new books and favourite books
Spencers Wood Library on Monday July 26 between 6pm to 7pm

Archaeology Finds Surgery (Free)

Drop in for expert advice from our Finds Liaison Officer about archaeological objects.
Wokingham Library on Thursday July 29 between 10am to 12 noon
No need to book - just drop in!

* Pre-booking required for all events marked with an asterisk

SPORTS DEVELOPMENT & LEISURE

All enquiries to sportsdevelopment@wokingham.gov.uk

Olympic Games 2012

The end of July 2010 marks two years to go until the start of the 2012 Games. We will be holding a series of events across the borough at sports centres and country parks on the weekend of 24/25 July with the aim of attracting families to try new sports and activities. Contact 0118 9743726 to find out what is happening near you.

The Council has made a submission to get the Olympic torch relay into the Borough. The route for the relay and evening stopping points will be announced by September 2010 and will be featured in our October Bulletin.

Summer Sports Activities - Summer Programme

Programmes have been delivered to all schools, libraries and details are on the website www.wokingham.gov.uk/sports covering all the sports activities available during the summer holidays. The programme is packed with a variety of activities suitable for every child. Places are allocated on a first come first served basis and include:

- Soccer and also Mini Soccer
- Goalkeeping (avoiding Robert Green's technique)
- Tennis
- Cricket
- Netball
- Tri-Golf
- Multi-Activity Watersports (Canoeing, Raft Building, Bouldering wall and field games)
- Active Me sessions on : Futsal, Volleyball, Tennis Rounders, Trampolining, Dodgeball, Swimming, Basketball, Badminton, Tri Golf, Frisbee, Climbing Wall, Cricket, Football

Activities cater for children of most age groups. For those children who have additional needs a 1:1 Buddy is available who is a qualified sports coach, experienced in working with and supporting these young people.

Summer Camp designed for children with additional needs

This is to be held at East Park Farm, Park Lane, Charvil for 5-16 years olds with additional needs and is run daily in two sessions from 10 am to 4 pm. Activities include football, Tri Golf/Boccia, Tennis, Cricket, New Age Kurling, Table Tennis and Rounders. On Wednesdays a day trip is available. For further information contact sportsdevelopment@wokingham.gov.uk or 0118 9743726.

PARKS, OPEN SPACES and PLAY AREAS

GRASS AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

The fourth grass cut of the year is scheduled to start in the week commencing 1 July. For more information about the grass cutting schedule, please go to <http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/parks/maintenance/grass-cutting>

As a starting point for general enquiries regarding Grounds Maintenance, please use the FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) section on the WBC website at <http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/faq>. More detailed information can be found at <http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/parks>. If your enquiry is not answered there, please email wokinghamdirect@wokingham.gov.uk or telephone 0118 974 6000.

TREES

For details about what the council can and cannot cut back regarding trees and vegetation overhanging private properties, please go to <http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/environment/conservation/council-owned-trees>

FREE CHIPS!

Our grounds maintenance contractors have amassed a mountain of wood chippings which have been recycled from dead and pruned vegetation. They are ideal for mulching, weed control or moisture retention and available free to residential gardeners. Collect from Ashbury Park, Tippings Lane, Woodley, RG5 4RX. The chipping are at the far end of the car park which runs parallel to Tippings Lane. Vehicle access is only available as far as the bollards and there is also a height barrier to the car park that is not suitable for cars over 2 metres. Please help yourself!

PITCHES

Remedial works on all the football pitches is now complete. For Astro, tennis and pitch booking enquiries, telephone 0118 974 6000 or email pitch.booking@wokingham.gov.uk

PLAY

Wokingham Borough Council has been given the opportunity to launch a new exciting piece of equipment at the Ashbury Park play area for a six month trial period. It is a rope swing called "The Viper" which has featured at the recent Playfair exhibition where it received encouraging feedback.

ROUNDAABOUTS

Landscaped roundabouts without sponsors have now been planted ready for summer flowering.

PAVILIONS AVAILABLE FOR HIRE

Need a venue for a party? Need an easy accessible venue for a business meeting? East Park Farm Pavilion, Charvil and the Ashridge Room at Cantley Park are available for hire at competitive prices. Kitchen or catering facilities are available as well as on site parking. For further information on availability and prices, please telephone 0118 974 6000 or email parksandopenspaces@wokingham.gov.uk.