



BVRA

Barkham Newsletter

£1, free to Members

Issue 129 Autumn 2019

from the Barkham Village Residents Association

<http://www.barkham.org.uk>

Twitter: @BarkhamVRA Facebook: <http://gid.uk/BVRAF>



Quiz Night
 Saturday 23 November 7.00 for 7.30pm
 Fish & Chip Supper Licensed Bar
 Tickets £10.00 per person
 More details on page 10

WE NEED YOU!
New Treasurer required
 Details on page 2

32nd BVRA AGM – 7th November 2018
 In accordance with the constitution, the BVRA Annual General Meeting will take place at 8pm on Thursday 7th November at Barkham Village Hall. All residents of Barkham are welcome to attend. Nominations for any post should reach the Chairman by 17th October.

In this issue...

BVRA Chairman	2	Borough Councillor	6	Spotlight	15
Treasurer vacancy	2	Pam's Patch	9	BADCCC	16
Editorial	3	Social	10	Music societies & concerts	16
Quiz	3	Alan's Patch	12	Parish Council	17
Neighbourhood Plan	4	Church	14	Diary	19

Are you good with figures? Do you know your debits from your credits?

WE NEED YOU!

We are seeking a new Treasurer to join the BVRA Committee as our current Treasurer wishes to resign, due to his advancing years. Knowledge of spreadsheets and business common sense are required. Book keeping or accountancy experience would be an advantage but is not essential. The post takes 30 to 40 hours a year, including attendance at four Committee meetings and the AGM.

Duties are;

1) Receiving the BVRA's income from membership subs, Barkham Parish Council grant, newsletter advertisers, social events etc and paying the cheques and cash into our bank current account.

2) Paying all the expenses, by cheque, against receipts and being a cheque signatory.

3) Keeping an analysed spreadsheet cash book for the current and deposit accounts, reconciling the balances to the bank statements quarterly, and reporting the balances to the Committee meetings.

4) Reporting to the Committee on the profit or loss from each social event, using a spreadsheet.

5) Preparing the year end accounts spreadsheet and answering the queries of our honorary auditor/ examiner, presenting the accounts at the AGM.

6) Invoicing the advertisers (less than 8) annually and chasing them if they do not pay.

7) Renewing our events insurances annually.

8) Applying for licences for events where we sell alcohol, usually 3 a year.

We are a friendly bunch and would like to hear from you if you can spare a few hours for your community. Please email the chairman@barkham.org.uk



Chairman's Chat

Welcome to the autumn edition of the Newsletter. I hope that you all had an enjoyable summer. I certainly made the most of the sunny days and warm evenings, moaned about the rainy and windy days and used the BBQ (without burning anything) as much as possible.

We are seeking a new Treasurer as Ian Overton will "retire" after doing a superb job of keeping

our finances in order for the last 17 years – unbelievable! I would like to thank Ian on behalf of the committee for all of his contributions over such a long period of time. Ian will be on hand to guide the new Treasurer into the role so please have a look at the Treasurer advert later in this edition.

The Summer Picnic in the Park took place on the 29th June which was the hottest day of the year. Unfortunately, whilst the weather was brilliant the attendance was somewhat disappointing. We continue to look for social events that will bring the Barkham residents together - both young and older. We will look again at a summer event of some description next year and try to ensure that we get more of you along. In the meantime if you have any ideas for social activities please let our Social committee know (social@barkham.org.uk) Also, we are always looking for people

to join the social team. Additional help means we can spread the workload for existing social events and potentially do more.

I would like to welcome a new advertiser to this edition Something Something Floral Design. Advertisers are a key way that we offset the costs for the Newsletter publication and website. If you are a tradesperson or have a local business why not advertise in the Newsletter (see page 3 for details).

On a sad final note, I would like to pay tribute to Pam Edwards who recently passed away. Pam was one of the founders of the BVRA and was always an active member of the community and most recently BVRA secretary. We pay special tribute to her later in this edition of the Newsletter.

Alan Dixon
Chairman BVRA



Greetings from the Editor

I do hope everyone has had an enjoyable summer and made the most of the weather though the unusually high temperatures we experienced at the end of July were more reminiscent of the Mediterranean than the UK. Now the days are drawing in and the evenings are becoming a little chilly, thoughts go to filling the wood store and kitting the kids out for their new term; new pencils and protractor set; replacement jumper as that elbow cannot be darned anymore; more socks

because they have all disappeared into the bedroom abyss never to be seen again; longer skirts/trousers as those children will not stop growing; and if you haven't already booked your appointment for school shoes, then I expect you have left it too late! Oh, the joys of autumn.

If you are of a horticultural persuasion then you are more likely to be concerned with keeping the garden flowering, we have reached that lull where if you haven't planned your planting well, and kept on top of the watering, the chances are it is looking more like a brown, crisp wasteland than Wisley. So please take a look at our gardening page "Alan's Patch" on page 12.

It will not have escaped anyone's notice that there are yet more roadworks going on in the borough and the Barkham Bridge planned expansion is underway. There is more information about

the Neighborhood Plan in our report from the Steering Group on page 4.

Please do take a look at the website www.barkham.org.uk for information on all the upcoming social events and Development Watch updates.

We are looking at ways to improve the collection of funds and so would very much like to know your opinion on the introduction of an annual payment by direct debit for members. The collection would be made on our behalf by a third party and would appear with their name and our reference on your bank statement.

If this would be of interest, or at least acceptable to you, please email membership@barkham.org.uk. If sufficient people are interested we could start this for the 2020 membership year.

Here's to an Indian Summer!!

The Quiz

An unusual theme this time. The answers to the questions start with the letters from the first half of the alphabet. There are 10 questions but 13 letters, so 3 of the questions have 2 word answers – but all in alphabetical order. It may sound complicated, but it isn't really!

1. The first animal, alphabetically speaking
2. "Old Big 'Ed"
3. German city, twinned with Coventry
4. The cow in The Magic Roundabout
5. One of the longest words in the English Language (29 letters) – meaning "the estimation of something as valueless"
6. Racing driver whose son also became Formula One World Champion
7. Dr Jones' State?
8. Vaughn Williams ballet music – "A Masque for Dancing"
9. English film director who worked in TV initially but directed many films. Famous for "Kes" in 1969 through to "I, Daniel Blake" in 2016.
10. Sauron, Dark Lord of.....where?

Answers on page 19



Neighbourhood Plan– the next steps

The Arborfield and Barkham Neighbourhood Plan is still moving forward, if somewhat slowly. Since it was submitted to Wokingham Borough Council in April of this year, progress has not been in the hands of the Steering Group. It is disappointing that the timetable for completion has been extended yet again, with the anticipated referendum now unlikely to be before January.

The final consultation, carried out by Wokingham Borough Council ended 19 August. I have had a preview of some of the consultation responses. In particular the BVRA and Barkham Parish Council have submitted very useful comments and also some residents have taken the trouble to write extensively for which I am very grateful.

The sequence of events looking ahead is as follows:

An Examiner has been appointed. She will begin work on 9th September and is expecting to take five weeks to complete her work.

Once the Examiner has submitted her report, Wokingham Borough Council and the Steering Group will jointly edit the Neighbour-

hood Plan to include the recommendations.

The revised Neighbourhood Plan has to be approved by the full council, this could cause a further delay, depending upon when the final version of the Plan is completed and the schedule of Wokingham Borough Council meetings.

The referendum is now likely to be in January 2020.

Hopefully by the time of the next edition of the BVRA Newsletter, we will have progressed to the point where the date of the referendum is known.

The full Neighbourhood Plan document can be viewed on the website www.arbarplan.com. Along with the main text, there are a number of supporting documents and maps.

Laurence Heath
Chair of Steering Group
Arborfield & Barkham
Neighbourhood Plan

BVRA 2018/19 GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman: Alan Dixon
chairman@barkham.org.uk
977 1831

Secretary: vacant
secretary@barkham.org.uk

Treasurer: Ian Overton
973 4806
treasurer@barkham.org.uk

Social: (contact) Gill Powell
978 3373
social@barkham.org.uk

Membership: vacant
membership@barkham.org.uk

Newsletter: Suzanne Trigg
07411 681272
newsletter@barkham.org.uk

Web Site: Dave Clements
989 2198
webmaster@barkham.org.uk

Development Watch:
Stewart Richardson
979 1914
development@barkham.org.uk

Advertising and Newsletter Contributions

Newsletter articles / contributions for the Winter edition should be in by 15 November 2019. It helps if these can be submitted in electronic form by email to newsletter@barkham.org.uk.

For trade adverts, contact Ian Overton by email to treasurer@barkham.org.uk, or call 973 4806. We offer three landscape sizes, 64mm x 54mm at £22, 124mm x 105mm at £52 and 190x130mm at £100, for 4 quarterly insertions.

Distribution of the next issue will take place in early December.



It is with much sadness that I write this report as one of our dear members, Pam Edwards, passed away quite suddenly on July 20th after a relatively short illness.

Pam had been a member for many years and had presented many craft evenings where we Ladies tried to make beautiful greetings cards with the help of Pam's expert guidance. She always provided everything we needed and most of us were very successful! She had also provided the Ladies' reports for the Newsletters since Spring 2016 when she took over from another member, Angela. She was a very talented, lovely lady and we will all miss her very much, and our thoughts

are also with husband Alan and the family.

Our monthly meetings continue on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 7.45 pm at Barkham Village Hall. Most months we have a speaker on various interesting topics, and in June, Simon Williams gave a wonderful talk on the Great Train Robbery of 1963, which most members remembered.

The July speaker, Captain Ivani, told us about all the great work expert bikers do transporting medical samples, blood and other vital materials including patients' notes and information etc, around the region when the usual hospital courier service does not operate. This charity does invaluable work overnight, at weekends and on bank holidays to keep the necessary service operating.

Our August meeting was our annual BBQ when husbands and partners were invited and

the beautiful weather allowed us to enjoy the event outside till the sun went down. Once again our thanks go to Jim, Bernie and Simon for their expert cooking on the barbeque! September will be a speaker about Windsor Street Angels, and October will see the return of Geoff Lunn talking about 'Wildlife on your Doorstep'. November is about the remarkable life of Madame Tussaud.

New members are always welcome so if you are new to the area why not come along and meet us for an evening.

For more information please contact the Chairperson, Shirley on 0118 9789124. We also have several walks with lunch afterwards arranged by one of our members, and these take place during the Spring, Summer and Autumn as extra events.

Shirley Warner

Where in Barkham?

This photograph was taken in the village, but do you know where? Go to page 19 to find out.





Wokingham Borough Council has been overwhelmed by the number of responses to the Housing Target Consultation, with just under 50,000 individual responses received, of which 46,807 (94%) said no to the government-imposed target. Thank you to all those thousands of people who took the time to take part in this consultation. This will strengthen our hand as we argue that the current system for allocating housing is arbitrary and unfair and that our targets are always too high. The council will use this overwhelming response to future lobby the government on the subject and, whether we are successful this time or not, this is a line in the sand for the borough.

Under the government's methodology, the borough will need to accommodate about 800 to 900 homes a year in the years up to 2036. The homes already planned in the borough will help meet this target over the next few years but, without a major policy change from government, the rest will have to be accommodated through new housing. We are trying everything we can to lower the target, but if we are not successful, we are saying to government – "at least you will have to give us proper support for these new homes. What we would need is massive upfront

infrastructure funding, so the roads and other facilities needed can be provided early and we will need guaranteed protection from developers trying to build homes that are outside proper plans. These are the least the government can offer us given the strength of feeling locally. We would also like government support to ensure any major developments we do accommodate are eco-friendly and fit with our environmental principles."

Upfront infrastructure funding alongside housing is something Wokingham Borough Council has successfully secured in the past, for example, to help the University of Reading fund the Shinfield Eastern Relief Road and for Bohunt Secondary School – but this has not been consistent across all major developments. Similarly, in the past, the borough has been prey to unscrupulous developers seeking to build in inappropriate locations outside designated housing areas. For properly planned development in the future, Wokingham Borough Council believes a coordinated approach to early infrastructure delivery and real protection from speculative development is necessary.

Is Planning Local enough and how much say should residents have?

Over the years there has been much talk about localism and how this should influence planning policy decisions, the truth is all planning decisions are made in the light of national and local planning rules and guidance and in the latter case all local planning policy must conform to National Policy Planning Framework (NPPF). If your council's parish and borough, consider that an application is unsuitable it can be overturned by national government inspectors at appeal if in their view the application accords with the national planning framework. Even if your councils in the case of parish have a neighbourhood plan or in the case of borough a local plan, an inspector can override all such documents if in their view they believe the application meets all the criteria of the NPPF. In most cases these conclusions are drawn by the inspector after an inspection in public which can include well paid lawyers and barristers and housing experts arguing the council and parishes interpretation of the rules are wrong.



It is very difficult to argue these cases because at the heart of the NPPF is "a presumption in favour of sustainable development". So, in essence, the whole of the issue is an argument over what is and what is not sustainable and has turned into a contest between professionals arguing about the word sustainable and what that means.

My view is local should mean local and it should be the responsibility of the Borough council to obtain an independently produced objectively assessed need (OAN) and in conjunction with parish councils and residents through consultation agree a number which meets that need. A local plan should be produced by the Borough council which details how that need is to be met and at the same time they must be able to demonstrate an ongoing 3 year land supply to ensure those numbers are met and only if the authority do not meet the objectives set in the agreed plan should the planning inspectors have any jurisdiction over what is approved and what is refused. That would be true localism.

Instead we have a housing number of just over 600, which is accepted is our need and around the number we currently have in the existing local plan, but the government wants to increase that by over 30% taking the number to an unrealistic number north of 800 and at the same time maintain a 5 year land supply which is controlled by the developers which the borough have no control over. I hear you say what happens if the developers don't deliver and why would you if there is a downturn in the market, "what happens then?" Well we have to increase the number of allocated sites to make up any short fall or face inspectors granting permissions on land not allocated in the local plan at appeal.

This brings me to Bridge Farm in Arborfield / Shinfield and the proposed development for gravel extraction and cement batching plant. Thousands of residents do not want the development, in what has become a semi-rural area with thousands of new homes being built over the last few years and 2 schools in proximity. Would you build a new school near this type of de-

velopment, of course you would not? We all have experience with gravel extraction and the movements up and down the A327 of large HGV's, just look at the state of the roads around such developments.

Again, to force this upon residents is not localism, these residents have purchased their homes and are bringing up their families, investing in Wokingham so to allow this to go ahead is not just poor judgement but a total disregard for the resident affected.

The good news is the borough council has refused this application and if appealed will no doubt go to a public enquiry with an government inspector making the ultimate decision all we can do is prepare for the appeal and wait with bated breath with everything crossed hoping he finds in favour of the council and the residents.

John Kaiser
Councillor for the ward of
Barkham
Deputy Leader, Wokingham
Borough Council
john.kaiser@wokingham.gov.uk



By the time you get to read this we will have almost reached the end of our outdoor bowling season and have played all our internal club competitions. Many of our members will soon be getting ready for the indoor season at Whitenights in Earley. Our AGM is on 25th October, and our Social Committee will soon be scheduling our regular five

Monthly Winter Social Events. If you would like call in to view our club facilities; you will usually find some of us working on the green between 10 and 12 on Wednesday mornings, weather permitting.

You will find our club at the Victory Hall, Church Road, Farley Hill RG7 1TR.

More information is on our website: www.farleyhillbowlsclub.org.uk or by contacting Bill Dowling, Club Secretary, on 01344772130 or E-mail: secretary@farleyhillbowlsclub.org.uk



On 11th & 12th May, Me2 Club ran its 4th Teenager Weekend Away. This residential trip is planned by the teenagers with a focus on life skills whilst having fun, increasing independence and confidence. Me2 Club has been running residential Weekend Away trips for our young people and their volunteers since 2010. A huge 'thank you' from our teenagers, and their families, to [Berkshire Community Foundation](#) for supporting our 'Weekend

Away', the funding was received from the NHS Berkshire West Fund for Carers Respite Breaks.

We run 3 trips per year and take between 8-10 children/young people. The weekends include a wide range of activities such as canoeing, archery, raft building, caving and rope courses. These activities can be adapted to ensure that everyone can have a go, regardless of physical ability. For a number of these young people, this will be their first time spending a night away from immediate family. Many of our young people are not invited to sleepovers or able to attend events such as Scout/Brownie camps independently for a variety of reasons. These weekends help

our young people to increase their independence skills, get to know their volunteers better and give them an opportunity to socialise with their peers. Weekends Away can be a beneficial time for family members too! It can offer respite and allow for time to be spent with other family members doing something which might otherwise be difficult to fit in.

Weekends Away are available to young people who are currently supported by Me2 Club. If your child would like to come with us for one of the residential trips Away please respond to the invitation that is sent out via email near the dates of the trip and check out our website, www.me2club.org.uk for upcoming dates.



The Link Visiting Scheme relies on volunteers in Barkham and beyond! We not only match up friendly faces with older people who need a little extra company, but we have a whole host of volunteering opportunities for those who have a few hours a week or fortnight at a time that suits you. We provide training, full support and lots of opportunities to find just what you're looking for. As we are all about celebrating friendship, we pride ourselves in being the friendliest charity in the borough!

But why volunteer? We are all time poor and we are all looking

for less stress in our lives. What are the benefits to you? Well – here's the good news. Volunteering benefits are enormous! Volunteering can help you make friends, learn new skills, advance your career, and even feel happier and healthier.

Giving to others can also help protect your mental and physical health. It can reduce stress, combat depression, keep you mentally stimulated, and provide a sense of purpose. While it's true that the more you volunteer, the more benefits you'll experience, volunteering doesn't have to in-

volve a long-term commitment or take a huge amount of time out of your busy day.

If you think volunteering might be for you, why not check out our website, read other volunteer stories and think about getting in touch with us. We'd love to hear from you!

Marjie Walker, Manager
www.linkvisiting.org
0118 979 8019
marjie@linkvisiting.org

Pam's Patch

It is with great sadness that we announce that our Committee Secretary Pam Edwards passed away on 20th July 2019, after a short illness. She has been a driving force behind the BVRA since its inception and we send our deepest condolences to her family and friends.

As co-founder of the organization which was formed by herself and Christine Thomas in 1987 to raise awareness of the threat of development in The Coombes, which then became the BVRA, she has been a major part of the community for many years. A keen bridge player, quilter and talented crafter who was always willing to give her time to run cardmaking sessions with the Barkham Ladies Club. She was active with so many groups, she will be sorely missed.

Memories from friends

"My family and I moved to Barkham at the end of 1986. Fairly shortly after we arrived we got a note through the door inviting all residents to attend a meeting at the Village Hall about development plans for The Coombes. The note was from Pam and Christine, neither of whom we knew at the time. My wife, Trish, and I decided to attend, mainly so that we could get to know some local people. I'm not even sure we knew where The Coombes were at that point!! Anyway, the meeting was well attended, and Pam and Christine made the case for fighting the development plans very well.

"At the end of the meeting, volunteers were asked to form a com-



mittee to take matters forward. I duly stayed behind, and over the coming months we formed ourselves into a formal organisation. I remember that, early on, we considered that we should call ourselves the Barkham Residents Association. Luckily Pam pointed out that this would have an unfortunate abbreviation, hence the word 'Village' was inserted to make the acronym respectable! I became the first Membership Secretary, and we agreed to request a small annual fee to help fight the developers. Pam was the treasurer at that time.

"Over the coming months/years we managed to prevent the Coombes development. I am quite certain that without Pam and Christine's initiative the development would have gone ahead; and while many others deserve a lot of credit for preserving the woodlands, they were the catalysts. At some point around then we agreed that the momentum generated by the initiative should not be wasted, and decided to start holding social functions, and to produce a regular newsletter - in other words, to become a 'proper' residents' association as opposed to a pressure group. Pam was heavily involved from the start. And, as they say, the rest is history. At some point I became chairman, and I used to write a 'chairman's piece' for the newsletter. In 1993 when my wife Trish died, Pam

(who was deputy chairman at the time) wrote this piece in my stead, and I remember being very touched by her words about Trish. It was typical of her, and I feel a strange, exquisitely sad sense of circularity writing these words now. I was very sorry when we lost touch after moving to Northamptonshire in 2011.

"Hearing of Pam's death was as much a shock as a sadness to me. She was a quiet, sound and steadfast friend. My thoughts and prayers are with Alan and their family."

Digby Carter

"I first met Pam when I took over as BVRA membership secretary about 20 years ago as she was treasurer and I have memories of coming to her house with bags of cash! She had been involved with the BVRA from its founding in 1987. She moved away with Alan in 2001 soon after that and I remember visiting their new home for Pam's farewell BVRA meeting.

"When she returned to Barkham in 2014 and I was acting chairman, I was very pleased that Pam was willing once again to support the BVRA, this time as secretary.

"Pam will be sadly missed, obviously most dearly by Alan and family members but also by the many people in Barkham who have benefitted from her help and friendship over the years."

Stewart Richardson



Social Matters

Well, Summer has come and nearly gone again as I write this, and yet another scorching time has been experienced. All time record July temperatures were recorded and once again my garden and lawn (well grass patch!) have suffered badly. I did spend a lot of time watering the baskets and pots, but the shrubs and trees are looking a little worse for wear now. I hope they recover! We have had 2 events since the last newsletter.

The Distributors' BBQ took place on August 3rd at the Village Hall. Lovely weather meant we could set out the tables on the grassed area while Jim and Bernie did a wonderful job cooking all the meat on the terrace area. Many thanks go to them both for all their 'hot' work. The Summer evening was perfect for drinks on the terrace followed by lovely food and, although the numbers attending were a bit lower this year, a great time was had by all. It was a wonderful way to say 'thank you' to all the Newsletter distributors and helpers and their partners too.

The other Summer event was the 'Family Picnic in the Park' held



on Saturday 29th June. This was a new event at the Junipers Park and since it was such a very hot day it was felt that many of the families had decided not to attend. The few families who did come had a lovely time finding shade to have their picnics, and the children, some very young and not so young, enjoyed all the games provided. There were giant Connect 4 and Jengo, footballs and nets and obstacle courses and other ball games to keep them amused.

The Annual Barn Dance on September 28th will already have taken place when you receive this so a report on that will appear next time.

The other events this year are the Quiz Night on Saturday November 23rd at the Village Hall

at 7.00 for 7.30 start. Tickets are £10 and this includes a fish and chip supper. There will be the usual licensed bar with really good prices, so you won't need to bring your own drinks.

Tables will be for a maximum of 6 people, so arrange your teams, or just turn up on the night and join a team when you arrive. This is always great fun and an exciting and competitive evening so do come along.

Contact Gill Powell for tickets, preferably by email on social@barkham.org.uk. Or by telephoning her on 0118 9783373.

We also hope to hold the annual 'Family Carols in the Park' a week before Christmas when we are joined by a brass band and meet at the junction of the Woodlands and the Junipers and sing carols before enjoying mince pies and mulled wine at the entrance to the park. This is a lovely way to enjoy the festive spirit for both adults and children, so look out for the date and the timing which will appear on posters around the village and in the Winter Newsletter.

Events for 2020 are already being planned including the Family Skittles Evening in March and the Children's' Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday, April 12th 2020. Keep a look out for Newsletters and posters to confirm dates and times, and come and join in the fun.

Until the next Newsletter, enjoy the Autumn, and hopefully an Indian Summer, before dark nights and chilly mornings arrive - what a thought !

Shirley Warner
Social Committee Member



BVRA Social Committee

are always on the look out for help organising our social

events. It can be great fun and also rewarding, as you get to meet so many people from the Barkham area.

The committee currently has 7 members, so the work load is not heavy, we all share the various tasks. The events we currently organise are: Skittles, Easter Egg Hunt, Barn Dance, Quiz and Carols in the Park.

We also help with catering for the party held every August to thank the distributors.

If anyone would like to help please contact Gill Powell or a member of the committee: Shirley Warner, Jim Butler, June Hicks, Louise Goldring, Cathy Whittington and Peter Jay.



Alan's Patch

First of all, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has sent me messages during this difficult time. Meanwhile life carries on in my patch so there has been much need for weeding and general catching up this past couple of weeks. Looking at the summer as a whole, while last summer seemed to be the driest in many years, this year, with the regular and high rainfall, it seems to be the wettest! Hence lots of weeds.

As usual the highlight of August is the sweet corn, there is nothing quite like it in flavour and texture. Along with peas this was one of Pam's favourites. The best and easiest way to cook it is 20 minutes on the barbecue in its husk and strip it after. Alternatively, you can strip it first and then boil in water for ten minutes.

The other top performer just now are the courgettes. This year I have tried yellow courgettes on the recommendation of a neighbour, and it's been a great success. They are a little sweeter than the traditional green and are lovely raw in salads. My photo this month shows yellows – courgettes, sweet corn and the beautiful yellowing foliage.

There have been a few odd things happening this year. The tomato crop in the greenhouse is light and late, perhaps a consequence of a cool spring and early summer. Also, my ultra-reliable early apple tree dropped much of its crop and the apples weren't as sweet as normal. However there looks to be an excellent crop on the other established apple trees. I've taken precautions to combat the codling moth, so I hope to find less damage when I pick them in the next month or two.

Peas have been very successful with the four sowings meaning there have always been some to eat from early July and I expect to be picking them until mid-September. Beans have also been good – broad, french, runner, borlotti and this year, cannellini, as an experiment. The broad beans were attacked by blackfly earlier but a combination of spraying with soft soap (organic) and heavy rainstorms, which washed them off, meant I had an excellent crop. Potatoes and squashes are looking great, I'll report on them next time.

For the first time I've had a really good crop of fennel, a variety grown for their bulbs rather than as a herb. I cooked them in a casserole and they were delicious. I've

had another go at cabbages this year, but the white butterflies got under the netting and laid their eggs and the caterpillars did the rest! I need to be more diligent about netting.

The gooseberries were attacked by sawfly early this year, as usual, then I read that broad beans deter sawfly so I sowed some seed nearby and I've had no attack since, plus I've had a bonus of a few late beans! Next year I'll take precautions really early and see if this works again. Despite this there was a decent crop of gooseberries, most of which are in the freezer awaiting processing. Rhubarb excelled in this warm wet weather and there is a second crop just now, very tasty.

The raspberries I planted some three years ago have not settled in well at all. There is something wrong and they are dying back. I might have to dig them up and try something else in this spot and plant some new ones elsewhere. Fortunately, the old autumn raspberries have cropped really well so I've had my fill!

Next year I shall have to scale back on quantities with one mouth less to feed, perhaps I'll find some different things to try and grow.....





Wokingham

**Citizens Advice Wokingham
To Receive Royal Visit
in September**

Citizens Advice is a network of charities which offers clients information and advice on a wide range of problems, including debt, benefits and Universal Credit claims. In the recent summer issue of the Barkham Newsletter, we discussed the Help to Claim system that had been introduced to aid clients with Universal Credit claims, and our national campaign to call on local authorities to achieve fair debt collection with the Council Tax Protocol.

At Citizens Advice Wokingham, we have secured greater access to our services for residents of Gorse Ride in Finchampstead and St Sebastian's in Wokingham Without. A Community Adviser was appointed in May to give face-to-face information in those areas as a caseworker, with the assistance of funding from Wokingham United Charities. For more information, please visit our website.

We are delighted to have secured a royal visit from HRH Princess Anne in this month, in commemoration of Citizens Advice marking its 80th anniversary. Her Royal Highness will be informed about and shown all of the important work that Citizens Advice Wokingham does to provide people with advice and information locally, with insights provided on the national incentives. Three of our local Members of Parlia-

ment will also attend, including Wokingham MP John Redwood and former Prime Minister Theresa May.

New Volunteers Wanted

At Citizens Advice Wokingham, we are always on the lookout for new volunteers. We have a particular desire to appoint new trustees and members of the Advice Task Force, although we would welcome volunteers of any form: details of potential roles are supplied on the Citizens Advice Wokingham website. Trustees would maintain an awareness of the business and financial management of Citizens Advice

Wokingham and ensure that it follows policy and strategic direction, while the Advice Task Force handle clients face-to-face and over the phone in appointments to help clients with their difficulties; again, please visit our website for more information or email volunteer@citizensadvice-wokingham.org.uk.

WOKINGHAM
2nd floor, Waterford House,
Erfstadt Court RG40 1AP
public@citizensadvicewokingham.org.uk
www.citizensadvicewokingham.org.uk

Hours:
Mon - Thu: 9.00am - 3.00pm
Fri: 9.00am - 1.00pm
Telephone: 0300 330 1189

SATURDAY 23rd
NOVEMBER
7.30pm
WEBERN
PASSACAGLIA OP 1
TCHAIKOVSKY
SLEEPING BEAUTY BALLET MUSIC
DEBUSSY
PREMIÈRE RHAPSODIE
FOR CLARINET
SOLOIST ELLIOT GRESTY
RACHMANINOV
ISLE OF THE DEAD
POULENC
LES BICHES
THE OLD GYM
WELLINGTON COLLEGE
CROWTHORNE

CROWTHORNE
Symphony ORCHESTRA
CONDUCTOR ROBERT ROSCOE LEADER MIKE JESSOP

CONCERT

TICKETS £13 in advance, **£15** on the door
(includes interval drink) **Aged 16 and under free**
Advance tickets from our website and Decor Interiors, Crowthorne High Street
or the Information Centre, Wokingham Town Hall
www.crowthorneorchestra.com



St James' Church

Looking for a church?

Everyone is always welcome to visit St James' Barkham. We meet at 10am and 6pm every Sunday. But what would you find if you came?

A diverse church

We are a whole mixture of people of all ages and stages. Some have been coming for decades; others have joined us in the last year or so. We include many families and, in the morning, we run a creche and groups for children up to age 14. Some live locally; others travel from further afield. There is also a range of Christian experience. Some people are just looking into Christianity for the first time; others have been Christians for years. Everyone is welcome, at whatever stage of their journey they are on.

A Bible teaching church

We believe that God speaks today through the Bible and that his word speaks powerfully into our lives, helping us to make sense of who we are and how to live life to the full. Above all, it is through the Bible that we can get to know the good news of Jesus Christ – the one who came to show us what God is like and how we can know him as our father. We think it's

the best news in the world – why not come and find out more? If you come to St James', as well as a mixture of traditional and contemporary songs, you will always hear the Bible taught and everyone is always welcome to ask questions.

An active church

We run many activities through the week, including Bible studies; a toddler group; a youth group for years 6-9; a monthly group for seniors; courses for those who want to investigate Christianity, as well as occasional courses on e.g. marriage and parenting. We have a close relationship with our church school, The Coombes, and each summer, run a Holiday Bible Club for over 250 children (see below).

A welcoming church

We are often joined by visitors and they always tell me how warmly they are welcomed. So, let me extend that welcome to you. You can find more details of all that happens on our website www.abch.org.uk

Pirate perils at HBC!

For over 50 years, our Holiday Bible Club has provided the high point of the summer holidays for countless local children and we are thankful that HBC 2019 proved to be another memorable week.

Our pirate theme saw the stage in the main tent transformed into a ship, singing sea shanties, walking the plank (to the gunge tank) and endless jokes with an 'aargh' in the punchline, all happening

under the watchful eye of Captain Coral Reef and her first-mate, Buckles. And through all this, the children got to learn about the amazing 'Captain Jesus' who came to rescue rebels and make them part of his crew.

We enjoyed mostly dry days that were ideal for our afternoons when children chose between different activities, including crafts, sports and lots of Lego. A change to our normal programme saw the week ending with parents joining us for our last gathering in the tent and then staying on for fairground games, inflatables (for children!) and a fabulous hog-roast in the sunshine. It was a great end to a wonderful week.

As ever, HBC was run by around 100 volunteers from the 4 churches of Arborfield, Barkham, Christ Church Wokingham and Church at the Green, many of whom took time off work and we are so grateful, not only for everyone's hard work, but also to The Coombes School for letting us use their facilities.

Julian Bidgood
Minister of Barkham



Spotlight

Barkham Hookers Crochet Group

Gaynor White set up the Barkham Hookers crochet group in September 2012 after a few friends had asked her to teach them how to crochet. Soon word spread and what started as a few friends meeting up for a chat over coffee, biscuits and yarn, has developed into a regular meetup that is now too big for Gaynor's lounge. "Our numbers swelled to such an extent that I soon ran 5 to 6 weekly sessions all over the local area".

The group oozes a feeling of wellbeing with members not only being creative, but incredibly supportive of each other, all while crocheting and raising money for wellness charities in the community. Their friendliness gives even the most novice the confidence to have a go and this helps to build self esteem.

They started making crochet poppy brooches to sell for the British Legion 2013 appeal and in that first year raised £3126 and have continued to make and sell poppies and have since raised over £30,000 for The Poppy Appeal as well as raising thousands more for local and national charities including Alexander Devine, Thames Hospice, Macmillan, Crossroads Wokingham, the Red Box Appeal, Thames Valley Air Ambulance, Wellness in Wokingham and The Link Visiting Scheme amongst others. "We also make Poppies for pets to wear on their collars or bridles in-

cluding purple ones to represent animals killed in wars. I would also love to make bespoke poppy brooches using military buttons if anyone would like to send me their special buttons".

The poppy brooches have become so sought after that each year the group struggle to keep up with demand and from October you will start to see them being sold in local shops and cafes in and around Wokingham. They will be sold all over the area including...Stitchery Do, Purple Butterfly, Lockey Farm, Nine Mile Ride vets and Dentist, Jats Chemist in Finchampstead, Kynoch Vets, Barkham Post Office, Henry Street Garden Centre cafe, Ashridge Garden Centre, Finchampstead, Wokingham, and Woodley Libraries, to name but a few. 100% of the proceeds

go to the Poppy Appeal, with the members of the group supplying the yarn, so they are always grateful for donations of red yarn and black (especially military) buttons to make the poppies!

New members are always welcome whether you have crocheted before or if you are a complete beginner as you will receive guidance whatever your level. They meet in term times every Wednesday 1-3 in Barkham, Thursdays 10-12 at Henry Street Garden Centre and 1-3 in the library at the FBC and Fridays at Sanpa restaurant in Wokingham. There is no need to book...it costs £4 for the 2 hours just bring a hook and some yarn or the project that you are working on. Contact Gaynor at gaynorwhite@madasafish.com for any further information.





Barkham and District Classic Car Club

Established in January 2010, the club enjoys a large membership with well over a hundred members from in and around Barkham. The wide range of cars makes it possibly the best "all makes" classic car club in Berkshire. From Messerschmitts and Minis, to Aston Martins and Ferraris, vintage to special, unusual and more modern cars. Being a local club, those in the

Barkham area that have a passion for motor vehicles have a chance to meet new friends of like minds to gather together, meet others from different car clubs, join in with the events arranged and of course show off their cars.

The club meets on the last Wednesday of the month at various venues, with the occasional mid-monthly meeting, also a social at Pinewood, and chances to attend displays such as White Waltham Air Show, the Swallowfield Show and the Hurst Summer Show. On these outings the club tries to support various charities and has so far raised money for Help for Heroes, Air Ambulance and several local town and village events.

For July's monthly meeting some of the members drove in convoy from Sindlesham cricket club to The George at Swallowfield. In August the Social was held at the Siren Brewery in the Tap Yard of Hogwood industrial estate, plenty of beers to sample for the non drivers, but with some extreme road humps not so easy for the low slung Ferraris to negotiate. Members wait to see what is organised for next month!

To find out more about BADCCC have a look at the website, www.badacc.co.uk, which has all sorts of information about the club and once you've entered, a chance to see dozens of photos of the cars involved, enough to entertain enthusiasts for some time.



Wokingham Choral Society 2019-20 Season

Wokingham Choral Society is starting its new season in September, we are looking forward to rehearsing for a concert of Haydn's "The Creation". The performance, supported by professional orchestra and soloists, will be on 16 November 2019 at 7.30pm in The Great Hall, University of Reading, London Road Campus, RG1 5AQ.

Why not come to our Open Evening?

If you would like to join our friendly and enthusiastic choral

society to sing music from the broadly classical repertoire, why not come to our Open Evening on Thursday, 12th September 2019, 7.30pm to try out the WCS experience. A degree of ability to read music is desirable and singers must be over 16 years. Please email our membership secretary if you would like to join us on 12th September or any other evening (email: membership@wokingham-choral-society.org).

We rehearse every term-time Thursday evening at Emmbrook Senior School Hall, Emmbrook Road, Wokingham, RG41 1JP between 7.30 pm and 9.45pm.

WCS is one of the oldest amateur choirs in the area, performing since 1951. We have over 100 members and present four con-

certs per year. During rehearsals, we work hard and at quite a fast pace to put on the best concerts possible.

We have fantastic professional support to achieve this from our Musical Director and Accompanist. We run an annual choral workshop open to all (usually in the spring), when we focus on the sheer enjoyment of singing with tips for good vocal technique. One of the highlights of the year is our members' summer tour. Last year we were in France, this August we held our "mini tour" in Stratford-on-Avon. We also meet for occasional social events just for fun.

Full information about the choir can be found at www.wokingham-choral-society.org.uk



On Saturday 8th June Trinity Concert Band performed their annual Summer Concert at Leighton Park School in Reading. This wasn't the group's first time at this venue, but it was their first visit since the school opened the new Michael Malnick Centre, a building offering class-leading facilities for music and media studies.

This year's program was aimed at celebrating the Queen's official Birthday, which was on the same day as the concert, with music spanning nearly every decade of her life. Up first was a rousing performance of William Walton's 'Crown Imperial'; always a popular choice with the audience, followed by music from The Beatles, a medley tribute to Stephen Foster ("the Father of American Music" such as 'Oh! Susanna', 'Camptown Races', 'My Old Kentucky Home') and a wonderful sax solo of The Kinks hit 'Waterloo Sunset'.

The audience were able to relax during the interval in the new bright and spacious, glass clad foyer where band members provided a large array of homemade cakes.

The second half of the concert brought yet more well-known music including the famous theme tune from the film '633 Squadron', a medley of Doris Day's best hits, Bach's 'Tocatta in D Minor' and a slam-bang finale performance of Louis Prima's toe-tapping 'Sing Sing Sing', made famous by Benny Goodman.

This was Trinity Concert Band's first concert since they introduced their Newcomer's Scheme, which offers free tickets to those who have not experienced one of their concerts before. The uptake was excellent, with very positive feedback from those who attended. One 'Newcomer' had this to say: "It was a fantastic evening watching Trinity Band. Not really knowing what to expect, we thoroughly enjoyed our evening, surrounded by friendly people, a wide range of fantastic music and tasty treats! The performance was polished, professional and introduced in a humorous and educational way!".

Trinity Concert Band is a symphonic wind band based in Lower Earley, Reading made up of both talented amateurs and professional musicians. The group perform up to 5 formal concerts each year in the area and can be seen at bandstands across the region during the summer months. In 2018 they were one of only two bands in the UK to receive the top Platinum award at the National Concert Band Festival.

The next opportunity to see the band in concert is on Sunday 29th September, 6pm at The Great Hall, Reading University where they'll be joining forces with Reading based Tamesis Chamber Choir for a traditional Royal Albert Hall style Classical Spectacular, ending in a dazzling proms style finale. Visit www.trinityband.co.uk or call their box office on 0118 4492099 for more details.

WE NEED NEW PARISH COUNCILLORS

It does not take up too much time and you will make a difference. We have four vacancies for a parish councillor to join the team as we meet the challenges of a rapidly changing local environment.

There are some 1500 residences in Barkham, with the numbers increasing all the time. How many of our residents are completely happy with the way WBC are running the Borough AND our Parish? Judging from the number who signed the petition last Summer, there are many of you who feel that more could be done. If you are one of those residents please come along to the Parish Council.

The Parish Council is doing all that it can to try and guide WBC in the right direction, the direction that we believe our residents want, BUT we need your help. The Parish Council is sadly short of Councillors. Without more people who care about where they live and who would be willing to come and join the Parish Council and make a real difference to the way the Borough affects our Parish; we will not be able to repeat exercises like the petition organised last year or develop initiatives to support the community.

Existing councillors live across the Parish. To find out more, contact our Parish Clerk and arrange to come along to one of the monthly meetings.



Summer is over and what a great time to take up something new, like volunteering for a local good cause!

Volunteering is a fantastic way to make a difference in your local community and we can

help! With local groups working with children, young people, the elderly, education including literacy/ numeracy, people with mental and physical health issues and disabilities, gardening, transport schemes, befriending and environment/conservation, there really is something for everyone. Added to that, there are well researched health benefits to volunteers, who tend to have a greater sense of wellbeing and live happier and longer!

As Christine Knox, Manager of the Centre, says: "Some volun-

teers are passionate about a certain cause. Others see a need for their help or particular expertise and go where they are needed most. Whatever your motivation and availability, we can help you find the right role for you."

There are loads of ways to get information on volunteering. Contact Christine or Helena at The Wokingham Volunteer Centre on 0118 977 0749, email us at volunteer@wok-vol.org.uk or visit our website www.wokinghamvolunteercentre.org.uk or volunteering portal, www.volunteerwokinghamborough.org.uk.



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Can accommodate 175 guests and now has a new fully equipped kitchen. Plus with the benefit of Lottery Funding a new ceiling and lighting have been installed which can be fully dimmable for evening celebrations.

If you are a group who needs somewhere to meet on a regular basis why not use your local village hall, we have plenty of tables and chairs and spacious car park and grounds for use during the summer. We offer very competitive rates for regular users.

Further information can be obtained from the parish council web site with photographs of the hall plus a calendar with availability. Please contact Judith Neuhofer on 979 0296 or email judith.neuhofer@btinternet.com

Barkham Diary

Quiz Answers

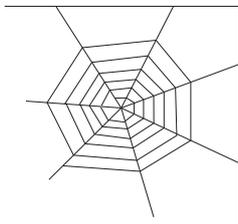
1. *Aardvark*
2. *Brian Clough*
3. *Dresden*
4. *Erminttrude*
5. *Floccinaucinihilipilification*
6. *Graham Hill*
7. *Indiana*
8. *Job*
9. *Ken Loach*
10. *Mordor*

Where in Barkham answer

School Road.
lat/long 51.395009, -0.891499
OS SU 7718 66801

23/09/19	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	7.30pm
24/09/19	Parish Council Planning Review	BVH	7.30pm
28/09/19	BVRA Barn Dance	BVH	7.30pm
02/10/19	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
08/10/19	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
08/10/19	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
09/10/19	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
22/10/19	Parish Council Planning Review	BVH	7.30pm
28/10/19	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	7.30pm
07/11/18	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
07/11/19	BVRA AGM	BVH	8.00pm
12/11/19	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
12/11/19	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
15/11/17	Copy deadline for Winter Newsletter		
23/11/19	BVRA Quiz Night	BVH	7.30pm
25/11/19	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	7.30pm
26/11/19	Parish Council Planning Review	BVH	7.30pm
04/12/19	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
10/12/19	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
10/12/19	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
11/12/19	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
TBA	BVRA Carols in the Park	Junipers	7.00pm
Weekly Events			
Mondays	Pilates Class	BVH	11.30am
Mondays	Dog Training	BVH	6.30pm
Tues-Fri	Barkham Pre-School	BVH	9.00am
Thursdays	Pilates Class	BVH	6.15pm

AVH is Arborfield Village Hall BVH is Barkham Village Hall
CRH is California Ratepayers Hall



Barkham web site

I hope you like our website
www.barkham.org.uk

We are constantly looking for ways to improve it and would welcome your suggestions.

More photos please!

We are always in need of attractive images of the Barkham area for both the web site and newsletter, so if you have some interesting photos and would like to share them please get in touch.

Dave Clements
webmaster@barkham.org.uk

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*** Venues ***

Lodden Valley Leisure Centre,	RG6 4GD :	Mondays	7:30-8:30pm
Arborfield Green Leisure Centre,	RG2 9NN :	Wednesdays	7:30-8:30pm
Woodford Park Leisure Centre,	RG5 4LY :	Fridays	6:30-8:00pm
Arborfield Green Leisure Centre,	RG2 9NN :	Saturdays	11:30-12:30noon



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