

Shinfield Parish Council Newsletter

March 2024

If the view of this newsletter isn't right for you, click on the three dots (top right hand corner) and select 'accessibility view'



Beautiful sunrise over Shinfield Parish & Swans making the most of the flood water at Langley Mead -
Thanks to **2dronesphotography**

Parish Maintenance & Updates - *#Pride in our Parish*

John, our Groundskeeper has recently been out to Grazeley and other parts of the parish. Few examples of his work below.











**No
stopping**

**Mon - Fri
8.15 - 9.15 am
2.45 - 3.45 pm
on entrance
markings**





Pre-school & Playground in Spencers Wood









Hyde End Road











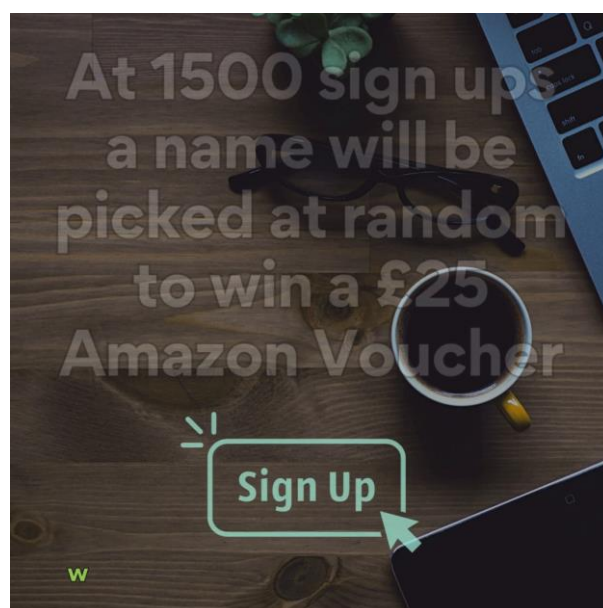








Newsletter: Do you know anyone that hasn't signed up?



<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/uHICHIJbQnG7miQQ#content=hSeSlusAiqoxEj>

Save the date for our Annual Community Parish Litter Pick 10/04/24

SHINFIELD PARISH ANNUAL COMMUNITY LITTER PICK



Let us know if you want to do your own pick in your area within the Parish and we will deliver the equipment to you

**Pop in to the School Green Centre from
10-2pm on Weds 10th April 2024**

WE HAVE ALL THE EQUIPMENT FOR YOU

We will provide you with safety instructions and litter picks/hi vis jackets/bags (please bring your own gloves)



PLEASE SEND US YOUR PHOTOS

We would like to feature these in our next newsletter and news articles, please send them to info@shinfieldparish.gov.uk



FREE REFRESHMENTS FOR OUR PICKERS

Free refreshments for all those taking part and treats for the little ones. Big thank you to Shinfield View Care Home for supporting us again.



ADOPT A STREET

If you can't make this date but want to get involved please visit www.shinfieldparish.gov.uk/adopt-a-street or e-mail info@shinfieldparish.gov.uk

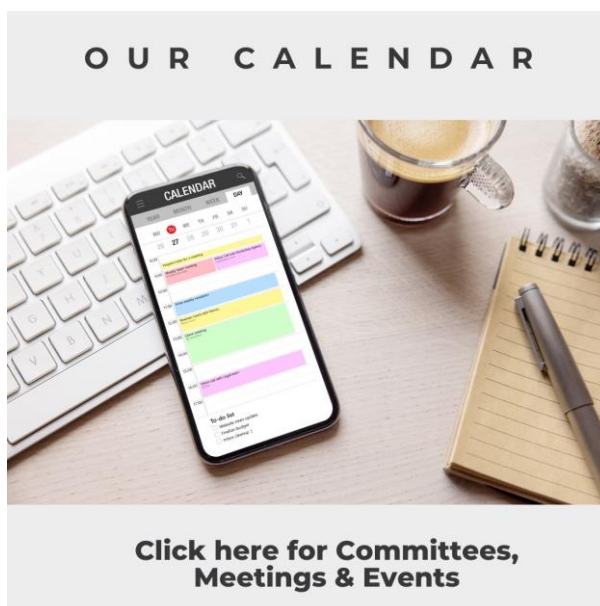


Update on The Happy Bee's Opening Times



PLEASE NOTE: Karen will not be at the School Green Centre from 6th-8th March.

Committee Minutes and Paperwork



For more information on past and future council meetings and business, visit our homepage www.shinfieldparish.gov.uk or click on the link [Committee and Events calendar](#)

Meet your Shinfield Parish Staff - this month our Allotments Officer



Meet our Allotments Officer

Hello, I'm Francesca



I began working at Shinfield Parish council in October 2021 taking over the role of Allotment Officer, I love working with the local community and helping them begin their allotment journey. My role includes allotment allocations, inspections, opening new allotment sites and maintaining those we currently have, which is now over 290 plots.

While my main role lies in allotments, I also look after the local litter bins and streetlighting as well as general administration. I have a passion for disabled access, and I am currently training to become a Disabled Access Auditor and I am very proud to be a part of making the parish more accessible with things such as the accessible allotments at Orchard Rise and the wheelchair accessible benches at Deardon Orchard.

While I love the admin side of my job, I also have a diploma in fine art and love to apply this to my role whenever I can for example I designed and drew a timeline of the parish which is now on display in the School Green Centre. In my spare time I love to paint, crochet, and watch Disney films my favourite being 'A Bug's Life' which is quite fitting for an allotment officer!

I'm sure I have crossed paths with many of you in the School Green Centre and look forward to meeting many more of you soon, if you see me wheeling about, please do say hello!

Cafe Update

CAFE UPDATE

The tender process is now closed and interviews with those who have been shortlisted will be taking place in the next few weeks... we will provide further updates in April's newsletter



Volunteers needed to coordinate Baby & Toddler Group at School Green Centre (Friday am)



We are holding a meeting to get this group up and running again and so were asking anyone that is interested in helping to attend.

When/where: 10am on 8th March at the School Green Centre - let us know you're coming by either responding to this post or emailing info@shinfieldparish.gov.uk (Bring your little ones, we will meet in the cafe area as there is some toys and books in there to keep the little ones occupied)

We look forward to making this group what is needed in our Community as a safe space has been allocated for FREE every friday morning term-time 9.30-11.30am.(except for school holidays when we hold Friday Fundays when people who use this group can join in the soft play session which also caters for babies and toddlers)

Spencers Wood Library - Volunteers needed for Rhymetime and general running of the library



Spencers Wood Library Rhymetime Volunteer

Our team at Spencer's Wood Library are looking for a Rhymetime Volunteer!

Rhymetime sessions are held on the first Thursday of the month. Volunteers interested in this role will be required to lead the session in rhyme and song for under 5s and their parents and carers for around twenty minutes. You do not have to have the voice of an angel, just some enthusiasm and the willingness to commit to this role once a month. All volunteers are given the opportunity to observe Rhymetime sessions until they feel comfortable and confident in running a session independently. Please note that we are more than happy to select applications from friends who may be interested in running this session together. Wokingham Borough Council Libraries are amenable to adjusting the weekday and timing of this session to accommodate volunteer availability.

If you would like to get involved, please contact volunteer@wokingham.gov.uk



Local Community Library Volunteering

Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) Libraries are currently recruiting volunteers for **Spencer's Wood Library**. This role requires volunteers to work in teams in order to open and close the library site, take daily health and safety checklists, provide friendly customer services, shelve books and generally keep things tidy. You will be required to commit to a certain number of hours at this site per month. This role is flexible and you are able to offer to volunteer on site either weekly or monthly. All volunteers will be supported by the WBC Libraries team, and are required to complete compulsory training and a basic DBS check before the starting their work.

Please note all applicants must be twenty-one years of age and over to apply for this role.

Further enquiries can be made at libraries@wokingham.gov.uk

Not had your blue waste bags delivered yet? and need more recycling bags?



Check your delivery date here <https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling/blue-bin-bags/check-your-blue-bin-bag-delivery>



We have some recycling bags at the School Green Centre, just pop in.

Adult Education Courses March 2024

Understanding your Pay Slip

- 5 March, Tuesdays 10am to 12 noon, St Pauls Parish Rooms, Wokingham
- Free course
- [Apply here](#)

Do you understand everything that is on your payslip and what it all means? This course is designed to support learners with understanding the information provided on a pay slip including pay periods, National Insurance, and tax. It is a practical course which will look at the types of calculations used to help explain the deductions from the money that you earned.

Maths for the Workplace

- 18 March, Monday 7pm to 8pm, online via Zoom
- Free course
- [Apply here for February course](#) or [Apply here for March course](#)

Refresh your basic work maths skills with our new online courses. Various available covering maths skills for specific industries including construction, health and social care, hair and beauty, business and administration, sport, and hospitality and catering.

After an initial tutor led interactive session, you'll have access to an online course which you can work through at your own pace and focus on areas you'd like to improve. There are also optional follow up sessions available.

Help your Child with Maths

- 14 March, Thursday 7.45pm to 8.45pm, online via Zoom
- Free course
- [Apply here for February course](#) or [Apply here for March course](#)

Refresh your own maths skills while gaining confidence in how to support your children with their own maths learning. Starting with an initial tutor led session, you'll then have access to an online learning platform which covers school years 3 to 7 - you can choose which content is appropriate for yourself. There are also optional follow up sessions available.

Introduction to iPads - Digital Skills for Beginners

- 6 March to 27 March, Wednesdays 10am to 12pm, Cornerstone, Wokingham
- £30 - free to those on jobseeking benefits or low incomes
- Apply by calling 0118 974 3797

Get started with your iPad and gain confidence using it and the internet. The course covers settings, connecting securely to a WIFI network, swipe actions and the virtual keypad, using the App Store and internet browser. Learners do not need to bring their own device.

Terrific Times Tables

- 21 March, Thursday 12.30pm to 2.30pm, Ambleside Children's Centre Woodley
- Free course
- [Apply here](#)

Gain confidence in how to support your children with learning their times tables and the fun ways you can support them at home. Discover the different methods taught in school and expectations for each year group including the Year 4 national times tables test.

Fun with Time

- 22 March, Friday 10am to 12pm, Finchampstead Children's Centre, FBC Centre
- Free course

- [Apply here](#)

Gain confidence in how to support your children with telling the time and the fun ways you can support their learning at home. Discover the different methods used to teach time in school and the expectations of each year group.

Confidence for the Future Programme

Wokingham Borough Council's Economic Development Team are introducing an exciting new employability programme to support people back into work or volunteering. The programme will include an induction session; online employment research and employability courses; and a work placement or volunteering assignment. You will be supported by a mentor who will help you find the right route for you, looking at your aspirations and current skills. [Click here](#) to find out more and to apply.

Eligibility and costs

To be eligible for Adult Education courses, you need to:

Live or work within the Wokingham Borough, or have a child attending a Wokingham school,

- AND be over 19 years old (as of 31st August 2023)
- AND be a UK or Irish citizen or a non-UK national with permission to live in the UK and have ordinarily been resident in the UK for at least 3 years

All Ukrainian adults and their family members supported through the Ukraine Family Scheme and Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme are immediately eligible for courses and are exempt from the 3-year residency requirement.

Learners with a BN(O) visa are eligible to apply for Community Learning courses immediately.

There are a number of other exemptions including those for some asylum seekers or refugees. Please [email us](#) or call 0118 974 3797 if you wish to discuss any exemptions further.

Some courses are free and those courses that have a cost are free for anyone who is in receipt of Universal Credit (work related), Employment Support Allowance, Jobseeker's Allowance, or are on low income (under £20,000). Please [contact us](#) with any queries around costs.

HELPING RESIDENTS TO VOTE BY POST AT UPCOMING ELECTIONS



Residents who wish to vote by post at upcoming elections are being reminded to read about recent changes to [absent voting](#).

New rules around postal voting are coming into effect this year, including how often you need to apply and how your vote is handled. These are as a result of the Elections Act 2022, which has seen a number of [changes to elections and voting](#).

[Local elections](#) are taking place on Thursday 2 May, with all 54 seats up for contention on Wokingham Borough Council. On the same day, there is also a Police and Crime Commissioner election for the Thames Valley and there may be parish council elections if any seats are contested.

Absent voting allows you to vote in an election by post or by proxy if you are unable to vote in person at the polling station on the day. For example, you may be unable to vote in person if you are at work, on holiday or have a medical condition or disability that makes it difficult.

The deadline to [apply for a postal vote](#) for the May elections is 5pm on Wednesday 17 April. If you decide to vote by post, you will receive a pack that includes your ballot paper. This must be completed and returned in time for your vote to count.

Andrew Moulton, Returning Officer at Wokingham Borough Council, said: “We know that a decent proportion of the borough opts for postal voting and with lots of changes coming in this year we want to make sure everyone understands them and is prepared for the May elections.

“Choosing to vote by post is a convenient option for many and allows residents who would be unable to attend a polling station in person to have the same rights. Make sure you are [registered to vote](#) and read about the changes to postal voting to ensure you are ready for the elections in May.”

If you are a postal voter, once received, you should complete and return your ballot paper pack as soon as possible using a Royal Mail post box.

If you miss the post, you can hand it in at the council offices at Shute End in Wokingham, or at your polling station on election day. **However, choosing to hand in your postal vote will mean that you must complete an additional form with an authorised member of staff. If you do not, your postal vote will be rejected. Wokingham Borough Council is therefore urging residents to act promptly and ensure postal votes are returned using a Royal Mail post box.**

In addition, voters will not be permitted to hand in more than five postal ballot packs in addition to their own. Political parties and campaigners will be banned from handling postal vote packs.

It is now possible to [apply for a postal vote](#) or [proxy](#) through a new central government portal. You will need to provide your national insurance number when you apply, whether you decide to use the website or a paper application.

For security reasons, all postal and proxy vote applications must include a handwritten signature, date of birth and national insurance number. This is the case for both online and paper applications.

The new legislation means postal voters must reapply to vote every three years instead of every five years. **Current postal voters do not need to re-apply** and will be contacted by January 2026.

If for some reason your ballot paper is spoilt, do not throw any part of the pack away. Instead, you can return it to the council and a replacement will be issued up to 5pm on polling day.

To receive a paper application form for either a postal or proxy vote, you can [contact the electoral services team by email](#) or call (0118) 974 6000. This form can be returned by email or by post to Shute End in Wokingham.

Public: Information that can be seen and used by everyone inside and outside the Council.

HUNDREDS MORE CHILDREN NOW ABLE TO VISIT UFTON EACH YEAR



Ufton is on the road with a minibus thanks to the support of The Clothworkers' Foundation.

The children's education charity now has a 17-seater minibus to ensure local children can access activities at The Nest at Ufton Court. Designed as a sanctuary for children struggling in traditional classrooms, The Nest offers a dynamic blend of nurturing support and hands-on learning experiences. Tackling hurdles such as peer dynamics, regulating behaviour and emotional resilience head-on. The Nest is a beacon of hope for young minds seeking empowerment.

Ufton's CEO, Sarah Lindsell, said "We are thrilled to receive such a generous donation from the Clothworkers' Foundation. This is going to transform our ability to give more children a chance to thrive and flourish, improving their confidence and self-esteem as foundations for learning."

If you want to know more about our work with vulnerable children and to support us through volunteering or donation visit www.ufton.org.uk or [click here](#).

Ufton is a forward-thinking charity committed to providing transformative learning experiences. Our educational initiatives encompass a diverse range, including History, Nature and Outdoor Learning, Ufton Adventure, The Nest (our alternative provision for children facing classroom challenges), and a unique outreach/on-the-road provision offering engaging curriculum-based day visits in schools focused on History & Nature. To know more [click here](#).

Ufton Court Educational Trust, Ufton Court, Green Lane, Ufton Nervet, Reading, RG7 4HD | Phone: 0118 983 2099 | uftoncourt.org.uk | Charity Number 1116659

NEW, world-leading weather centre approved by WBC



Plans for the new cutting-edge, international headquarters for the [ECMWF](#) have been approved by WBC at the Whiteknights Campus. It will be home for 300 scientists and other staff while they do world-leading work on all things weather, climate and forecasting. It will create one of the largest clusters of weather climate and forecasting facilities in the world, alongside teams at [University of Reading](#)

Wise Owls Day Nursery, Spencers Wood

Wise Owls is a day nursery in Spencers Wood. They will be offering 2 year old funding from April and 9 month old funding from September.



9.5
"10 stars for everything"

BOOK NOW
Accepting 9 month & 2 year old funded places

2 months - 5 years | 7:30am - 6:00pm

Farm View is an exceptional day nursery set in the picturesque countryside of Spencers Wood, where children flourish with wide open spaces, fresh air and an exciting curriculum.

BOOK A TOUR
Farm View Day Nursery, Spencers Wood RG7 1HT
enquiries@wiseowlschildcare.co.uk wiseowlschildcare.co.uk

wise owls childcare

First Days Charity - School Green Centre is now a collection point for donations



WORLD BOOK DAY & DONATIONS BIN FIRST DAYS CHILDREN'S CHARITY

World book day Appeal
Costumes and books suitable for children & teens, good quality books only please..

General Book Appeal
To keep the first days library stocked of books suitable for children & teens, good quality books only please..

WE NEED BOOKS!

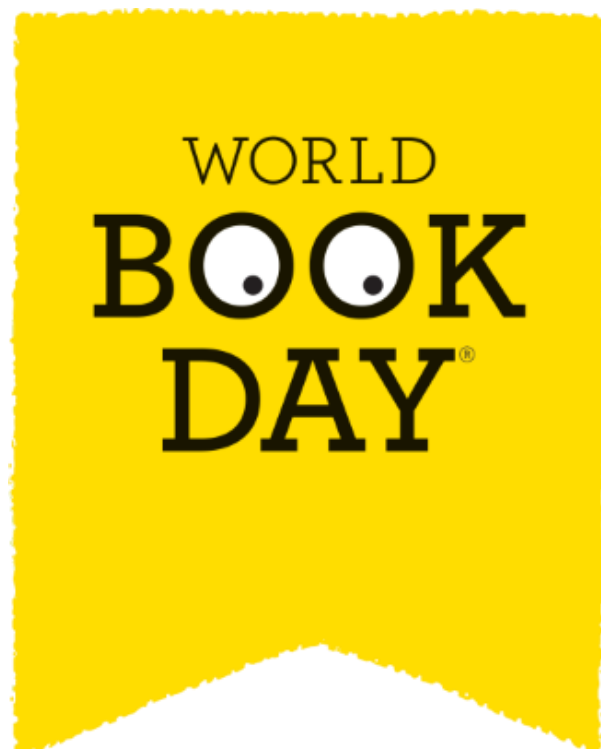
All other donations
The full list is on top of orange wheelie bin

Thank you Shinfield Parish Community

#fromonefamilytoanother



Our Library & World Book Day 7th March 2024



Why buy books when you can borrow them from our library at the School Green Centre? We wanted to remind our community that we have a self-service Library with a range of childrens and adult

books. It takes a few minutes to sign up using the Spydus app. Just pop in, check our website for opening hours www.shinfieldparish.gov.uk

Spencers Wood Pavilion Room Hire - Special Offer until 31st March 2024



**SPENCERS
WOOD
PAVILION
ROOM HIRE**

**SPECIAL
OFFER**

**50% OFF
NEW
BOOKINGS**

**UNTIL
31ST
MARCH
2024**

Contact our Customer Care Team
0118 988 8220 or e-mail
bookingenquiries@shinfieldparish.gov.uk



WBC Survey Closes 8th March 24 - New Local Transport Plan



Our new Local Transport Plan aims to cut congestion in busy areas by making it safer to walk or cycle

These include more pedestrianised spaces, changes in speed limits and measures aimed at children on the school run in particular.

Tell us what you think at <https://engage.wokingham.gov.uk/.../a-new-local-transport...>

Congratulations to ABC to Read



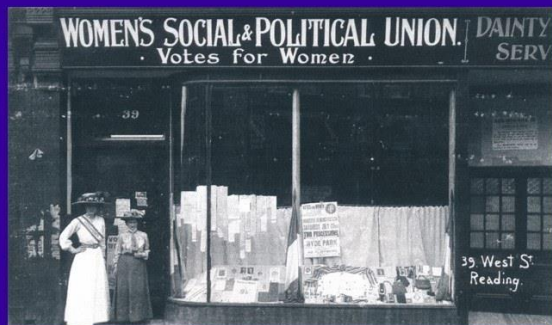
New Barber Shop 'Shin Barbers' is now open for business - we wish them every success! (*School Green, next to Post Office*)

What's on in the Parish, School Green Centre & Spencers Wood Pavilion

Regular Classes at the School Green Centre and Spencers Wood Pavilion		
Hirer	Activity	Day of session
School Green Centre		
Adult sessions		
Bumps and Beyond	Postnatal fitness class	Monday morning
Sally Podzemney	Pregnancy yoga	Tuesday evening
Angela O'Brien	Pilates* / Ballet**	Tuesday*, Wednesday*, Thursday* & Friday** morning
Jonathan Newey Fine Art	Art Class	Tuesday evening
Shinfield History Group	Education	2nd Tuesday of each month
Zumba Gold Class - Emma Rogers	Zumba Gold Class	Wednesday morning
Pound Green Shinfield WI	Meeting	3rd Wednesday of each month
ELS Fitness	Fitness - Zumba	Wednesday evening
Activate Training and Sports Therapy	Pilates and Lattes	Wednesday evenings & Thursday morning
West Coast Swing Reading	Dance Class	Thursday evening
Titantium Pilates	Pilates	Thursday evening
Mindfulness in Reading	Health	Friday morning / afternoon
Micka's Training	Fitness Class	Friday evening
Food for all UK	Community	Saturday evening
Shiamak London	Dance Class (Bollywood)	Sunday morning and afternoon
Age UK	Dementia Café	Monthly
Shinfield Baby & Toddler Group	Parent(s) and babies	Friday morning
Younger people		
Worker Bees	Activities	Monday morning
Starlet Dance	Dance	Monday evening
Baby Sense & Toddler Sense	Mother & baby	Tuesday morning
Flexx Gymnastics	Fitness	Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday afternoon
The Hangout @Shinfield	Youth Club	Wednesday evening
Diddi Dance	Dance	Thursday morning
First Impressions Theatre	Theatre	Thursday evening (Term time only)
Rangers	Girl Guides	Thursday evening
Bloom Toddler Classes	Mother & baby	Friday morning
Libby Putney Strictly Street	Dance	Friday afternoon(Term time only)
Nrtyashetra	Dance	Friday afternoon
Shimak London	Dance Class (Bollywood)	Sunday morning (Term time only)
Moon Tuition	Education	Saturday & Sunday morning/afternoon
S-Cube Shinfield	Education	Wednesday evening & Saturday morning
Music School	Music	Saturday morning
SLA First Class Learning	Education	Saturday afternoon
Tutu Olonko	Education	Sunday morning
Nemesis Martial Art	Martial Art	Saturday morning
Spencers Wood Pavilion		
Adult sessions		
Senior Citizens Coffee morning - Shinfield Volunteers Group	Community	Thursday morning
Spencers Wood History Group	Education	3rd Tuesday of the month
Younger people		
Dance Sensation	Dance	Tuesday & Thursday afternoon & evening
Diddi Dance	Dance	Friday afternoon
Spencers Wood Recreation Ground		
Pizzatron	Pizza	Thursday evenings (16:00 - 20:00)
Fitness Bootcamp	Adults	Sunday morning (restarts in Spring)
For further details relating to these sessions please visit www.shinfieldparish.gov.uk		

To celebrate International Women's Day
Shinfield & District Local History Society
Presents

**'Petitions, Pits and Post Boxes:
the Suffrage Cause in Reading'**
a lecture by Margaret Simons



At School Green Centre, Shinfield
19:45, Tuesday 12 March – £3 on the door



Citizens Advice will be at:

School Green Center

**Thursday 21st March
between 9:30 and 12.00**

**with our Mobile Advice Unit.
Providing free, confidential
advice, information and support.**



NRTYASHETRA

A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO INDIAN DANCE

LEARN BHARATANATYAM

WITH

MANASA KAUSHIK

MASTER OF ARTS IN BHARATANATYAM

AFFILIATED TO OFAAL BOARD



SCHOOL GREEN CENTRE,
SCHOOL GREEN, SHINFIELD,
RG2 9EH

CONTACT : +447780884408



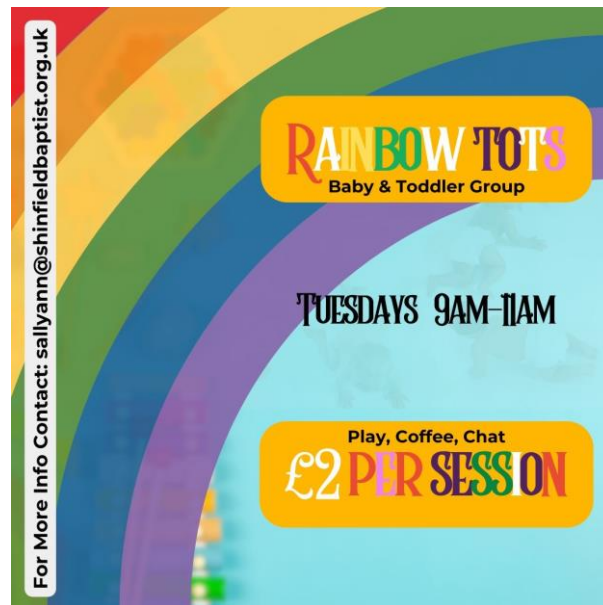
2 HOUR PARENT & CARER DAISY FIRST AID CLASSES

SCHOOL GREEN CENTRE, SHINFIELD
EVERY OTHER MONTH
SATURDAY 10.00-12.15



@daisyfirstaidbracknell
email Liane@daisyfirstaid.com





To book a one hour time session or find out more call Adele on 07759 124 067
Venue – School Green Centre, Shinfield, Reading, RG2 9EH



Other What's On in the Parish

Grazeley Village Hall www.grazeleyvillagehall.org.uk/whats-on

Spencers Wood Village Hall <https://spencerswoodvillagehall.co.uk/regular-activities/>

What's on outside our Parish



BURGHFIELD BOWLS CLUB – JOIN US IN 2024

Burghfield Bowls Club would like to invite you to one of our Open Days, where you can try the sport of Lawn Bowls for free and without any obligation.

The club will be holding Open days from 2:00pm - 5:00pm for prospective members on Saturday 20th April, and then again on Monday 27th May. These are open sessions for people to visit our green in James Lane (behind the BCSA) and try the game. All you need do is bring along some flat shoes, as all other equipment is provided.

To check the latest details nearer the time, or for more information:

- website www.burghfield.bowls-club.co.uk
- email burghfieldbowls@btinternet.com
- ring Gary on 0118 966 4911 / 07952 560781

If you are unable to make any of these Open days, feel free to contact us and we will arrange something.

Bowls is an easy sport to learn, and with our focused coaching program you could be playing in club matches within a few weeks. Every year several new bowlers find themselves playing in league matches in their first season. Others just play informal games with friends or join our regular Tuesday evening club nights. Bowls does not need excessive strength, speed or stamina, nor does it require an intensely competitive attitude. What Bowls does provide is moderate exercise in fresh air and in a sociable environment with moderate competitiveness that is ideal for both physical and mental health.

The club has planned a full fixture list for 2024 with friendly and league matches including men's, ladies and mixed events. We also run internal club competitions and organise several social events, which include skittles, barbeque, and candlelit bowls.

Burghfield Bowls Club
James Lane
Burghfield
READING
RG30 3RS



Free Trampoline Trial Session

Acceleration Trampoline Club are offering a FREE trampoline trial session to all secondary school age students.

We welcome all abilities, from complete beginner to experienced gymnast. To book your free trial session contact Alan on accelerationtc@gmail.com

Newbury Spring Festival



"Our Festival, now in its 45th year, brings some of the world's leading performers in classical, chamber, folk and world music to Newbury and the surrounding villages for two weeks of world-class music and performances. We also have many events suitable for the whole family to enjoy. We are a registered charity with a strong focus on education and outreach. More information about all our activity can be found on our website. <https://www.newburyspringfestival.org.uk/>"

For the Festival Guide visit [Newbury Spring Festival May 2024 by maxxdesign - Issuu](#)

[For more details of What's On in Shinfield Parish click here for our webpage](#)



School Green Centre, Shinfield, RG2 9EH

0118 988 8220

www.shinfieldparish.gov.uk

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)