



T h e F i n c h a m p s t e a d S o c i e t y

With a population of around 12,000, Finchampstead stretches from Sandmartins Golf Course in the North to the River Blackwater/Hampshire border in the South and from Crowthorne Station in the East to beyond New Mill Road in the West.

Protecting the Interests of Finchampstead

The Finchampstead Society was formed in 1976 to identify what we wish to preserve and the changes we are willing to accept. The primary concern of the society remains to protect, not just the members' interests, but also those of the wider community and to ensure that we maintain the rural nature of Finchampstead. We monitor all major planning applications but only oppose those that would significantly damage or degrade the local environment. The society maintains close liaison with the Parish and District Councils and participates in public inquiries where necessary. Past Campaigns have included:

Bramshill Forest:

The society played a vital part in getting the government to reject plans to build 4,500 houses in Bramshill. This would have faced us with an additional 6,000 car journeys a day.

Land Banking:

We successfully drew attention to our local and the wider UK threat from the so called Land Banking Enterprise. The UKLI company started selling strips of farm land at £20,000 each, giving the false impression it could eventually be built on. The society had articles published in The Guardian and The Financial Times ultimately resulting in the Department of Trade closing down the scheme.

Footpath along the Blackwater:

By directly engaging with the gravel extraction company, we were able to have a new footpath constructed, providing access to a significant proportion of the North bank of the Blackwater River. We continue to monitor the gravel extraction works and the gradual restoration of the excavated areas to nature reserves.

Social

Throughout the year, the Finchampstead Society hosts a variety of social events of interest to its members. These social events provide both entertainment and information, with something for everyone. We organise talks, visits, hold social events such as wine tasting, dances, quiz nights and each year we have an Autumn Supper and a Carol Concert.

History and Heritage

Over the years, residents have amassed a large collection of historical items, now stored in The Finchampstead Society Archive, which may be viewed by members. Speakers are also invited to address the members on matters of historical and current interest.

Walks

Finchampstead is fortunate in having one of the highest density of public rights of way in the country. Each year, the society organises local family walks, sometimes finishing with a Ploughman's Lunch in the Memorial Hall.

Wildlife

There is abundant wildlife in Finchampstead and the surrounding area. We have a large variety of birds, flora and fauna and the society is fortunate to have members with very relevant knowledge.

Publications

Finch Mail, Our newsletter, which is published several times a year, keeps members "up to date" on the society's activities and local events.

Finchampstead - Past, present and future, 1997, "This is the most comprehensive picture of Finchampstead ever presented during its long history."

Hedgerows and Local History in Finchampstead, 1993, Provides a summary of hedge surveys carried out by the society, with a colour-coded map.

Finchampstead in Old Pictures, 1998, This 64 page book gives a brief history of the parish with over 90 photographs, dating back nearly 100 years.

Membership

Join us now to help protect our environment and take part in Finchampstead social events.

Annual adult subscription £3 each

I/we should like to include an additional donation of £ _____

Family members, under 18 years of age, qualify for free admission.

*Please complete the table below and send the complete form (you will be sent a replacement) with your remittance, payable to **The Finchampstead Society**, to the Membership Secretary: **Adrian Hobbs, Woodside, Dell Road, Finchampstead, RG40 3TD**. Tel: 01252 873244, E mail: cah@hobbsnet.org.*

	Given Name	Surname
1 st Member		
2 nd Member		
1 st Member E-mail		
2 nd Member E-mail		
Full Address		
Post Code		
Phone (include code)		
1 st Member Mobile		
2 nd Member Mobile		