CHRISTMAS 2026

Windlesham Parish Council

Windlesham Lightwater Bagshot

# NEWSLETTER



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# Chairman's Welcome
## *Councillor Rebecca Jennings-Evans*



As we approach the end of another year, it is hard to believe just how quickly 2026 has flown by.

It has been another busy and productive year across our parish, with plenty happening in Bagshot, Lightwater and Windlesham. From community projects and local initiatives to the many events that have brought people together, there has certainly been no shortage of activity. We were also fortunate to enjoy a wonderful summer, with fantastic weather providing the perfect backdrop for village events, celebrations and opportunities for residents to come together and enjoy all that our communities have to offer.

This newsletter provides a snapshot of some of the highlights from the year and the work your Parish Council has been undertaking on your behalf. I hope you enjoy reading about what has been achieved and the many events and activities that have taken place across our three villages.

As we look ahead to 2027, change is on the horizon, particularly in relation to local government. While details continue to emerge, please be assured that the Parish Council will keep residents informed every step of the way as developments progress.

On behalf of Windlesham Parish Council, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to our community throughout the year, including residents, volunteers, local organisations, and fellow councillors. Your support and commitment help make our parish such a special place to live.

I wish you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year. We look forward to working with you and serving our community in 2027.

*Best Wishes,*
*Rebecca*

**Contact WPC:**

**01276 471675**

**Please note the Parish Council office will be closed from 24th December and will re-open on Monday 4 January 2027**

## Your village councillors:

### Bagshot

**Cllr Valerie White, Cllr Andrew Willgoss, Cllr Mark Gordon, Cllr Frank DuCann, Cllr Richard Wilson, Cllr Abu Bakar**

### Lightwater

**Cllr Alf Turner, Cllr Alan Stevens, Cllr Katia Malcaus Cooper, Cllr Rebecca Jennings-Evans, Cllr James Harris, Cllr Derrick Jennings-Evans,**

### Windlesham

**Cllr Pat Lewis, Cllr Carole Marr, Cllr Victoria Wheeler, Cllr Robert Hardless, Cllr Tina Richardson**

**To contact your Councillor please use the below format:**

**cllr.(surname)@windleshampc.gov.uk**

**To contact the office please email: clerk@windleshampc.gov.uk**

# Village updates



In Bagshot, School Lane Field has seen several enhancements, including the installation of a new path around the field, ongoing monitoring of the wildlife pond with advice from ecological experts, and essential tree works to help maintain the health and safety of the site. The playground has also benefited from new equipment, with the former rocker bowl replaced by an exciting tractor-themed play feature.

Heritage Open Days were again a huge success, with more than 120 visitors exploring Bagshot Chapel, while further improvements at the chapel and cemetery included drainage works and a new pathway.






In Lightwater, the flags once again received fantastic feedback from residents this year. Following their positive reception, the flags remained in place for the local Remembrance Service, creating a fitting backdrop as the community came together to honour those who gave their lives in service. The Memorial Gardens and War Memorial were also given some extra care and attention, ensuring they looked particularly smart and well presented for the commemorations.

Community events at Lightwater Recreation Ground, including the Fête, LightFest and Scouts Bonfire and Fireworks Night, once again brought the community together with support from the Parish Council.





In Windlesham, improvement works at the Cemetery have enhanced ground conditions, helping to improve the site for visitors. Memorial safety testing was also carried out across all three parish cemeteries, ensuring these important spaces continue to provide a safe and well-maintained environment for those paying their respects.

In addition, a new bench was installed at Windmill Field playground which now provides a welcome resting place along the pathway.

WPC has also been proud to support a number of local community groups in the village, including the popular Over 60s Lunch Club, helping residents stay connected within the community.



The Council was delighted to host its Annual Parish Meeting and Community Awards in March, celebrating local volunteers and reflecting on another successful year across the parish. Nominations are now open for the 2027 Community Awards, giving residents the opportunity to recognise local heroes who make a real difference in the three villages.

The Christmas trees and festive lights are back once again, helping to create a wonderful festive atmosphere and bringing seasonal cheer to the parish.

For regular updates on Parish Council projects, events and news, please follow us on Facebook and Instagram, or visit our website

# Windlesham Parish Council Joins the Rural ROAR National Campaign

At its recent meeting, the Planning Committee resolved that Windlesham Parish Council will join the Rural ROAR National Coalition.




Rural ROAR is a growing national coalition of parish councils, community groups and residents working to ensure that rural communities have a stronger voice in planning decisions.

The campaign has been established in response to concerns about recent changes to planning policy, including the introduction of Grey Belt land within the Green Belt, and the potential impact this could have on villages and the countryside.

The coalition is calling for greater protection of rural areas, meaningful consideration of the impact of development on villages, and stronger local involvement in planning decisions that affect communities.

Cllr Alan Stevens, Chairman of the Planning Committee said:

"Our parish is proud of its unique rural character and green spaces, but that character is becoming increasingly difficult to protect, particularly following the release of the latest National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and broader grey-belt land designation. Which is why we voted unanimously to join Rural ROAR alongside other like-minded councils and community groups. To better ensure that rural voices are heard and local knowledge valued in order to strike the right balance between meeting housing targets whilst still protecting the rural landscape our residents love and enjoy."

Residents can find out more about the campaign and its objectives at Rural ROAR: www.ruralroar.org.uk.




## Asset Transfer Consultation



The Parish Council is inviting residents of Bagshot and Lightwater to complete a community survey regarding local facilities and public spaces.

The survey covers a range of community assets, including:

- Grass verges and open spaces
- The Briars Community Centre playground in Lightwater and Albert Road playground in Bagshot
- Benches, litter bins and bus shelters
- Bagshot Pavilion and The Briars Community Centre

SCAN HERE

The feedback received will help the Parish Council understand residents' views and inform future decisions about local assets. Share your thoughts by 29 November by scanning the QR code to access the survey, visiting the WPC website or requesting a paper copy from the Council Offices.

If you are reading this after **29 November**, thank you to everyone who took part. The Parish Council will now review the feedback received and provide an update in due course.

# Windlesham Parish Council Supports the Restoration of Bagshot's Memory Garden

We are delighted to share that Windlesham Parish Council has awarded a grant to support the restoration and rejuvenation of The Memory Garden in Bagshot, located beside the Windle Valley Day Centre.

Originally established in 2015 as part of Surrey Heath Borough Council's Let's Get Growing project, the garden was created as a dementia-friendly space where people can enjoy nature, gardening and companionship in a peaceful setting.

Over the years, a dedicated group of volunteers has worked tirelessly to maintain the garden despite limited funding. More recently, local residents have come together to help revitalise the space, with a growing team committed to ensuring it can be enjoyed by the community for years to come.




The aim is to open the garden more regularly, providing opportunities for gardening, quiet reflection and spending time outdoors. The grant will help fund improvements including new planters, fresh compost, essential repairs and, potentially, a replacement mini greenhouse.



Councillor Andrew Willgoss said: "The Memory Garden provides a valuable space for people to connect with nature, support their wellbeing and enjoy companionship or quiet reflection. The Parish Council is proud to support the dedicated volunteers who work so hard to maintain and enhance this special community space, ensuring it can be enjoyed by residents for years to come."




To keep up to date with the restoration project and find out how you can get involved, follow The Memory Garden Bagshot on Facebook. The team regularly shares updates on volunteer activities, improvements to the garden and upcoming opportunities to support this valued community space.

# Supporting the Community with grant funding

**At the Civic Amenities & Recreation Committee meeting held in early November, members were delighted to award grants to a range of local organisations and community groups that help make our villages such wonderful places to live.**

**Together, over £7,000 of funding was awarded to support projects benefiting residents across Bagshot, Lightwater and Windlesham. The Parish Council is proud to support the volunteers, community organisations and local charities that work so hard to enhance community life in the three villages.**

**Air Ambulance Charity Kent, Sussex & Surrey, towards the operating costs of the charity's Helicopter Emergency Medical Service.**

**Windlesham Society, towards replacement and additional litter-picking equipment.**

**Bagshot Playing Fields Association, towards tree and hedge maintenance.**

**Windlesham Over 60's Lunch Club, helping to support the running costs of this valued community service.**

**Earlswood Park Management Company, towards the supply of replacement trees at Gomer Road Play Park.**

**Bagshot Events, towards the popular mini Christmas tree display along Bagshot High Street.**

**Memory Garden Working Party for the Memory Garden in Bagshot**

**St Anne's Church, towards its annual Christmas Tree Festival.**

**Lightwater Connected, towards activities and attractions at the Lightwater Fete**

# Community Awards Return in March 2027 Nominate Your Local Hero!

## Do you know someone who has made a real difference in the community during 2026?

Windlesham Parish Council is once again inviting residents to nominate individuals for its Service to the Community Awards, which will be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting and Community Awards Evening in March 2027.

These awards celebrate the remarkable people who help make Bagshot, Lightwater and Windlesham such special places to live. From volunteers and community champions to fundraisers, organisers and good neighbours, the awards recognise those who go above and beyond to support others and improve local life.

The Parish Council is also continuing its Junior Volunteer Award, recognising young people whose dedication, kindness and community spirit have made a positive impact in the parish.

**Nominations are open now and close at 11.00pm on 31 December 2026.**

Residents can submit nominations online via the nomination form on the Windlesham Parish Council website or directly through the SurveyMonkey form. If you are unable to complete the form online, paper copies are available from the Parish Council Office in Lightwater.

Don't miss the chance to celebrate someone who has made a difference. Nominate your local hero today and help us recognise the people who make our communities stronger, kinder and more connected.

For more information and to submit a nomination, visit the Windlesham Parish Council website or complete the online nomination form at **www.surveymonkey.com/r/9H3686B.**



# Changes to Local Government in Surrey from April 2027

## *Future Surrey: What Does Local Government Reorganisation Mean for Bagshot, Lightwater and Windlesham?*

Surrey's system of local government is changing. The existing Surrey County Council and Surrey Heath Borough Council will be replaced as part of a county-wide reorganisation, creating two new unitary councils that will deliver all local government services.

For residents in Bagshot, Lightwater and Windlesham, the area will become part of the new West Surrey Council, which will cover the current boroughs and districts of Guildford, Runnymede, Spelthorne, Surrey Heath, Waverley and Woking.

What Will Change?

From April 2027, West Surrey Council will be responsible for services currently provided by both Surrey County Council and Surrey Heath Borough Council, including:

- Roads and transport
- Education
- Adult and children's social care
- Waste collection and environmental services
- Planning and housing services
- Leisure and community services

Residents should continue to access services as normal during the transition period.

Find out more: www.surreylgrhub.gov.uk

## Community Governance Review Update

Following the Community Governance Review, changes to local parish arrangements are due to come into effect in April 2027.

Under the approved arrangements:

- Bagshot and Lightwater will remain together under a single parish council.
- Windlesham will form its own parish council, serving the Windlesham community.

As further information becomes available, including details about the transition and future arrangements, we will share updates with residents.

For the latest information, please visit the Windlesham Parish Council website.

# Could your household cope for three days during an emergency?

## The simple steps you can take to help you cope during emergencies.

ARE YOU EMERGENCY READY?

In the last year, flooding, water & power outages have disrupted everyday life in Surrey. And in the summer the extreme heat and drought conditions resulted in 970 wildfires.

That's why our emergency and public services are supporting the Government's new Be Ready campaign.
Preparing for emergencies isn't only about helping ourselves. If those of us who can prepare ahead of time do so, emergency services can focus on helping the most vulnerable.

Surrey Local Resilience Forum

Our research has found that most Surrey residents understand what the risks are, but many aren't sure what to do to prepare.

Check if you're eligible to join the Priority Services Register (www.thepsr.co.uk). This is a free service that provides extra support during power, gas or water outages.

Fortunately, getting started is simpler than you think. You may already have many essentials at home. A few practical steps you can take include:

- Set aside enough food and bottled water to last for three days.
- Have a torch, batteries and a charged power bank available.
- Make sure essential medication is readily available.
- Save emergency contact numbers.
- Talk to your family members about what to do in an emergency and make a plan.

To learn more and take your first step towards becoming #SurreyPrepared,
**visit: surreycc.gov.uk/prepare**

You can also download the UK Government's Be Ready checklist via **beready.campaign.gov.uk**




## Warm Welcome Venues in Surrey

Looking for a warm, welcoming space this winter? Surrey County Council's Warm Welcome scheme highlights venues across Surrey where residents can enjoy a friendly environment, meet others, access support and take part in activities at no cost.

Whether you're looking for company, advice or simply a comfortable place to spend some time, Warm Welcome venues can be found in communities across the county.

To find your nearest venue and learn more, visit Surrey County Council's Warm Welcome webpage.

**surreycc.gov.uk/health-and-welfare/cost-of-living-support/warm-welcome**

# Season's Eatings: A Festive Crossword

**ACROSS**

1. Sweet nut roasted over an open fire in winter
2. Spiced fruit filling once used in festive mince pies
3. Italian sweet bread studded with candied fruit
4. Spiced cake or cookie shaped into houses and men
5. Fragrant herb often rubbed onto roast meats
6. Seasoned bread mixture cooked inside the bird or alongside it
7. Main roast bird served at many Christmas dinners

**DOWN**

2. Describes wine warmed and spiced with cinnamon and cloves
6. Buttery Scottish biscuit enjoyed with tea
8. Tart red berry often served as a sauce with roast turkey
9. Creamy spiced drink made with eggs, milk and rum
10. Savory sauce poured over roast meat and potatoes



WINDLESHAM PARISH COUNCIL

CHRISTMAS 2026

# Christmas Sprinkle Star Biscuits



**Makes: 12-15 biscuits**

**Preparation time: 15 minutes**

**Baking time: 10-12 minutes**





## Ingredients




- 100g unsalted butter, softened
- 50g caster sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 150g plain flour
- Christmas-themed sprinkles
- Ready-made icing or icing sugar mixed with a little water (optional)

**Preheat the oven to 180°C (160°C fan) or Gas Mark 4.**

### Make the dough

- Mix the butter and sugar together until smooth.
- Stir in the vanilla extract.
- Add the flour and mix until a dough forms.

### Roll and cut

- Lightly flour a work surface.
- Roll out the dough to about 5mm thick.
- Use a star cutter to cut out festive shapes

### Decorate

- Place the stars on a lined baking tray.
- Sprinkle with Christmas sprinkles, or save these for after baking.

### Bake

- Bake for 10-12 minutes until the edges are just turning golden.

### Cool and decorate

- Leave to cool completely.
- Children can decorate with icing and extra sprinkles to create colourful Christmas stars.

### Top Tip!

Thread a ribbon through a small hole in each biscuit before baking and use them as edible Christmas tree decorations, or package them in festive bags as homemade gifts for family and friends.



# UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Meeting calendar available on the WPC website

windlesham pc.gov.uk

## Parish Council Meetings

**Full Council**
12 January at 19:30
Venue: Lightwater Library

**Full Council Meeting**
19 January at 7:15pm
Venue: St Anne's Church Centre, Bagshot

**Planning Meeting**
16 December 2026 11:00am
13 January 2027 11:00am
27 January 2027 11:00am
Venue: All Saints' Church Hall, Lightwater

**Communications Committee Meeting**
8 February at 6:30pm
Venue: Lightwater Library

**Civic Amenities & Recreation Committee**
28 February at 7:30pm
Venue: Lightwater Library

**Annual Parish Meeting**
Wednesday 10 March 2027
Details TBA

**On rare occasions, some meeting dates may change. Please check our website or call the Parish Council office before attending**




## Carols at Bagshot chapel

Chapel Lane, Bagshot
Friday 18th December at 6:00pm
Bring a torch and wear sensible footwear
More information on the WPC website



## Windlesham Pram Race Boxing Day

Race starts at 10:15am on 26th December

More information: pramrace.com