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TOWN GUIDE 2017-2019

including street map & index



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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

- We want to keep our residents informed about what is going on locally.
- We have a Help Shop at the Town Council Offices in Radstock Lane, Earley. It stocks a wide selection of literature – including booklets, leaflets, posters, reports and other publications which give details of the Council and its services.
- There is an extensive and informative website which can be reached on **www.earley-tc.gov.uk**
- Further information can be obtained by e-mailing us at **administration@earley-tc.gov.uk**

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN EARLEY

Earley Town Council is your local community based council. The Council Offices are situated in Radstock Lane. Most meetings of the Town Council and its committees are held on Wednesday evenings, (Planning meetings are held on Tuesdays), full details including all agendas and minutes being displayed on the regularly updated Council Website.

Wokingham Borough Council is the Unitary Authority for this area, providing the great majority of services including schools, social services, council housing, refuse collection and management of sports centres. The Town has eight schools, one of which, Maiden Erlegh School, is a secondary school. Contact numbers are provided in the general information section.

The Town Council provides a wide variety of local services. Parks are provided at Sol Joel situated in Church Road (which has football and cricket pitches, sports courts, a skate park and children's play equipment), Meadow Park (a more traditional park with open space, play areas, formal flower beds and a wild flower meadow), Marefield Pond and Bulmershe Park which is jointly managed with Woodley Town Council. Additionally, the Town Council has taken over the management of the sports pavilion in Laurel Park, which has been extensively refurbished. The Council also owns and maintains a Local Nature Reserve at Instow Road. The Reserve is some 12 hectares in extent and within its boundaries is a very attractive lake, ancient woodlands, wildflower and butterfly areas and the Interpretation Centre.

Other facilities include the secluded Lawn Cemetery at Mays Lane which is some 12 acres in extent and is a very peaceful haven in the middle of local residential development, and enhanced with the provision of the Garden of Remembrance. There is a large and well maintained allotment site at Culver Lane that backs on to Milton Road, which benefits from a resident Horticultural Society. Any residents interested in a plot should contact the Council Offices. Also, there are two large Community Centres both available for private hire. One is at Radstock Lane and the other at Maiden Place. Both have resident Social Clubs with their own comfortable bar/lounge areas. And, lastly, the Town Council now runs two Community & Youth Centres at Centrepont and Silverdale, having taken these over from Wokingham Borough Council in 2013.

Town Council responsibilities also include street furniture, the construction of linking footpaths, the provision and maintenance of some of Earley's street lighting and consultation on highways and all local planning applications.

Although the Town Council is an entirely separate entity there are direct links to most of the services provided by Wokingham Borough Council. There are currently 25 Town Councillors representing eight Wards.



Earley Town Council Offices

EARLEY TOWN COUNCILLORS

WHITEGATES

Munir Ahmed	59 Chiltern Crescent, Earley, RG6 1AL Tel: 926 6889
Sheena Matthews	27 The Drive, Earley, RG6 1EG Tel: 966 2702
Alison Swaddle	179 Church Road, Earley, RG6 1HN Tel: 07792 104221

REDHATCH

John Armstrong	9 Reeds Avenue, Earley, RG6 5SP Tel: 986 0819
David Chopping	13 Luckmore Drive, Earley, RG6 7RP Tel: 926 7260
Bill Luck	32 Easby Way, Lower Earley, RG6 3XA Tel: 07801 061493
Brian Wedge	13 Reeds Avenue, Earley, RG6 5SP Tel: 931 0153

HILLSIDE

Linda Chambers Sharmel, Cutbush Lane,
Earley, RG6 4UU
Tel: 986 9117

Norman Jorgensen Planters Lodge, Cutbush
Lane, Lower Earley,
RG6 4UU
Tel: 986 8732

Ralph Houlbrooke 55 Falstaff Avenue,
Earley, RG6 5TG
Tel: 987 4233

CUTBUSH

Tim Chambers Sharmel, Cutbush Lane,
Earley, RG6 4UU
Tel: 986 9117

Pauline Jorgensen Planters Lodge, Cutbush
Lane, Lower Earley,
RG6 4UU
Tel: 986 8732

Judith Clark 35 Kensington Close,
Lower Earley, RG6 4EY
Tel: 986 6492

MAIDEN ERLEGH

Andrew Bradley 3 Whitton Close,
Lower Earley, RG6 3UQ
Tel: 935 3194

John Russell 33 Allendale Road,
Earley, RG6 7PD
Tel: 961 6638

Christopher Smith 19 Elm Lane, Earley,
RG6 5UE
Tel: 07880 902322

RADSTOCK

Melanie De Jong 6 Conygree Close,
Lower Earley, RG6 4XE
Tel: 987 1419

Jackie Rance JP 27 Conygree Close,
Lower Earley, RG6 4XE
Tel: 921 2232

Peter Willis 25 Clevedon Drive,
Earley, RG6 5XF
Tel: 987 3656

HAWKEDON

Pamela Dunn 3 Whitton Close, Earley,
RG6 3UQ
Tel: 935 3194

Michael Firmager 46 Chilcombe Way,
Lower Earley, RG6 3DA
Tel: 926 9340

Timothy Holton 23 Toseland Way, Lower
Earley, RG6 7YA
Tel: 966 8254

ST NICOLAS

Guy Grandison 2 Gabriels Square,
Lower Earley, RG6 3WP
Tel: 986 8585

Laura Blumenthal 17 Radstock Lane,
Earley, RG6 5RX
Tel: 07947 974464

Nicola Brock 43 Strand Way,
Earley, RG6 4BU
Tel: 07880 500372

ABOUT EARLEY

Earley is situated in the historic Royal County of Berkshire, on the outskirts of Reading, and has tended to become integrated into its urban sprawl, a common happening with communities on the boundaries of most towns. In fact, Earley is within the Wokingham Borough area, and not Reading. It has an elongated shape which stretches from the River Thames in the north to the M4 in the south. The population of the Town is currently estimated to be in excess of 33,000.

Geographically Earley is almost divided into three parts. It is also quite interesting to note the variations of the name of Earley present in the area, Erleigh, Erlegh and Earley. In the north, from the River Thames to the railway line we have North Earley and part of Central Earley and Maiden Erlegh (so called because it is built on the site of a large estate of that name). Stretching southwards to the M4 motorway is South Earley where the green fields area has now almost entirely given way to the new roads and houses constructed as part of the Lower Earley development.

The main shopping area, which includes an Asda Superstore, can be found at the District Centre by Chalfont Way. There are also smaller shopping parades at Silverdale Road, Maiden Place and in Wokingham Road near to the Three Tuns crossroads.



Earley's long history dates back to Roman times. In the 11th Century, the area was known as Herlei when the population was thought to be in the region of some 100 residents. There was a gradual increase over the centuries, but the first large increase occurred during the housing boom of the 1930s and 1940s by which time the population had grown to in excess of 5,000.

The origin of the name of the Town is open to interpretation. There are many place names which have either ley or leigh within them. This is an Anglo Saxon word for a wood or clearing. This could apply to any of the several spellings of the name Earley which include Erlegh, Erleigh and Earley. Er or Ear could refer to either eagles or gravel pits. Both are possible, but birds of prey were a common sight.

Earley Town Council was the successor to the previous Parish Council and came into being in 1974. The logo was conceived and drawn originally by Paul Devonald (one of Earley's Town Councillors in the 1980s). It is a representative depiction of the sun rising over the Earley skyline. The tower of the Earley St Peter's Church is prominent.

Bridge over the Loddon





Wokingham Borough Libraries

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There is a lot on offer at Wokingham Borough Libraries with a wide selection of books, e-books, e-audio and e-magazines all free with your library card. In April we increased the opening hours at some of our libraries, and Lower Earley Library is now open until 4pm on a Saturday. If you are busy you can save time queuing by using our new self-service kiosks, just pop into Lower Earley Library to see what's on offer.



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BUSINESS PARKS AND EMPLOYMENT AREAS

Earley is a popular location for business due to its excellent road and rail communications coupled with an attractive living and working environment. A prosperous and economically vibrant area, the Town is home to service sector and leading high-tech companies including Oracle and Microsoft.

THAMES VALLEY PARK

This exciting business park has become well-established on an attractive 47 hectare development site overlooking the Thames in north Earley. It has direct access from the A329(M) via a flyover across the A4. An adjoining 33 hectare country park, including a nature reserve, complements the parkland setting of the ultra-modern offices. Existing facilities at the business park include a day nursery and a health and fitness club. Occupiers include BG Group, Oracle Corporation, Microsoft, Xansa and ING Direct.



SUTTONS BUSINESS PARK

Slough Estates has developed over 71,500 square metres of employment space at this prime location east of Reading at the junction of the A4 and the A329(M) in north Earley. It comprises a mix of modern, mostly office, premises in landscaped grounds fronting the A4 at its entrance and slightly older industrial and warehousing units, typically of around 400 square metres in size, at its western end. The site is currently undergoing a major redevelopment which will include an ALDI supermarket and a drive-through Costa Coffee shop.





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OUT AND ABOUT IN EARLEY



bankworks, pathworks and water/fish quality controls. These initiatives are ongoing, and anyone interested in becoming involved in the conservation work would be welcome to join one of the local volunteer groups. Fishing permits can be obtained from the Council Offices.

The Interpretation Centre at Instow Road provides a base for managing the Reserve and a well appointed field study centre for local students and school children. It was erected as a Millennium project, and is available for hire.

MAIDEN ERLEGH PARK

The Park is some twelve hectares in extent, and has been classified as a Local Nature Reserve. It is managed on the Town Council's behalf by its Park Ranger Service with the help of the Head Water Bailiff and up to ten seasonally appointed Water Bailiffs.

The Park is in several "parcels" which are described on the Interpretation Boards around the site. The Lake area, between Instow Road and Lakeside is managed under the Reservoirs Act and is inspected by a Consultant Engineer each year. Records have to be kept on water levels, and the condition of the Weir, etc., aspects which are inspected by the Engineer.

The Lake is bounded by ancient woodland and again the Council has had a hard balancing act to reconcile the needs of the population living all around the Park, many of whom use the main pathway as a thoroughfare, and the need to conserve a valuable habitat.

There have been many improvements undertaken in recent years including desilting,

MEADOW PARK

The Park is some four acres plus in extent and situated between Roman Way and Meadow Road, with pathways leading in from both roads. There are extensive cultivated beds, mainly with shrubs, a wildflower meadow section, a central grassed area, an aromatic garden and two areas of children's play equipment. The Park has been extensively upgraded in an attempt to try to meet local needs.

The park has been awarded Queen Elizabeth II Field status by Fields in Trust in 2012.



BULMERSHE PARK

The Park is situated off Woodlands Avenue on the boundary between Woodley and Earley and is jointly managed by the two Town Councils. Entrance is usually gained from Pitts Lane. More of its area is within Woodley and, historically, Woodley Town Council has undertaken routine grass cutting and other maintenance, with our Council meeting a proportion of the costs each year. We now have a greater degree of responsibility since the development of our Park Ranger Service, but largely the old arrangement remains in place and works well.

PADDICK DRIVE OPEN SPACE

This area of land consists of a large recreational area of grass and trees, and is popular with walkers, particularly dog walkers. There is a dirt based BMX Track located in the corner part of the field, which has been planted out with a variety of trees and shrubs. Also, a Community Orchard has been established here in one corner of the field.

SOL JOEL PARK

The 18 acre Sol Joel Park is entirely within the Earley Town Council area, but for historical reasons, it was conveyed to Reading Borough Council by Sol Joel, and is now leased to Earley Town Council. The Park has three football pitches, mini soccer pitches, a cricket square and a pavilion. Several skate ramps have been provided which are suitable for rollerblading, skateboarding and BMX bikes. The equipment has recently been upgraded and added to and, more recently a Street Running (Parkour) facility has been installed. The most recent

phase of improvements providing more play equipment for children, to include items for inclusive play has just been installed, and a major project to rebuild the pavilion to modern standards was completed in 2013. The Park has been awarded Queen Elizabeth II Field status by Fields in Trust in the Queen's Diamond Jubilee year.



MAIDEN PLACE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Rebuilt and extended in the 1980s, the Centre provides a bar/lounge which is the home of Maiden Place Social Club. The Community Centre is a very popular venue for parties and meetings and again benefits from the presence of a nursery group, Kilnsea Pre School which provides places for the under fives. In addition to the main hall and meeting room, the Centre also has a second medium size hall, the Function Room which is extremely popular with hirers. Bookings can be made at the Council Offices on **0118 986 8995** or by email to **hallhire@earley-tc.gov.uk**

RADSTOCK LANE COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Centre is provided on a site adjacent to Radstock Primary School and immediately opposite the Town Council Offices. It comprises a main hall and a meeting room. The Earley Radstock Social Club manages

the bar/lounge. The main hall is particularly well appointed and has a friendly atmosphere, which has made it an extremely popular venue for functions such as weddings, birthday and anniversary parties. It is also a favourite meeting point for several local organisations. Information about bookings can be obtained from the Town Council Offices on **0118 986 8995** or by email to **hallhire@earley-tc.gov.uk**.

CENTREPOINT COMMUNITY & YOUTH CENTRE

The Centrepoint Community & Youth Centre is located in the ASDA complex, adjacent to the Lower Earley Library and opposite the Trinity Church. This Centre provides accommodation for a number of daytime community groups, for example an After School Club, the Chalfont Toddlers Group; and is also available for private hire. The Earley Volunteer Drivers' Bureau Office is located within the centre. The Centre is also available for private hire and information about bookings can be obtained from the Town

Council Offices on **0118 986 8995** or by email to **hallhire@earley-tc.gov.uk**.

SILVERDALE COMMUNITY & YOUTH CENTRE

Together with Centrepoint, this facility was taken over by Earley Town Council from Wokingham Borough Council in October 2013. As well as being "home" to a number of local organisations, including Maiden Erlegh Pre-School, and a Parent & Toddler Group, The Centre is also home to the very successful Bike Workshop which is run as a youth activity on Thursday evenings and daytime Saturdays and the Fusion Music Project which takes place on a Wednesday evening, aimed at young people who wish to play music or, indeed, who are beginners and wish to learn to play a musical instrument. The Centre is also available for private hire and information about bookings can be obtained from the Town Council Offices on **0118 986 8995** or by email to **hallhire@earley-tc.gov.uk**.



Silverdale Centre



Sol Joel Park

CRESCENT COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE

The Community Resource Centre is now well established. The building was designed to allow for flexible use to respond to the requirements of the community and to support its development. The success of the centre has grown through many partnerships and now provides a focal point for the community. If you have not yet visited the Centre please do call in, its volunteers and staff will give you a warm welcome. Training is a key activity at the centre with a diverse programme of courses including foreign languages, IT, crafts and art. These are open to all local residents. Courses to support voluntary & community groups such as first aid, food hygiene & disability & diversity are available. Regular weekly groups are hosted by the CResCent, ranging from line dancing and

yoga to blood-donation and quilting. CResCent also provides much needed accommodation for a variety of voluntary and community groups such as Earley Bus, Wokingham Resource & Opportunity Centre and the Church of Christ. The CResCent Moon Café is open from 9:00-5:00pm weekdays and on Wednesdays lunches are served between 12:30-1:30pm.

WATERSIDE CENTRE

Many visitors to the Town do not realise that part of Earley fronts the Thames. Beyond the A3290, is Thames Valley Park, and an excellent water facility has been provided by Wokingham Borough Council overlooking the Thames primarily for rowing and canoeing. It is already well used both for local and national events. Below is a cavernous area for the storage of boats and upstairs are meeting rooms, conference facilities and a medical/first aid room which was equipped by the Town Council. On the opposite bank of the Thames, easily viewed from the balcony is a lovely sanctuary for birds, which is very popular with ornithologists.

PUBLIC HOUSES

Earley has a number of very popular public houses. The Earley Retreat and the Toby Carvery are in the District Centre area. There are two Public Houses, well frequented and very popular at lunchtimes, both on the eastern side of Town at The George in Loddon





Bridge Road and The Poachers at Sindlesham Mill. A more recent facility is the Seven Red Roses at the Maiden Place Shopping Centre.

CHALFONT PARK

The second of the two Wokingham Borough owned parks within the Earley area is opposite the District Centre at Chalfont Way. The neat and well appointed park has a modern pavilion, floodlit sports courts, football pitches and a variety of play equipment.

LAUREL PARK

Adjacent to the Local Nature Reserve is Laurel Park, which is owned and managed by Wokingham Borough Council. Access is gained from Rushey Way via Marefield. The entrance road leads to a pavilion now maintained by the Town Council, with several football pitches beyond. The Park also has a well designed and maintained children's play area and a large general recreational area. There is also a community orchard at the park.

LODDON VALLEY LEISURE CENTRE

Already a very well equipped sports centre, Wokingham Borough Council managed Loddon Valley Sports Centre has recently

benefited from a major refit. Two well appointed swimming pools have been added to the list of available activities. Other improvements include a magnificent fitness suite. The entrance to the Centre fronts Rushey Way, near to the entrance to Asda Superstore.

MAIDEN ERLEGH VISUAL ARTS CENTRE

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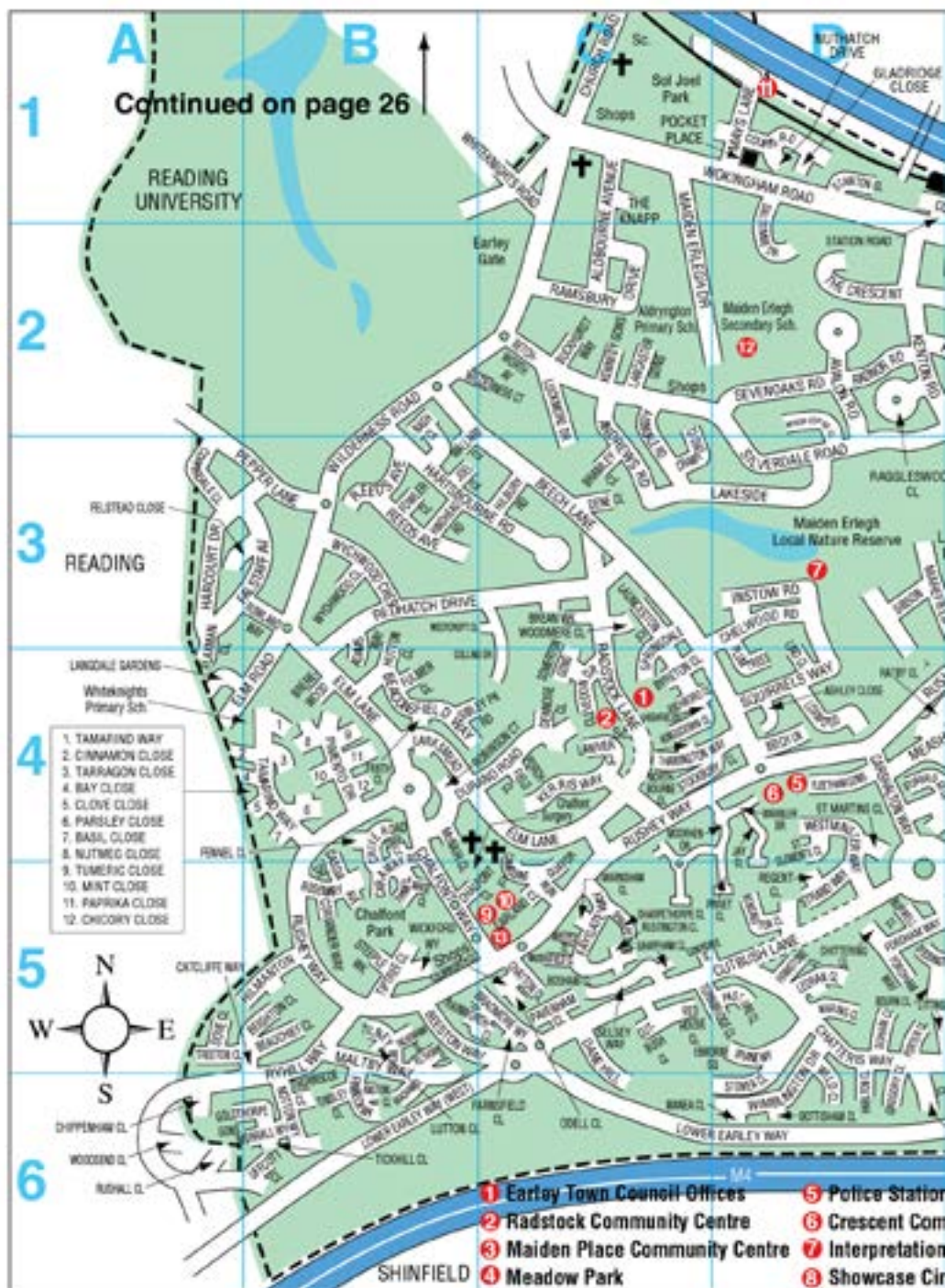
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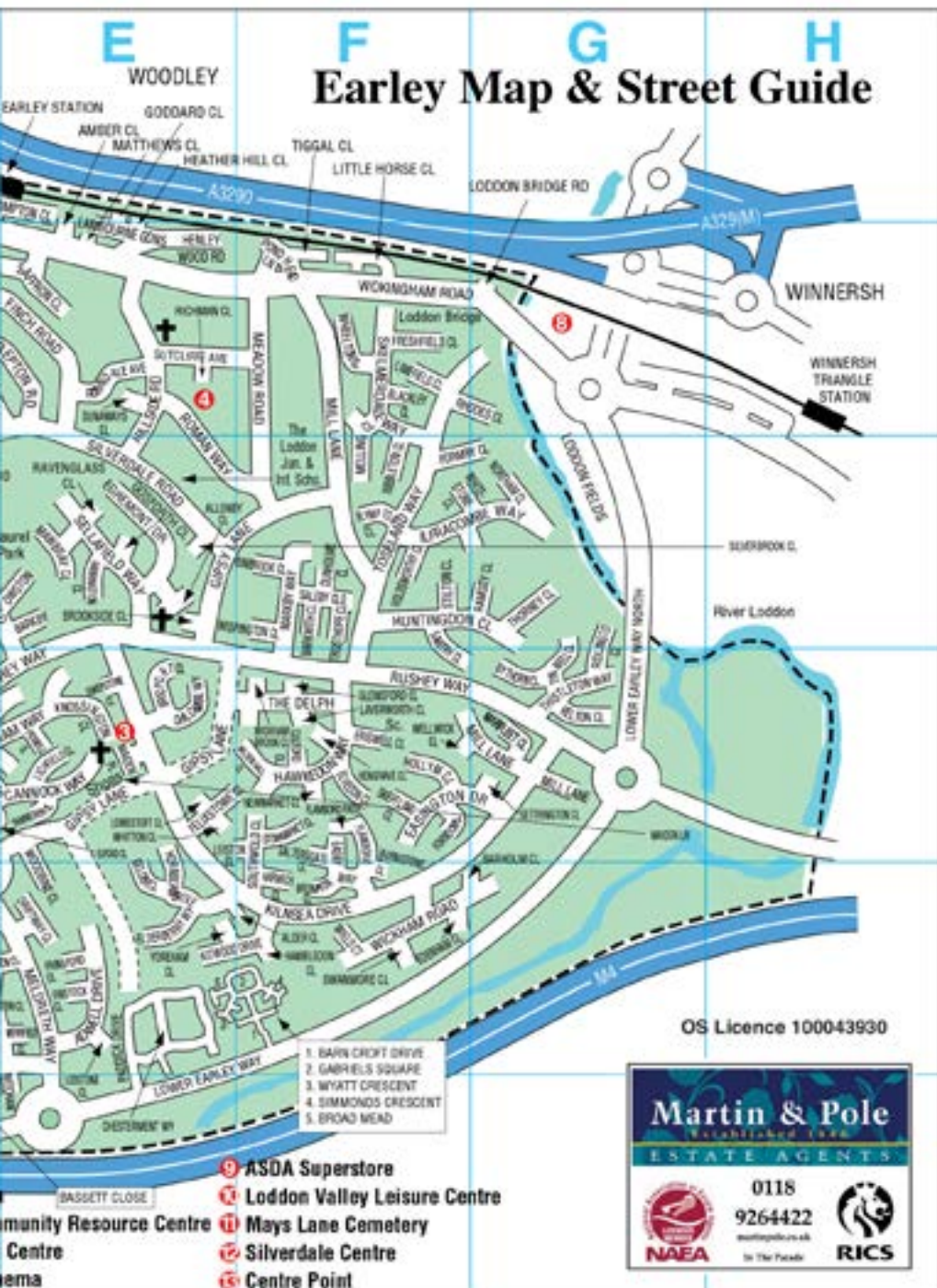
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STREET INDEX

Adams Way	B3 24	Blackley Close	F2 25
Adwell Drive	E5 25	Blackthorn Close	C4 26
Aldbourne Avenue	C1 24	Bosham Close	C5 24
Alder Close	F5 25	Bottisham Close	D6 24
Allendale Road	C2 24	Bourn Close	D5 24
Allonby close	E3 25	Bradmore Way	C5 24
Amber Close	E2 25	Bramley Close	C3 24
Anderson Avenue	C4 26	Brean Walk	C3 24
Andrews Road	C2 24	Brerewood	B4 24
Anston Close	B6 24	Bridges Grove	C3 26
Ashley Close	D4 24	Bridport Close	E4 25
Avalon Road	D2 24	Broad Mead	E5 25
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Barbel Close	C2 26	Brookside Close	E3 25
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Barkwith Close	F3 25	Burwell Close	D5 24
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Beauchief Close	B5 24	Carland Close	C5 24
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Beech Lane	D4 24	Cassia Drive	B5 24
Beeston Way	B5 24	Catcliffe Way	B5 24
Beighton Close	B5 24	Chalfont Close	B5 24
Berstead Close	C5 24	Chalfont Way	B5 24
Betchworth Avenue	C2 24	Chatteris Way	D5 24
Binbrook Close	F3 25	Chatton Close	C5 24





Earley Map & Street Guide

Legend:

- 1 Mays Lane Cemetery
- 2 Culver Lane Allotments
- 3 Wokingham Waterside Centre
- 4 Woodley Hill House

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NAEA RICS

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① Mays Lane Cemetery
② Culver Lane Allotments
③ Wokingham Waterside Centre
④ Woodley Hill House

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 **RICS**

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Cinnamon Close	B4 24	Felstead Close	B3 24
Clevedon Drive	C4 24	Felthorpe Close	B5 24
Clove Close	B4 24	Fennel Close	B4 24
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Dene Close	C3 24	Fulmer Close	B4 24
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Edenham Close	F5 25	Harcourt Drive	A3 24
Egremont Drive	E3 25	Harlton Close	D6 24
Elderberry Way	E5 25	Harrington Close	E3 25
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Hindhead Road	B3 24	Maiden Place	E4 25
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Hollym Close	F4 25	Maltby Way	B5 24
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Kenton Road	D2 24	Meldreth Way	E5 25
Kerris Way	C4 24	Melling Close	F3 25
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Limefield Close	F2 25	Odell Close	C5 24
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Ryhill Way	B5 24	Tarragon Close	B4 24
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Sage Close	B4 24	Thannington Way	D4 24
Salcombe Drive	D1 24	The Drive	C3 26
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Tiptree Close	B5 24
Toseland Way	F3 25
Treeton Close	A5 24
Trout Close	C2 26
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Turnbridge Close	C5 24
Uffcott Close	B6 24
Warbler Drive	D4 24
Waring Close	D5 24
Warnsham Close	C5 24
Watersfield Close	C5 24
Welwick Close	F4 25
Westcroft Close	C3 24
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Wimblington Drive	D6 24
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Woodbine Close	E4 25
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Worrall Way	B6 24
Wyatt Crescent	E5 25
Wychwood Close	B3 24
Wychwood Crescent	B3 24
Yoreham Close	E5 25

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A BRIEF HISTORY OR EARLEY

PREHISTORIC EARLEY

It is very likely that humans from the Palaeolithic period – the Old Stone Age – up to 400,000 years BC were foraging in Earley for edible vegetation and grubs and hunting wild cattle, deer and elephant. Traces of flimsy shelters made from brushwood have been found in North Earley on the site of the old Power Station at the Thames Valley Business Park. Tools from this era have been found within the Town. These early residents would have depended on the surrounding woodland for hunting and gathering of edible plants such as nuts, berries and roots. It is thought that the clearing of woodland for agriculture and the keeping of domesticated animals started in around 4000 BC, the Neolithic or New Stone Age, with the arrival of people from the Continent. Small areas of wildwood would have been cleared using stone tools. There is archaeological evidence for continued human presence during the Bronze Age and Iron Age on the site of the Thames Valley Business Park in North Earley.

THE ROMANS AND BEYOND

The Romans invading England in AD 43, came to a land with fully developed agriculture and Roman artefacts have been found at a number of sites in Earley. A Saxon settlement has been discovered in Reading at the confluence of the Kennet and the Thames dating from about 600 AD.

During the Reign of Edward the Confessor the Manors at Earley were held by the Crown. The Great Survey of AD 1086 reveals that only about 20 per cent of Berkshire was wooded,

and by 1200 much of the modern landscape was already recognisable. The Norman Conquest had the positive effect of increasing woodland cover to provide hunting forests with Windsor Forest extending to the Loddon.

THE MIDDLE AGES

Domesday records two manors, Erlegh St Bartholomew and Erlegh St Nicholas. The de Erlegh family held the manors c. 1160 – 1362. John de Erlegh, 1292, was known as the White Knight – thus the manor of St Nicholas was renamed. The other Manor also had a name change to Erlegh Court. The Manor of Maiden Erlegh, Erley Maydens, is attested from 1502 and that it was formed out of Earley Whiteknights in the 14th Century.

The estate passed through several owners over the Centuries eventually being acquired by Viscount Sidmouth who died in 1844. The Manor remained in the Sidmouth family until the 1930's after which the estate was sold for building development.

Erlegh St Nicholas, Whiteknights, was bought by Henry de Aldryngton in around 1361. After his death it passed down the family line to the Beke family until the death of Henry Beke in 1580. By marriage to Beke's daughter Hugh Speke gained the estate. In 1606 the Spekes sold the manor of Erlegh Whiteknights for £7,500 to Francis Englefield. His nephew, also known by the same name became the owner in the beginning of the 17th Century. The Englefields were devout Roman Catholics and thus faced persecution and heavy taxes. The estate remained in the family until the late 1700's, when they were forced to sell due to the ongoing prejudice of their neighbours.

The Marquis of Blandford, who became the Duke of Marlborough, had the parkland extensively landscaped during his ownership between 1798 and 1819. However, he ran up massive debts and his possessions were seized and sold including many of the landscape features. The impressive Manor House was demolished in 1840-41. The Whiteknights Estate of today is the home of the University of Reading which took over the site in 1947.

Much of the material contained in this brief history derives from, and is contained within the local history book "Earley Days " which was produced by the local History Group with help from the Town Council. This first book is available on loan from local libraries. Two further books have been published, namely 'Earley Memories' and 'Suttons Seeds', available to purchase from the Town Council Offices, local bookshops and the Lower Earley library.

ABOUT SOLLY JOEL

Solomon Barnato Joel purchased the Maiden Erlegh Estate in 1903. His generosity and lavish lifestyle has been written into the folklore of Earley. Even the current spelling of Maiden Erlegh is attributed to him. He is also believed by some to have had the Lake created, although, again, maps of the 1700's show it to be already in existence. However, the large island within the Lake can probably be attributed to him. He invested heavily in the Estate commissioning a wonderful marble swimming pool complete with fresco. The grounds were well laid out, complete with a magnificent rose garden and terracing. The Estate boasted an aviary, polo ground, cricket field and tennis courts. He also established a famous race horse stud at New Farm, which was re-named Home Stud Farm, and was situated near what is now Marefield, off Rushey Way.

A map held by the Town Council clearly shows that the Mansion stood between Silverdale Road and Crawford Close. To get to

the Mansion you would have travelled from Wokingham Road along Maiden Erlegh Drive, most of which still exists today, complete with sections of Victorian fencing and the Lodge.

When millionaire Solomon Joel died on 22nd May 1931, the final chapter in the large estate of Maiden Erlegh was near to completion. His death and the subsequent dividing up of the 750-acre estate marked the start of the building of the town we know today. However, it was not until the Manor was demolished in 1960 that the real growth started; the area, including around Silverdale Road to Lakeside, being of this era.

After his death in 1931, the luxurious contents of the Mansion were sold at auction. The Mansion itself became Maiden Erlegh School for Boys which flourished until 1942. In 1945 the building was sold on to the Church Army, which used it as a Training College until 1952. ICI then bought the Manor and used it as a Conference Centre and offices until 1954, when Cooper Estates Limited purchased the site. Hungarian refugees were housed there, following the Soviet invasion of their country in 1956. They were its last residents – the bulldozers starting their destruction in March 1960.

MAIDEN ERLEGH PARK

In response to the demands of local residents, Cooper Estates agreed to sell Maiden Erlegh Lake and the surrounding woodland to Earley Parish Council in return for being allowed to build on another greenfield site. As it was realised the purchase would lead to an increase in the rates, the Council held a public meeting and a referendum. With the backing of the people of Earley, the Council purchased the site for £8,500 in 1965. More recently Old Lane Wood, at the rear of Sellafeld Way, was acquired from the then Wokingham District Council, giving the Park a total area of some 24 acres. The woodlands within the Park are of great historical and ecological importance,



Maiden Erlegh Park

with Oak wood dating from a least the 16th Century and containing some 18 indicator species associated with old woodlands. Charcoal and pollen deposits from sediment indicate that the Lake area was once wet woodland, almost certainly created by building a dam, flooding the valley bottom. This practice was commonplace from the Middle Ages to the 18th Century to create fish ponds, to provide ice and a landscape feature.

FROM HAMLET TO TOWN

The population of Earley stands today at just over 33,000 in contrast to the Herlei of 1086 where the Great Survey records a population of 21 people, although it is thought likely a truer figure would be around 100. The population remained fairly constant during this period up until the time of the Black Death in 1348, which it is estimated would have reduced the population by more than half. The tax records for the 17th Century reveal only some 17 persons paying tax and thus the population seems to have remained low. In 1841 the population stood at 471 and this had grown by 1931 to 847 and to over 5,000 by 1948. The increased size of population in

the 19th Century led to the Church of England making Earley a Parish in its own right, rather than being part of the old Parish of Sonning. Earley St Peter's Church was consecrated in 1844. The boundaries of Earley have changed considerably over the years as the population has increased. In the 1890's the Corporation of Reading expanded its boundary to include the area between Cemetery Junction and Church Road, whilst in the 1920's the boundaries were adjusted between Shinfield and Woodley.

The railway came to the Parish in 1863 when the London and South Western Railway opened Earley Station. The Great Western Railway had passed to the north of the village near Shepherds Hill, part of the infamous Sonning Cutting which claimed many workers' lives.



The Three Tuns



MAIDEN ERLEGH ESTATE AND MANOR

Maiden Erleigh was formed out of the Manor of Erleigh St Nicholas, as a gift of land by John de Erleigh to Robert de Erleigh in 1362. Later it was transferred to a Charles Hide of Abingdon. In 1673 the estate was sold to Valentine Crome, and it then passed through several hands and at the end of the 18th Century it belonged to William Matthew Birt who was Governor General of the Leeward Islands.

In 1818 the property passed to the Rt. Hon Edward Golding, MP for Downton, Wiltshire. The Manor was purchased by John Hargreaves in 1878, Master of the South Berks Hunt, who founded a course where hunt and yeomanry races, similar to the modern hunter chases were run. The course extended over an area now covered by Hillside Road, Sutcliffe Avenue and Mill Lane. The grandstand stood on an area which is to the back of the houses in Hillside Road, opposite Loddon Junior School. Solly Joel continued to allow racing until the First World War, when the Maiden Erleigh Racecourse was demolished, the grandstand being re-erected at Newbury racecourse.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN EARLEY

Although Earley has been a civil parish since the middle of the last century, perhaps the really significant date in local government terms has been quite recent, when in 1974, there was extensive reorganisation of local government in Britain. Primarily, principal authorities were affected and the previous Wokingham Rural District Council became Wokingham District Council, renamed Wokingham Borough Council in 2007. Also in 1974, the Town Council as we know it today was formed.

One particularly interesting feature of the first Council meeting in 1976 was that the newly elected Councillor, Adrian Paddick, attending his first meeting and in the absence of anyone else willing to accept the post, was thrust into the role of Chairman of Council. He was to continue in this role for some years, and by the time of his death in 1997, had become the elder statesman of the Town Council, highly respected by his colleagues and by the local residents for his wisdom and calming effect on proceedings.

At the time of its formation the Town Council looked after an area with some 12,000 inhabitants. At this stage, the development of Lower Earley had yet to commence. Early meetings of the newly formed Earley Town Council were held in St Peter's Church Hall on Church Road. In 1978, the Town Council struck a deal with Maiden Erlegh School, and began to hold meetings in the staff dining room and set up an office in a converted storeroom. The Council took on its first full time Town Clerk in January 1979 when Mr Leslie Norton became Clerk to the Council.

Despite its comparatively small size, the Town Council responded positively to the challenges with which it was being faced with the impending Lower Earley development. The Radstock Lane Community Centre was opened in 1983 and included a small suite of offices which became the Council's administrative home until its final move to Radstock House, on the opposite side of the road, in 1987. 1986 saw the building of the Maiden Place Community Centre. Initially it included a small room plus in 1987 it was decided to add a main hall, bar and upstairs room. The improvements were completed around 1989.

The two Community Centres proved to be much needed facilities. With over 6,000 houses

being built on the Lower Earley development and a population expansion from c.11,000 in 1974 to some 28,500 in 1990 and an estimate in excess of 32,500 in 2002, the new facilities were essential additions to the Town's infrastructure. There was also significant activity by the Town Council during this period to try to improve facilities at Maiden Erlegh Reserve.

At the same time, the structure of the Council was gradually changing to meet the new demands. In the days of the Parish Council and immediately after 1974, the Town Council had members who were not politically labelled. Gradually their numbers had dwindled and by the mid-1980s, all elected representatives were members of the main political parties.

The 1998 Local Government reorganisation significantly affected Earley in that the first tier authority, Berkshire County Council, became defunct as a new system of Unitary Authorities, based on the areas of the old district councils, was put into place. The changes themselves had little impact on the Town Council's work, but local government in this area has only two tiers instead of three as previously.

As the responsibilities of the Town Council increased, so the respective roles of councillors and their staff similarly changed. Mr Leslie



Norton had steered the Town Council through the difficult period during the development of Lower Earley. By the time of his retirement in 1991, the Town Council recognised the need for improved administrative systems to consolidate its earlier achievements.

Leslie Norton was succeeded as Town Clerk by Mr Richard Raymond who moved here from his previous post with a large Borough Council in Essex. He retired in 2003, to be replaced by Mr Philip Truppin, who had served as Clerk to two Local Councils in Hertfordshire previously.

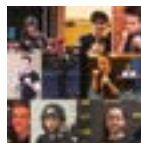
The Town Council is re-elected every four years and has an efficient administrative structure in place with the capability to deal with all additional facilities now provided by the Council and to meet the increasing demands of central Government.

In 2006 the Council resolved that, henceforth, its Chairman would have the title of Town Mayor, adding status to its civic presence and representative profile in the community.

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A list of Chairmen and Mayors of Earley Town Council to date is set out below:

Chairman

1974 – 1976 **R R Boulton**
1976 – 1981 **A C Paddick**
1981 – 1983 **A W Spratling**
1983 – 1987 **J Busby**
1987 – 1988 **A W Spratling**
1988 – 1989 **Mrs V J Santon**
1989 – 1990 **D J Fruin**
1990 – 1991 **P Devonald**
1991 – 1992 **A W Spratling**
1992 – 1994 **Mrs F M Rolls**
1994 – 1996 **Mrs E Spratling**
1996 – 1998 **M Richman**
1998 - 1999 **Mrs E Spratling**
1999 – 2001 **A D Long**
2001 – 2003 **Mrs I Dowdall**
2003 – 2004 **Mrs J. Shockley**
2004 – 2006 **D D Chopping**

Mayors

2006 Councillor **D D Chopping**
2006-2008 Councillor **N Jorgensen**
2008 Councillor **AT Bradley**
2009 Councillor **J Armstrong**
2010 Councillor **P Willis**
2011 Councillor **T Chambers**
2012 Councillor **Mrs P Jorgensen**
2013-2015 Councillor **Mrs L Chambers**
2015-16 Councillor **Mrs M DeJong**
2016-17 Councillor **Mrs J Rance JP**
2017-18 Councillor **M J Firmager**

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Age UK Berkshire	0118 959 4242	HEALTH	
Berkshire Women's Aid	0118 950 4003	NHS South Rivergate House	01635 275500
British Telecom – General Enquiries (Freephone)	0800 800 150	Royal Berkshire Hospital	0118 322 5111
Citizens Advice Bureau Reading Advice Line	03444 111306	NHS Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust	0118 950 3094
Citizens Advice Bureau Wokingham Advice Line	0300 330 1189	Thames Valley Primary Care Support (Registering for a Doctor or Medical Card)	03330 142884
CRUSE (bereavement help)	01344 411919	Red Cross (general enquiries) (medical loan)	034 441 22750 034 441 22750
Daisy's Dream (bereaved service for young people)	0118 934 2604	St John's Ambulance	0118 933 5500
Earley Bus	0118 975 7320	Witness Service Reading	0300 332 1315
Earley Charity	0118 975 5663	Magistrates Court (Enquiries)	0118 980 1800
Earley Day Centre	0118 966 1010		
Earley Volunteer Driver Bureau	0118 986 6980	LOCAL GOVERNMENT	
Job Centre Plus	0345 604 3119	Earley Town Council	0118 986 8995
Mays Lane Burial Ground	0118 986 8995	Council Offices, Radstock Lane, Earley Office Hours	
Neighbourhood Watch	0118 918 1644	9.00am-1.00pm & 2.00pm-4.30pm	0118 986 8995
WBC Central Placement & Fostering Service	0118 974 6104	(answerphone out of hours)	
		Out of hours emergencies: Details of Voicebank	
		No. obtainable from the recorded message on	0118 986 8995

Wokingham Borough Council Out of Hours Emergency Number (Highways, Maintenance, Housing etc.)	0800 212111	Rail Enquiries (National)	08457 484 950
		Readibus	0118 931 0000
		Reading Buses	0118 959 4000
Community Care Services (Childrens' Services)	0118 908 8002	Recycling	0118 974 6000
Community Care Services (Adults' Services)	0118 974 6287	Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages	
Community Care Services (out of hours only)	01344 786543	Wokingham Office	0118 974 6000
Wokingham Borough Council	0118 974 6000	Reading Office, Marriages	0118 937 3787
Mobile Information Centre		Births, Deaths	0118 937 3532
Office	0118 921 0555	SERVICES	
Vehicle	0796 6460 851	Gas Escapes – Transco (Freephone)	0800 111 999
POLICE		Southern Electric PLC	08457 444 555
Emergency	999	Thames Water: General	0800 009 3964
Non emergency	101	Water Leaks	0800 3169 800
POST OFFICE			
District Centre, Chalfont Way	0118 986 0529	Samaritans	116 123
Maiden Place	0345 722 3344	Showcase Cinema	0871 220 1000
Maiden Erlegh, Silverdale Road	0345 611 2970	Travel Shop (Buses)	0118 959 4000
Post Office Helpline	0845 722 3344		

CONTACTS

Chemists

Day Lewis Pharmacy

Maiden Lane Shopping Centre,
Kilnsea Drive, Lower Earley 0118 9351848

Boots Pharmacy

5 The Parade, Silverdale Road,
Earley 0118 926 2146

Boots Pharmacy

4 Chalfont Way,
Lower Earley 0118 931 1750

Children

Wokingham Family Information Services

0118 908 8466

Child Minders Drop In

Centre Point, Chalfont Court,
Lower Earley
Tuesday mornings 9.30 am – 11.30 am.

Churches

Earley St Peter's Parish Office (Church of England)

0118 966 8575

Park United Reformed Church

0118 926 5003

Brookside Church

0118 966 4474

Salvation Army Church

0118 931 0760

Lower Earley Baptist Church 0118 935 3598

St Nicolas Church (C of E) 0118 966 9080

Our Lady of Peace (Roman Catholic)

0118 966 3711

Trinity Church

(Church of England, Methodist
& United Reformed) 0118 931 3124

Conservation

Earley Environmental Group

Membership Secretary,
Liz Wild 0118 935 2453

Wokingham Borough Council Countryside Service

Dinton Pastures Country Park,
Davis Street,
Hurst RG10 0TH

Park Ranger Service

Earley Town Council 0118 986 8995

Ranger 0118 934 2016

Activity Site 0118 934 4424

Booking Line 0118 974 6343

Community

Berkshire Vision

Midleton House
Erleigh Road, Reading
RG1 5LR 0118 987 2803

Carers UK

0808 808 7777

Community

Earley CResCent Community Association

CResCent, Warbler Drive

Lower Earley

Reading

0118 921 0555

Indian Community Association

Veera Gupta

2 Norris Road, Reading

RG6 1NJ

0118 961 7713

Education

Children &

Adult Services

0118 974 6105/6107

Schools – Infants/ Juniors

Aldryngton Primary

Silverdale Road, Earley

0118 926 5843

The Loddon Primary School

Silverdale Road, Earley

0118 926 1449

Earley St Peter's

C.E. Primary School

Church Road, Earley

0118 926 1657

Radstock Primary School

Radstock Lane, Earley

0118 986 9050

Hawkedon Primary

Hawkedon Way,

Lower Earley

0118 966 7444

Whiteknights Primary

Fairlawn Green,

Shinfield Rise, Reading

0118 987 2588

Hillside Primary

Rushey Way,

Lower Earley

0118 975 5771

Schools – Secondary

Maiden Erlegh Comprehensive

Silverdale Road, Earley

0118 926 2467

Adult

Woodley Hill House

Bracknell & Wokingham College

Eastcourt Avenue, Earley

0118 984 7600

Bulmershe School

Chequers Way, Woodley

0118 935 3353

Dentists

Earley Family Dental Practice

268 Wokingham Rd,

Earley RG6 1JS

0118 926 1655

The Beech Lane Dental Practice

Dr Patel, 35 Beech Lane,

Earley RG6 5PT

0118 987 2755

Evergreen Dental Centre

448 Wokingham Road,

Earley RG6 7HX

0118 966 9991

The Gallery Dental

Centre of Excellence

Kilnsea Drive,

Lower Earley RG6 3HD

0118 935 1505

Gipsy Lane Dental Practice

Dr J I Desai, 5a Gipsy Lane,

Earley, Reading RG6 7HF

0118 966 3944/
427 0624

The Haven Dental Practice

Miss A Carter

Station Road,

Earley RG6 7DY

0118 966 4919

Doctors

Brookside Group Practice

Brookside Close &
Chalfont Close, Lower Earley 0118 966 9333

Dr R K Chadha

Wilderness Road Surgery

1 Wilderness Road,
Earley RG6 7RU 0118 926 1613

Elm Lane Surgery

0118 986 3683

Parkside Family Practice

Green Road Surgery,
226 Wokingham Road,
Reading RG6 7HF 0118 926 0026

Health

Arthritis Matters Reading

Earley/Woodley 0118 977 6172

Liberty of Earley House

The Manager, Strand Way,
Earley RG6 4EA 0118 975 1905

Earley and Woodley Stroke Club

K. Hutchings, 3 Gorse Drive,
Woodley, RG5 4QX 0118 969 5598

Berkshire Carers Service

Suite 11, Beacon Tree Court,
Gillette Way,
Reading, RG2 0BS 0118 960 7030

Hotels

Holiday Inn Reading

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Wharfedale Road,
Winnersh Triangle,
Reading RG41 5TS 0118 944 0444

Job Hunting

Wokingham Job Support Centre 0118 977 0517

Legal/Solicitors

The Head Partnership Solicitors

9 Chalfont Court,
Lower Earley,
Reading RG6 5SY 0118 975 6622

Libraries

Maiden Erlegh Library

Maiden Erlegh Drive,
Earley RG6 7HP 0118 966 6630

Lower Earley Library

Chalfont Close, Chalfont Way,
Lower Earley RG6 5HZ 0118 931 2150

Museums

Museum of Berkshire Aviation

Mohawk Way, Woodley 0118 944 8089

Museum of English Rural Life

Redlands Road 0118 378 8660

Opticians

Specsavers

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Reading RG6 7HF 0118 935 1975

Over 50's/Friendship Groups

Chalfont Club

Trinity Church Hall,
Chalfont Close 0118 987 3755

St Nicolas Over 50's Club

St Nicolas Church Hall,
Sutcliffe Avenue, Earley 0118 966 9080

Earley Day Centre

1 Kenton Road, Earley,
Reading RG6 2LH 0118 966 1010

Parent & Toddler Groups

Earley Community Centre Under 3's

Earley Community Centre,
Radstock Lane, Earley 0118 966 6557

Kilnsea Toddlers

Maiden Place Community Centre,
Maiden Place, off Kilnsea Drive,
Lower Earley 07754 847967

Playgroups/Pre School Nursery Units

Abbeymore Nursery

(3months – 5 years)
Wokingham Road, Reading 0118 926 0000

Maiden Erlegh Pre-School

Silverdale Centre,
Silverdale Road,
Earley RG6 7HS 07867 565811

Earleybird Pre-School

Hawkedon School
Hawkedon Way 0798 644 0308

Radstock School Nursery Unit

Radstock Primary School
Radstock Lane,
Earley 0118 986 9050

Kilnsea Pre-School

Maiden Place Community Centre
Maiden Place, off Kilnsea Drive,
Lower Earley 0775 484 7967

The University of Reading Pre-School

(mornings term-time)
R.U.E.S.C. 2 Earley Gate,
Whiteknights, Reading 0118 378 7914

Little Ducklings Day Nursery

Campbell Road,
Woodley 0118 927 2822

Recreation and Leisure Activities

Bulmershe Leisure Centre

Woodlands Avenue,
Woodley 0118 926 8733

Suttons Bowling Club

Chalfont Way,
Lower Earley 0118 975 0192

Earley Folk Dance Group

Mollie Rabbitts 0118 966 3896

Recreation and Leisure Activities

East Reading Horticultural Society

Kay Bridges 0118 961 6332

Loddon Valley Leisure Centre

Rushey Way,
Lower Earley 0118 931 2066

Maiden Erlegh Bowling Club

Beech Lane,
Earley 0118 986 0759

Reading Film Theatre

Palmer Building, Whiteknights,
Reading RG6 6AH 0118 378 7151
www.readingfilmtheatre.co.uk

Reading Outdoor Group

Membership Secretary 0118 961 6506

Table Tennis Club and Impact Coaching – Our Lady of Peace

0118 931 1142

Woodford Park Leisure Centre

Haddon Drive,
Woodley 0118 921 6969

Residents Associations

Maiden Erlegh Residents Association

Secretary Steve Feltham
ask.mera@btinternet.com

Association of Central Earley Residents

Chair Michelle Stone
chairman.ACER@earleyresidents.org.uk

Social Services

Wokingham Social Services 0118 974 6000

Transport

Earleybus 0118 975 7320

Earley CResCent

Resource Centre, Warbler Drive,
Lower Earley RG6 4HB 0118 921 0555

Earley Volunteer Driver Bureau

Centrpoint, Lower Earley
(Voluntary Car Scheme) 0118 986 6980

Readibus

Craddock Road,
Reading RG2 0JT 0118 931 0000

Wokingham Town Mobility

0118 977 0332

Veterinary Surgeons

Medivet

6 Elm Lane,
Earley 0118 975 9582

62 London Road,
Reading

0118 987 1693

Voluntary/Community Groups

Home-Start Wokingham Borough

(Working with Under 5's)

Shinfield Grange,
Cutbush Lane, Shinfield
Reading RG2 9AF

0118 988 8025

Wokingham Volunteer Centre

The Ritz Plaza, 10 Denton Road,
Wokingham RG40 2DX 0118 977 0749

Watersports

Wokingham Waterside Centre

Thames Valley Park Drive 0118 926 8280

Young People

(Earley) 1996 Air Training Corps Squadron

Nick Erander www: 1996.org.uk
07749 020370

Girl Guiding

Bulmershe Division and Earley District
www.girlguidingroyalberkshire.org.uk

Youth Group, Park United Reformed Church

0845 463 6426

Loddon District Scout Council

www.loddondistrict.org.uk

Sen Tani Renmei

Judo Club 0118 975 5630

Youth Centres

Earley Centre Point

Youth and Community Centre
Chalfont Close,
Lower Earley RG6 5HZ 0118 968 8995

Silverdale Centre

Maiden Erlegh School Campus,
Silverdale Road,
Earley RG6 7NG 0118 966 9529

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