

http://www.barkham.org.uk
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# **EASTER EGG HUNT**

**SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2020** 

3 pm THE JUNIPERS



# 50p per child



Raffle for large egg £1





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Backham



**Chairmans Chat** 

Firstly, welcome to 2020. Hopefully by the time this comes through your door we will have almost seen the back of winter and can look forward to an early spring. I am pleased to announce that we have appointed a new volunteer Treasurer. Alison Goudge will take over these key duties within the Residents Association from Ian Overton at the start of March. Alison is a Barkham resident and retired trademark lawyer. She will also join the committee and in addition to the Treasurer role we will benefit from her considerable experience of Parish Council work. We still have a vacancy for

the Membership secretary and details of this can be seen later in this edition of the Newsletter. I like to think of this as the logistics engine, ensuring that newsletters are delivered, subscriptions collected, and membership records maintained. It's a key role and relies on a number of very dedicated people who physically deliver the newsletters and collect the money.

As stated in the last edition we have decided to maintain the annual subscriptions at £2. This partly offsets the print costs so it's important that we get as many of the Barkham residents to sign up again this year. This year, we are introducing the opportunity to pay by direct debit and the distributor will offer you this choice when he/she collects the subscriptions. It is entirely optional. The process is simple and is detailed in the separate box below.

I would like to welcome a new advertiser, Bearwood Real Estate,

to the Newsletter. It's always a pleasure to promote a local business so please read the introductory article in this edition of the newsletter.

I would encourage as many of you as possible to attend the upcoming social events (see the social section). Our aim this year is to get as many of the residents to participate in these as possible. If you haven't been to one, try them! We are always looking for enthusiastic people to join the social team, it's a great way to get involved in the local community. If you are interested, please use the social contact information in this newsletter. Finally, I would like to thank Ian Overton for many years of service as BVRA Treasurer. I'm sure that without Ian's steady hand on the till we would not be in a financially sound position. Your steady hand has always been appreciated, thanks for all your work Ian.

Alan Dixon Chairman

#### 2020 SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE AND REMAIN AT £2 PER HOUSEHOLD

#### **INTRODUCING Direct debit payments:**

Direct debits are managed by GoCardless and are fully protected under the UK direct debit scheme. We will take direct debits from your bank account on or just after 1st May each year. If you have not set up a direct debit in time our distributor will try to collect your subscription in cash when distributing the Summer newsletter around the start of June. Any direct debit set up too late will be used for payments in subsequent years.

You will be emailed by GoCardless just prior to us taking the debit from your account. The debit will appear on your bank statement with the reference GoCardless, ref: BVRA-xxxxxxxxxxxx, where xxxxxxxxxxx is the reference emailed to you when you created the direct debit.

To set up the direct debit go to the BVRA web site using the link below. Then click on the link to GoCardless:

https://www.barkham.org.uk/index.php/bvra/bvra-membership



#### **BVRA 2019/20 GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Chairman: Alan Dixon

chairman@barkham.org.uk 977 1831

Secretary: Richard Roberts

07785 228684

secretary@barkham.org.uk

Treasurer: Alison Goudge

989 2287

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



**Editorial** 

Spring is declaring its intensions with some determined snowdrops and daffodils but hold onto your hats as I don't think we have seen the end to the blustery weather yet.

In this edition we have updates on the recent Arborfield and Barkham Neighborhood Plan referendum and the Barkham Bridge project. A report from the Rural Crime Action Group and recommendations from Thames Valley Police on how to stay safe from cyber crime. Also, we have a great Spring social calendar to share with you, from music concerts, social events, theatre and of course the Easter Egg Hunt! The community groups have been very active and if you have

many worthwhile charities who always need a helping hand. Or maybe you fancy having a go at something new, like singing, or flower arranging, then you can find it here. Are you are getting itchy feet, then take a look at our new advertiser Bearwood Real Estate, or, if you are more concerned with thoughts closer to home, then let Alan's Patch inspire you in the garden.

some spare time to give, there are

Whatever you fancy this spring, get out and enjoy life!

### Advertising and **Newsletter Contributions**

Newsletter articles / contributions for the Summer edition should be in by 8 May 2020. It helps if these can be submitted in electronic form by email to newsletter@barkham.org.uk.

For trade adverts, please email treasurer@barkham.org.uk, or call 977 1831. 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 June.

### The BVRA needs a new Membership Secretary!

#### Duties are to:

- Maintain a membership register
  - (handling of subscription money will be dealt with separately).
- Print rounds for distributors 4 times per annum
- Cover for distributors on holiday.

Over the whole year, it takes less than 30 hours to the entire job.

Please contact our Chairman, Alan Dixon (details above), if you are interested in helping the BVRA by taking on this role or would like more details.



### The Referendum - a great result

who took part in the Arborfield and Barkham Neighbourhood Plan referendum, which took place on Thursday 6th February. The number of people who voted yes was 1,164, compared to 72 who voted no. That was a great result, indeed quite a landside! I am delighted that the Plan received such a substantial endorsement from the community - this gives the Plan a lot of credence. The vote demonstrates the strength of feeling people have about local issues such as preserving the identity and character of their villages and protecting the countryside around them.

The plan has taken a lot of work over many, many years. At times I wondered if we were going to get there, but we did in the end. I was fortunate to have a fantastic team in the Steering Group who worked with great enthusiasm, putting together the Plan itself, and arranging the various surveys, focus groups and public events needed to engage with the community at large. It was reassuring that these events resulted in over 1,000 responses of one sort or another. This seems to have translated into a similar sized vote.

Many thanks to all the residents who took part in the Arborfield and Barkham Neighbourhood Plan referendum, which took place on Thursday 6th February. The number of people who voted yes was 1,164, compared to 72 who voted no. That was a great result, indeed quite a landside! I am

With a substantial vote behind it, the Neighbourhood Plan carries real weight. It is a clear demonstration of the various issues which actually matter to local people. They like the identity and character of the various villages. They care about their public open spaces. They care about some of the historical assets of the area, and the natural assets such as the Coombes. They are concerned about increased traffic on unsuitable roads. This all helps support the message to the planners in Shute End.

The Neighbourhood Plan becomes part of the statutory development plan for the Borough. It will help steer decisions made by Wokingham Borough Council's planning committee in years to come, including how to protect the countryside, open spaces such as The Junipers, local assets and flood risk management. In the plan, locally valued natural and heritage assets have been identi-

fied and development proposals are expected to conserve and enhance them. These include The Coombes and adjacent areas, the rhododendron avenue along Bearwood Road and the lime grove at Nashgrove Ride. The plan also requires any development in the area to focus on appropriate housing that takes account of existing residents growing older, younger age groups wishing to stay in the area and key workers.

It also goes one step further; it is a message for the Local Plan Update that is currently being prepared by Wokingham Borough Council. The issues identified in the Neighbourhood Plan need to be reflected in the Local Plan Update. I feel, to a considerable extent, the officers have taken note of the direction of travel in what they have put together in the first draft of the update.

The next step will be for the Plan to be formally 'made' by Wokingham Borough Council. This will happen on 26 March when it will be considered by Executive and then a meeting of Special Council. The regulations require the Borough to formally adopt the plan within eight weeks of the referendum, and this is the earliest date available. In the meantime, now that the plan has been approved at a referendum, it comes into force as part of the statutory development plan. From this point onwards it carries the same legal status as the Local Plan in determining planning applications.

Laurence Heath Chair of Steering Group Arborfield & Barkham Neighbourhood Plan

Photo credit: The Wokingham Paper



#### Time travel anyone?

In 1997, a man who worked on a small-town magazine in Oregon was told he needed to fill some space before they went to print, so he decided to include this personal add as a joke:

Wanted: somebody to go back in time with me. This is not a joke. PO Box 322 Oak View California 93022. You will get paid after we get back. Must bring your own weapons. Safety not guaranteed; I've only done this once before.

He expected to receive a handful of humorous replies, but when he went to the post office, he discovered he had been deluged with responses. Someone had posted his small-ad on the internet and people had written from all over the country; indeed, all over the world. Most got the joke and responded in kind, but he also received some replies from people wanting to take him seriously. In particular, he heard from a number of people in prison who wanted to go back and undo their past crimes.

It is astonishing to us that anyone might believe such an offer was real. Yet at the same time, most of us have had that desire to turn back the clock, so that we can undo the mistakes of the past. We are all too aware of those we have hurt through our selfish actions or harsh words but we know we can't take them back. It

is not unusual for us to be greatly burdened by regrets and feelings of guilt about the past.

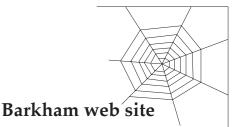
What though if the slate could be wiped clean? What if the things we had done wrong, without being ignored, could be dealt with so they would never be held against us? This is the extraordinary offer that we hear from the God of the Bible, who once said through the prophet Isaiah, "I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions...and remembers your sins no more."

This offer is not a joke. In order to make it possible, Jesus went to his death on a cross, before rising again and offering new life and a fresh start to all who come to him. Too good to be true? I think the possibility is too good to ignore.

At Barkham Church we are always delighted to welcome anyone wanting look into these things more closely. We will be

looking again at the life-changing events of the first Easter, with services on Good Friday at 10am (N.B. at Arborfield) and on Easter Sunday at 10am (all-age) and 6pm. Do join us.

Julian Bidgood



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

#### **Barkham Development Watch**

Helping to protect Barkham's distinctive character

We have nearly 900 residents currently registered to receive our Development Watch Alert emails. However, we haven't "advertised" it for some time so if you are new to the area or have missed registering previously you may wish to do so now. This email list is only used to send out periodic email alerts if we wish to bring any development plans to the notice of Barkham residents. Often the time allowed by Wokingham Borough Council for comments on a specific planning application or more general plan will expire before the next Barkham Newsletter is published so these alerts give residents a timely chance to comment on issues that may concern them

Please join the mailing list today by going to the BVRA website <a href="www.barkham.org.uk">www.barkham.org.uk</a> and follow the instructions to register for the alerts on the home page. Previous Development Watch alerts can also be found on our website – just follow the Dev Watch link from the home page.



Barkham Bridge

As the Barkham bridge project has been going on for some time I thought I would use this issue to answer some questions and to give an update.

This project is being delivered as part of the Wokingham Major Highways Programme. Barkham Bridge is an existing highway structure along the B3349 Barkham Road, operating as a priority give-way system for traffic to cross the Barkham Brook. The improvements, as currently proposed, include the construction of a new highway bridge to accommodate two-way traffic. As well as improving traffic flow and reducing congestion at the existing bridge, more importantly to improve road safety, these improvements will help support major new developments in Wokingham borough, in particular the Arborfield Garrison development.

The project consists of a new bridge structure, which is to be constructed south of the existing Barkham Bridge, as well as approximately 300m of associated carriageway realignment. The existing bridge is to be retained and converted to a shared footway/cycleway, connecting the existing sections of footway to the east and west.

#### **Progress update**

The work has been progressing well after the completion of initial enabling works and the set-up of the site. Installation of the bridge foundations, which were due to take place in January, have been pushed back until February but we are still on schedule to have the bridge open in Spring 2021.

This is due to a utility provider, who had committed to carrying out a necessary diversion in early January, rescheduling to February at very short notice. Unfortunately this activity has to take place prior to the bridge foundations being installed.

## Why such a big Land take and compound size?

Aside from the land required for the bridge itself, most of the land being used is only needed to enable construction and every effort has been made to only take the absolute minimum land required. All temporary land will be returned back in its original condition at the end of the project.

Firstly, there is visibility to be maintained throughout the site which impacts the location of machinery and height of stored material. Secondly, there are Environment Agency stipulated flood zone designations, which restrict where we can locate site cabins, materials and undertake other site activities. Lastly, as the Barkham Brook is designated an Environmental Agency main river the works are being conducted under license which contains further restrictions related to the proximity to the Brook.

Aside from the delivery of the new bridge, a flood attenuation

basin is also being provided as part of the flood risk management strategy, in addition to planned additional greenery and landscaping, all of which is considered with the identified land take.

#### Why does it take so long?

The new Barkham Bridge is programmed to open during Spring 2021. Whilst the physical length of the new highway is not that long, it is being constructed within close proximity to a live highway and an Environmental Agency main river. Both these factors increase the complexity of the works, and the overall program. The bridge foundations can only be installed when the weather is fine, giving less flexibility to the program. This type of construction is significantly different to just building a new highway through a greenfield site with limited constraints.

#### Disruption to residents

With all highway related projects, there will be varying levels of disruption within the vicinity of the Barkham Bridge works, however, there will be mitigation provided as far as reasonably practicable to reduce this throughout the delivery of the project.

As part of our contractors operating conditions they are tasked to do the best they can to keep noise levels to a minimum and where possible will complete noise related work outside of the most sensitive times. Onsite generators do operate 24/7 and to minimise their impact on people living nearby they have been acoustically wrapped with sound absorbing material to ensure noise pollution is minimised.

Whilst they are installing the bridge foundations, acoustic mats will also be used to absorb noise levels as much as possible.

There has been considerable congestion at peak time, and this is due to the closure of the Nine Mile Ride for much needed major infrastructure work to update the services which is beyond the control of the council.

As such I would like to apologise for the delays suffered by residents while these important projects are delivered and as I use this route at least twice a day myself along with everybody else who use the road, I look forward to both these projects being completed along with the Arborfield Relief road which is also planned for completion later this year.

You can sign up to the project updates to keep up to speed on this Major Highway Project by emailing us at barkhambridge@balfourbeatty.com

Should you have any further queries or concerns please refer to the Barkham Bridge webpage https://bit.ly/2Sf2UDn or contact us directly via the email above, or by calling 0800 121 4444.

If you have any questions about any issues which relate to Barkham or the Borough, major or minor, please don't hesitate to contact me

John Kaiser
Member for Barkham
Deputy Leader and Member for Housing and Finance.
Wokingham Borough Council
Mobile 0771 4192352
Email john.kaiser@wokingham.gov.uk

### The Quiz of the Century

.....well, not quite, but as we're now in 2020 the topic for this edition's quiz if the first 20 years of this millennium – years 2000-2019. One question for each year, in date order!

- 1. Which band had a hit with "Disco 2000", albeit in 1995?
- 2. Who directed "2001: A Space Odyssey", albeit in 1968?
- 3. On which Indonesian island was there a terrorist attack killing 202 people in October 2002?
- 4. Maurice Gibb of the Bee Gees died in 2003 at the sadly young age of 53. Of his 3 brothers, which is the only one alive today?
- 5. Whom did George W Bush defeat to win the 2004 Presidential Election?
- 6. Who was the Leader of the Conservative Party who lost the 2005 general election to Tony Blair?
- 7. The 2006 FIFA World Cup (men) was held in Germany, but who were the winners? (Clue: It wasn't England!)
- 8. Which iconic communications device was first sold in June 2007?
- 9. 2008 saw the Summer Olympics in China. What was the Beijing National Stadium more colloquially (and famously) known as?
- 10. Which 2 countries were admitted to NATO on 1 April 2009?
- 11. What was Eyjafjallajökull's claim to fame in April 2010?
- 12. The former singer of punk band X-Ray Spex died in 2011. Who was she?
- 13. 4 August 2012 was "Super Saturday" at the London Olympics. Britain won 6 golds, including 3 athletic golds in under an hour. Which 3 athletes won these golds?
- 14. Andy Murray won the men's singles at Wimbledon in 2013, but how many Grand Slams has he won in total (to date!)
- 15. In September 2014 the result of a vote was 44.7% in favour. What was the subject of the vote?
- 16. What record did the Queen break on 11 September 2015?
- 17. The MP for Batley and Spen was murdered on 16 June 2016. What was her name?
- 18. Which long standing African leader lost power is November 2017?
- 19. What was the name of the nerve agent used to poison Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia on 4 March 2018 in Salisbury?
- 20. England beat New Zealand to win the 2019 Cricket World Cup Final (men), but how was the match decided when the teams finished tied after the Super Over?

Answers on page 22



# Arborfeld Green Women's Institute

We are a fairly new branch of the Women's Institute who meet in the evening at 7.30pm on the first Tuesday of the month at Arborfield Green Community Centre, Sheerlands Road, Arborfield Green.

We have recently had talks as diverse as Tales of a Scotland Yard Detective and a presentation by the charity SmartWorks, and we also have craft evenings, quizzes, etc.

#### Coming up are:

**3 March** - our Annual Meeting with a quiz and fish 'n' chips supper,

7 **April** - an evening of Easter craft,

**5 May** - a talk on the Ancient Art of Enamelling

Visitors (and joiners!) are very welcome to our meetings; our age range is broad, and our cakes are delicious...

Please contact <u>arborfieldgreen@gmail.com</u> or find us on FaceBook - Arborfield Green WI - for further information.

Andie Ayoubi Branch Secretary



We are a group of friendly ladies who meet every 1st Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm at Barkham Village Hall.

To end the year our December meeting was our Christmas Party where we enjoyed very tasty food and mulled wine, provided by the members. We had a Secret Santa and after exchanging Christmas cards and greetings we spent the rest of the evening chatting - so much so that there was no time for our Christmas Quiz!

There was no meeting in January as the 1st Wednesday was New Year's Day, but we did have a meal out in mid-January when 18 of us met at the Walter Arms. We regularly visit Wokingham Theatre, organised by one of our ladies, and in January we saw a double play on stage. The next visit will be in March when we see 'Anne Boleyn'.

The February meeting is our AGM and Silent Auction. This is where we review the previous year, discuss the plans for the coming year and raise a few funds for the club while quite often picking up a bargain at the auction.

On March 4th we have a speaker talking about 'True Fishy Tales', and April 1st will see a visit by Alan Gould from Henry Street Garden Centre who will be talking about 'Going Green'.

We have a Games Evening and a fish and chip supper in May, and more interesting speakers and a BBQ planned for the rest of the year. From Spring to Autumn one of our members organises monthly daytime walks with lunch in the area too.

So if you are new to the area or just wish to join us then please contact Shirley Warner, the Chairperson on 0118 9789124 for further details, or come along on the evening. You will be made very welcome.

#### Barkham Village Hall

Next to St James' Church, beautiful rural setting for weddings, christenings and parties.

From as little as £23/hr for both halls. £26.50/hr after 6.00 p.m. on Saturday.

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

#### **Rural Crime Action Group**

The RCAG (Wokingham) are a group of volunteers and representatives from organisations including Thames Valley Police, Wokingham Borough Council and the National Farmers Union who are passionate about keeping the rural communities safe.

Rural crime tends to fall into one of four categories:

**Agricultural** - Covers working farms, farm machinery, farm buildings and smallholdings. Offences include theft of equipment or fuel, damage to property, and livestock worrying.

**Equine** - Covers working stables and equestrian centres and includes offences like tack theft and livestock worrying.

Wildlife - Includes hare coursing, poaching and interfer-

ing with protected species. You can find out more about wildlife crime on our website www.thamesvalley.police.uk

Heritage - Defined as 'any offence which harms the value of England's heritage assets and their settings to this and future generations'. This can include offences such as lead theft from churches, damage to ancient monuments and illegal metal detecting.

Rural crime can also fall under environmental crime, which covers illegal waste dumping, fly tipping, polluting watercourses and land.

If you are concerned about rural crime or your own security, a member of the RCAG can visit you and offer security and crime prevention advice for you, your premises or your home. Where, appropriate, assistance is available for those who find themselves in difficult circumstances.

You can contact the chair of the RCAG, Hugh Payen, at hugh.payen@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk or contact the Fields neighbourhood policing team on FieldsNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Please note that as a team of volunteers, your enquiry may not receive an immediate response.

The RCAG do not respond to incidents of rural crime so please continuetoreporttheseon101, online at <a href="https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk">www.thamesvalley.police.uk</a> or call 999 in an emergency. If you have information about crime or anti-social behaviour in your area but you do not want to speak to the police, you can contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

### **Thames Valley Police**



Our Protect Your World campaign aims to encourage Thames Valley residents and businesses to protect themselves online. Thames Valley Police is helping residents stay one step ahead of cyber criminals by producing top cyber security steps everyone needs to take. It not only explains the risks of cyber crime, but also what steps you should be taking to stay safe and how you can complete them.

Follow the campaign on our social media channels using #ProtectYourWorld

- 1. Use a strong, separate password for your email
- 2. Install the latest software and app updates
- 3. Enable two-factor authentication (2FA) on your email account
- 4. Use a password manager to help secure your password
- Watch out for fake emails and texts asking for your information
- 6. Always back up your most important data
- 7. Secure your social media

If you fall victim to cyber crime, or experience an attempted scam, report it to Action Fraud actionfraud.police.uk online or by calling <u>0300 123 2040</u>.

If you have been a victim of a cybercrime and you are struggling to cope, you can contact Victims First. Victims First is dedicated to making sure that all victims receive the support they need to cope and recover from the impact of the crime. It is available across Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire and can provide help regardless of whether or not the crime has been reported to the police.

Phone: 0300 1234 148 Web: www.victims-first.org.uk



# Wokingham Theatre



Formed in 1947 we moved to our current location in 1986, hidden away next to the Cantley House Hotel and sports fields on the North side of the town.

We put on eight full-length productions a year, as well as several extra smaller productions, including our annual Youth Theatre production. On each performance night up to sixty people can have been involved in getting the show on its feet – from directing to designing stage sets, from acting on stage to working behind the scenes and even running the bar in the interval.

WT is a thriving community theatre making it a centre of creativity for young and old, veterans and beginners. It is a local gem for all Wokingham residents to enjoy. We're always growing and we love welcoming new members to the theatre, whether it's on stage, backstage or front of house.

As a community theatre group our success depends on the time, effort, expertise and goodwill of our Members. It is quite a small proportion that 'tread the boards' - many others are involved behind the scenes both around the stage and in the many 'front of house' and administrative duties which keep the building running. There are further details below. New members are always welcome and are encouraged to become involved in any of the many theatre activities. At present there are about 270 members. Members are kept abreast of current affairs, including dates for auditions and social events, by our monthly "Prompt" newsletter.

There are 3 categories of membership:

Full member £20 per annum Student member £5 per annum Life member £200

#### **Our Activities**

WT productions are supported entirely by the members. They may be involved in:

- Cast
- Directing
- Set Design & Building
- Stage Management
- Lighting & Sound
- Props
- Costumes
- Publicity

and on performance nights:

- Bar staff
- Front of House
  - FOH manager
  - programmes
  - sweets and coffee
- Box Office

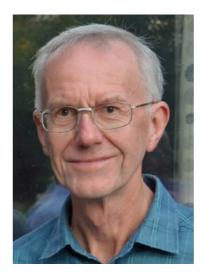
There is no obligation to be involved in any of the above tasks, but you will be most welcome if you would like to help.

For enquiries about membership contact Rachel Pearson or Kim Whiley at membership@wokinghamtheatre.org.uk

### Where in Barkham?

Do you know where this is? Answer on page 23





Alan's Patch

With several wet months during another mild winter, surely this has been the wettest autumn and winter for many years? With only a few sunny frosty days I took advantage of one to take a walk with my camera as the sun came up. I like nature's patterns such as those created in frozen puddles with their beautiful curves and shapes.



It's been so wet that not until the middle of December did I light my bonfire of surplus garden woody material, even then it was a struggle to get the damp wood going! It even rained heavily overnight before I could scrape up the ash to spread around the fruit trees to add extra nutrition to them. Fortunately I had some left over from previous years!

It's been a quiet time in my patch over the past couple of months. One of those unpleasant annual jobs was to empty the greenhouse and wash it inside and out to

clean the glass. Then I fumigated it to get rid of any nasty bugs that might linger inside. I pruned the fruit trees which, after five years' work, are now pretty much the shape and size that I want. Finally I applied winter wash, an organic liquid sprayed on the trees while they are dormant, to reduce the bug count, especially the codling moths that burrow into the apples and ruin them. Last year's spraying was the first time I've done this and it made a definite improvement. It's interesting that despite last summer being really wet there were fewer leaves to collect for the leaf cage. In the previous hot dry summer I had a lot more. That seems counterintuitive to me, I wonder why that is?

I've been buying some new seeds and plants. Now I am growing for one I need less of each crop so I'm going to try some new things instead, such as Jerusalem artichokes, to add more variety. I've bought a few more raspberry canes to replace some that were not doing well. It's bad practice to replant in the same place because permanent plants use the same nutrients year after year and, as raspberries performed poorly in that spot, there may something about the soil that's not suiting them, infection, lack of light, too wet or too dry. This means I've had to shift a few things round to make some space for the new canes. I've also bought some more blueberries to use that space.

I'm still eating carrots, parsnips, leeks, spinach and beetroot straight from the garden. Of the crops in store, I've still more than enough potatoes and a few butternut squash plus some as soup in the freezer, along with tomatoes and summer fruits. The

pears have all gone and I've still plenty of apples, but a lot have gone rotten so I need to improve their storage.

The first sowing of broad beans made in early November is doing well and I'll be sowing some more shortly to crop later and extend the season.

Three weeks ago, as a bit of an experiment, I sowed some seeds in a tray in the kitchen window. They germinated really quickly but were really leggy. This was because there was too much heat and not enough light. So back to tradition and in the greenhouse last week I sowed some salads, tomatoes and aubergines. For tomatoes I grow the old variety of cherry tomato called Gardener's Delight because they have such a wonderful flavour and I like small tomatoes. With aubergines, I've never been really successful and this might be my last attempt unless I get a decent crop. It's questionable if they are worth the effort. Already a couple of tomato seedlings are just poking through into the light. I have my automatic lights set up to provide extra daylight and hopefully I'll get some sturdy plants.

I see the usual wildlife but the only unusual activity has been the few times I disturbed a pheasant in the garden. We scared each other as I walked round a corner and he panicked and squawked off into the air and over the fence!



#### **Social Matters**

As I write this it's the beginning of February-Christmas and the New Year seem to be almost forgotten, and the recent very mild weather has brought the snowdrops and daffodils into flower in my garden. So far we haven't felt the full grip of Winter, but there is still time, so be hopeful but prepared!

We enjoyed two social events during the last quarter, the Quiz in November, and the Carols in the Park in December. The Quiz was very well attended by over 70 people, and the fish and chip supper was superb. This year there was a new winning team, the 'Not Unincompetent', which means that the winning team for several years now faces a challenge to regain their title!

The Carols in the Park at the Junipers had a bumper attendance with many children taking part which was great to see and hear. It was windy but not too cold and the mince pies and mulled wine at the end went down very well. In fact so many people came that we ran out of mince pies! We will buy more for next time!



A bucket collection was made for the Breakaway Brass band who so kindly gave up their time to play for us, and this was a lovely start to the Festive Season. Future events for 2020 are already planned and the first is a 'Family Skittles Evening' on Saturday March 14th at 7.00 for 7.30pm at the Village Hall. A Ploughman's Supper will be provided, and there will be a licensed bar with good prices.



This is always a great fun event, and tickets can be obtained from Gill Powell preferably by emailing social@barkham.org.uk or by telephone on 0118 9783373. Prices are £10 for adults and £5 for Primary school aged children.



Our usual 'Children's Easter Egg Hunt' will take place on Easter Sunday, April 12th, at 3pm in the Junipers Park. Entrance on the day is 50 pence for children, and while they are all busy hunting for tokens to exchange for small eggs the adults will be able to buy raffle tickets for the Giant Egg and other chocolate prizes. Lastyearitwasawonderfulwarm and sunny day and many families stayed on in the Park afterwards to enjoy the afternoon. So we hope to have fine weather again for what is always a popular event.



Other events have already been planned for the rest of the year- a Barn Dance on 26th September, and the Quiz on 14th November. So please make a note of these dates - more details will follow in future Newsletters. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the events, enjoyable the fun and supporting your local Barkham Village Residents Association.

Shirley Warner Social Committee Member



#### **BARKHAM VILLAGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**



Saturday 14th March 2020 7:00pm for 7:30pm—11:00pm Barkham Village Hall

Ploughman's Supper Included
Tickets available from Gill Powell
Email: social@barkham.org.uk
or Tel 9783373

Adult £10, Primary School Children £5

### **LICENCED BAR & RAFFLE**



# A Great Local Lottery Win!

The Wokingham Cancer Support Network are delighted to announce that they have been awarded a grant of £10,000 from the National Lottery. The project helps people affected by Cancer in the Wokingham borough. The funding from The National Lottery Community Fund, which distributes money raised by National Lottery players for good causes and is the largest community funder in the UK. The funding award will mean that the support network can continue its valuable work for another year.

The Wokingham Cancer Support Network is newly established and supports all those affected by Cancer, including carers and family members. It was established as a community project by Involve which is an infrastructure charity delivering a range of services and projects throughout Bracknell Forest and Wokingham to support the voluntary, community and faith sectors. The aim of the project is to support people in a range of ways, including direct peer-to-peer voluntary support, monthly group meet-ups, an online chat facility through Facebook and an information/ signposting hub.

Vickie Randall, Project Lead said, "Meeting other people with similar experiences can be invaluable. We have developed a holistic support network that helps people by offering direct peer-to-peer support with our volunteer Cancer Champions, as well as our monthly meet-ups. We have a safe space online for interaction and we promote news and events through our social media. We want the network to become known as a support hub

for those that need us when they are feeling vulnerable or alone."

People affected by cancer, including carers meet on the third Thursday of the month at Wokingham library between 2-4pm. There is a different topic each month. It's a great opportunity to come together in an informal, friendly, safe setting to share experiences and enjoy a relaxing afternoon with cake included! Our meetups have been a great success and Wendy said "Thank you so much for arranging such an enjoyable afternoon. I'm sure others found it equally interesting: candles. Chats, giraffes, tea and nibbles were all memorable! As a Cancer support meeting it was good to see how such a workshop enabled people to open up, yet without the formality of a usual meeting."

We were delighted to be at the Wokingham Volunteer Fair hosted by The Wokingham Volunteer Centre in January. Over 160 people visited the event and we had a lot of interest regarding our Cancer Champion volunteering opportunities. The Wokingham network has now been established for a year and has gone from strength to strength.

We have been able to support a number of people in their homes when they have felt vulnerable or alone either following a diagnosis or intensive treatment. Our monthly group meetings have been successful and we have offered a range of opportunities for people affected by cancer to meet and get involved in a range of activities.

We have also been actively involved in working with Patients and Health Professionals from the Royal Berkshire Hospital to develop a programme of improvement and development within the cancer ward. We've also networked with cancer support groups throughout Berkshire to ensure that we can signpost and develop our network.

Due to this success we are now expanding the project into Bracknell Forest and we'll be promoting the network throughout the region.

For more information about the Wokingham Cancer Support Network please contact,

Vickie Randall T: 01344 304404 E: Vickie.Randall@involve.community

Facebook: @CancerSupportWBC Twitter: @NetworkCancer

Insta: @cancer\_support\_wbc www.involve.community/cancer





MBRACKNELL FOREST & WOKINGHAM BOROUGH

inTRUSTed is a service that matches a whole range of people with a wide range of skills and experience, with local charities across the Thames Valley. Potential trustees do not need prior experience of charities, as induction, training & support is freely available. Time commitment for many charities starts from two hours per month.

Having a stall at the Wokingham Volunteering Fair was a first for the inTRUSTed service, run by involve Community Services, and we took a chance: inTRUSTed recruits volunteers as charity trustees for other charities, so we're quite a specialist service.

However and despite friendly competition from charities themselves looking for volunteers for their services, we spoke to

several people who had, at first, never considered themselves able to become a trustee. After discussion, it was clear that life experience as well as a wide range of business experience, was on offer from those interested, and once they better understood what a trustee did, they were interested. They found out that the time commitment was much less than they thought, and the skills needed - mainly the ability to discuss and make decisions as part of a group – were what they could offer.

Several people contacted intrusted@involve.community following the Fair and we're hoping to place them with local charities who are looking for trustees.

Involve Community Services supports charities primarily in Bracknell Forest and Wokingham Borough.



For more information, please contact Mike Allen, Trustee Recruitment & Liaison Officer via 01344 304 404 or intrusted@involve.community

# citizens advice

Wokingham

Citizens Advice Wokingham, our local advice and information charity providing support to people across the borough has launched a new project.

The Advice Task Force will see trained volunteers 'pop-up' across all 17 town and parish councils in 2020. This is part of the charities efforts to reach all parts of our borough, with a service for all of our communities.

The local Citizens Advice service helps people living or working in Wokingham Borough with a wide variety of issues including benefits, debt, housing, employment law, relationships, families and much more. They have trained people who can help understand your problem, identify any other contributing factors and identify ways forward.

The task force also visits local community groups, most recently carers day and a domestic abuse support group to ensure that they are reaching as many people as possible.

If you have a suggestion for where the charity can deliver pop-up advice, visit www.citizensadvicewokingham.org.uk/ advice-task-force to nominate a location or find out more details.

Citizens Advice Wokingham provides a service 5 days a week, and operates a telephone adviceline 0300 330 1189

Jake Morrison Chief Executive

#### 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

# ReUse, ReCycle

Did you know you can donate unwanted items such as furniture, plastic toys, glassware, or CDs at the local re3 depot in the Reuse or Donation area. They can be re-homed or sold locally, supporting the Sue Ryder charity. No need for a separate trip to the charity shop.

#### Items suitable for the reuse area

- Furniture
- Bikes, bicycle helmets
- Books, CDs, DVDs and Computer games
- China, glassware & ornaments (unbroken and wrapped to prevent breakages)
- Fans and heaters floor standing and table/ desk top
- Furniture, folding and stacking chairs / tables
- Guitars (electric) or pianos (battery)
- Jewellery
- Plastic flowers, hanging baskets
- Plastic toys in working order (but no puzzles)
- Pushchairs/cots/prams, mosses baskets

- Small Electrical Appliances e.g. kettles, toasters, foot spas, irons, etc
- Sports equipment tennis/badminton/squash rackets; complete exercise accessories.
- Stainless steels taps and sinks/basins
- Stereos, speakers, headphones
- Suitcases/travel trollies/rucksacks
- Kitchenware (plastic, metal and ceramic) Must be wrapped to prevent breakages if ceramic or glass.
- Other reusable, unbroken or unused items
- Unused cosmetics and toiletries
- Wall clocks
- Vinyl records

#### Items unsuitable for the re-use area

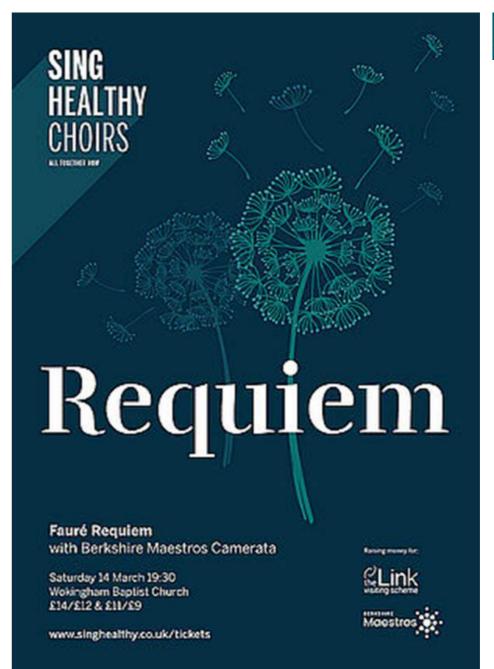
- Magazines
- Tapes
- Videos
- TVs or monitors
- Damaged or broken items

From 1st February 2020, re3 will no longer accept the windscreen stickers as proof of residency.





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Berkshire Maestros' flagship string ensemble is joining forces with Wokingham's Sing Healthy community choir in March, to perform Fauré's beautiful Requiem. The concert at Wokingham Baptist Church will raise money for Berkshire Maestros and Wokingham-based charity The Link Visiting Scheme. The performance will also feature music by Saint-Saens, Gounod, Tchaikovsky, alongside the chamber version of Fauré's Requiem for choir, strings, horns, organ and harp.

Tickets can be bought on the door or online at: singhealthy.co.uk/tickets

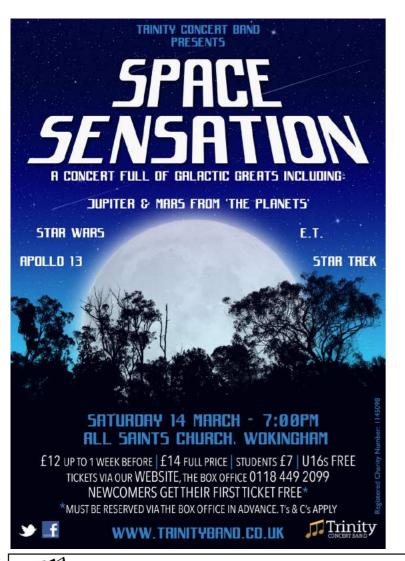
# Symphony ORCHESTRA

Our Spring Concert is on Saturday 28th March 2020 at 7.30pm at The Old Gym, Wellington College, Crowthorne when the programme will include two of Brahms' most popular works – his 'Academic Festival Overture' and the marvellous 'Double Concerto for Violin and Cello' with soloists Molly Cockburn (violin) and Michael Atkinson (cello). Molly played with us a few years ago and we look forward to welcoming her back; Michael is a long standing member of the BBC Symphonyy Orchestra. Walton's Symphony No.1 completes the programme. The first of Walton's two symphonies, it was written in the 1930s and enjoyed an ecstatic reception from musicians, critics and public. The work was influenced by Sibelius and is a potent mix of musical and personal influences behind its devastating power and is among the best-known symphonies by British composers.

Tickets for the Spring Concert will be on sale online and also about 8 weeks in advance from the usual outlets.

The orchestra welcomes new members subject to vacancies if you are interested and are a competent player, even if you have taken a break from playing, please get in touch. Our regular membership is over sixty players and we have a reputation as a friendly bunch with members of all ages. Weekly rehearsals are on Mondays in term time from 7.45-10pm at Oaklands Junior School, Butler Road, Crowthorne. Visit our website for more information: www.crowthorneorchestra.com

Chris Gadsby



# Lunch-time Music at St Eligius Church Arborfield Green

Bringing music to you!

Concerts in 2020

Starting at 12.30 pm

	Dawn Holder Corp	
Thursday, 7 May	Piano	
	Rebecca White	
Thursday, 6 August	Soprano	
	Diane White	
	Piano	
	5 Ts Brass	
Thursday, 5 November	including former members of REME	
	John Sayer, Trumpet	
	Phil Graham, Trumpet	
	Stephen Kerry, Trombone	
	Dave Robson, Trombone	
	Len Tyler, Tuba	

Admission free, to include Buffet Lunch

# Retiring Plate Donations in support of St Eligius Church

To book your Lunch, please, contact Rita Le Var (Tel. 01252 372320, E-mail: rita le var@ntlworld.com)

St Eligius Church, Tope Road, Arborfield Green, Reading, Berkshire RG2 9NB

# Trinity Concert Band defibrillator appeal

Recently, a member of another local music group had his life saved by a defibrillator after collapsing during a rehearsal. That got us thinking about what would happen if someone were taken ill at one of our own rehearsals, or indeed at our concerts. To that end we decided to raise money to purchase our own portable defibrillator to ensure that we are prepared for any similar worst-case incidents, to keep our members and audience safe, so that we can continue enjoying music together as part of a community.

We saw this as a long-term project and when we started fundraising with our 2019 Christmas concert raffle we merely planned to get the ball rolling, so you can imagine how overwhelmed we were to reach our target just one month later! Money has come in from:

- a generous Christmas charity donation from Earley-based Power of Pilates (£450)
- our clarinettists providing carols at the Twyford and Ruscombe Local History Society's Christmas social (£50)
- -one of our flautists doing a sponsored £300km walk throughout January (£253)
- proceeds from our Christmas Concert raffle (£275)
- public donations (£224)

All of this means we've been able to go ahead and purchase our defibrillator, and fund some of its ongoing maintenance costs. When the device is not travelling with us to our concerts and outdoor events it will be housed at our base, Trinity Church in Earley, where it will be available to everyone who uses the church.



### Spotlight

### Sing for your Self

Raising the Roof, Raising Spirits and Raising Funds!

Do you love a good old singalong? When you sing in the kitchen or car, who is it for? Is it a performance, because you're a great singer? No – it's for your SELF – it's uplifting and freeing. There's nobody judging you and it lets off a whole bag of steam!

Singing on our own is great, but here is a wealth of research emerging, showing that singing in groups brings myriad physical and mental health benefits: from improving heart rate, blood pressure, immune system, pain & stress management, breathing & lung health and depression & anxiety, to aiding sleep, boosting our general mood and increasing our sense of connection and belonging. And the best part is that being a 'good singer' is not a prerequisite for being able to reap these benefits!

As a singer and primary teacher of over 25 years, the benefits of singing have long been my friend, but around this time last year I started to form the idea of community singing groups for fun and wellbeing. So many people would tell me that they would love to join a choir but... for various reasons they felt they couldn't or shouldn't. (They think they can't sing, they can't read music, they don't like performing, they can't make a weekly time commitment, they are worried their health issues may get in the

way, etc, etc.) The reasons people would list off all made me feel that I could do something to plug that gap for them. I know from my own experiences the huge benefits singing can bring and I wanted to share that with others, so I left my teaching job in order to create an inclusive group setting where people could come to sing popular songs, without pressure, judgement or expectations, no matter what they thought of their own singing ability.

With enthusiasm and a warm welcome, my aim at "Sing for your Self" is always to create an atmosphere of trust and friendship where everyone can relax, sing confidently and leave the session feeling uplifted and happy! We sing along to well-known songs from across the decades, from '60s right through to modern day. We learn one song more thoroughly each week, pausing to go through any tricky bits, and then we just enjoy singing them out!

During our daytime session we have a refreshment break, bringing some social contact into the day. We operate a simple donations tin for tea, coffee & biscuits, with all profit from the tin going



to ARC, Wokingham's Youth Counselling Services. In the Autumn Term alone we raised over £150, which will fund 15 hours of counselling for young people in our Borough.

We also had great fun providing a singalong at several community Christmas Fayres. I'm hoping to run several workshops at some local wellbeing functions soon and possibly have some sessions running at a local Festival later in the summer, too.

For further information on local sessions, go to <a href="https://www.singforyourself.co.uk">www.singforyourself.co.uk</a> or <a href="https://www.facebook.com/sing.for.your.self.group">www.facebook.com/sing.for.your.self.group</a>

Soph Tarttelin – Sing for your Self



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# Wokingham Choral Society



Our members are currently working on our Easter concert which will feature a programme of baroque music for Easter: Pergolesi's beautiful Stabat Mater and Membra Jesu Nostri by Buxtehude, on March 28th, in the Great Hall, Reading University, at 7.30 pm. The Stabat Mater is possibly the last work of Italian composer, Giovanni Baptista Pergolesi. Its haunting opening bars were described by Rousseau as 'the most perfect and most touching to have come from the pen of any musician', and choir members are looking forward to performing a new choral version of a work which was more often allotted to solo voices only. Dietrich Buxtehude's work is not well-known today but he was revered by many musicians in his time, J.S. Bach once walking for 200 miles in order to meet him!

Conducted by our Music Director, James Morley Potter, WCS will be accompanied as usual by the talented Hampstead Chamber Orchestra, with continuo by Benedict Lewis-Smith. James will give a free pre-concert talk at 6.30 pm to those interested in finding out more about the music.

Full information about the choir, concerts and other activities can be found at www.wokingham-choral-society.org.uk. We invite anyone who is interested in joining our friendly group to email our Membership Secretary (membership@ wokingham-choral-society.org) if you would like to give us a try!







Finchampstead Flower Club was formed in 1983 and usually meets every 4th Monday in the month at the California Ratepayers Hall, Finchampstead, RG40 3RL. It holds demonstrations and runs workshops. Visitors are always welcome. The first visit is free and then it is £5 per meeting or £30 for annual membership.

Our flower arranging demonstrations begin promptly at 8.00pm so we recommend that you arrive at 7.40pm to check in and take some refreshments. If you buy a raffle ticket you have the opportunity to win one of our stunning decorations.

For further details, please contact Elizabeth Barrett: <u>Elizabeth.</u> <u>barrett@btinternet.com</u>, or call 0118 989 2092. You can find us on Facebook too.

The next meeting is 23rd March and 27th April.



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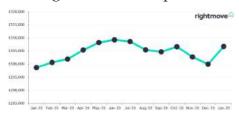
Understanding your financial goals is our first and most important priority. Our primary focus is to establish and discuss in depth to ensure the fit is right for all parties and to ensure a successful project going forward.

Now for some facts and figures. In the Barkham area there are currently over 100 dwellings for sale ranging from 1 bed apartments, cottages, semi-detached/detached houses and bungalows. There are also about 30 properties up for rent.

This is a healthy sign that the property market is stable and, if anything, on the up!

Over the last 10 years property prices in Barkham have increased on average by 55%

Since 2015 approximately 2600 new homes have been built and this, rightly or wrongly, is only going to go up with the national shortage of homes still prevalent.



The Rightmove House Price index has reported a post-election surge this month, with the average price of property coming to market up by 2.3% or up £6,785 to £306,810. Read the full report here: <a href="https://bit.ly/31JbfT7">https://bit.ly/31JbfT7</a>

ties involved in our transactions. This 2.3% rise in new seller asking prices is the largest that Right-move has recorded at this time of year since the House Price Index started in 2002.

Whether you are looking to sell your own house or perhaps want to build your own property portfolio, please get in touch, we would love the opportunity to talk to you.

Email: hello@bearwoodrealestate.co.uk Call: 0118 327 4695

20. England had scored more boundaries (26) to New Zealand's 17

19. Novichok

18. Robert Mugabe

17. JO COX

(αλε)

16. She broke Queen Victoria's record as the longest serving UK monarch (63 years 217

15. Should Scotland be an independent country?

14. 3 (US open 2012, Wimbledon 2013 and 2016). He has also lost in 8 finals.

13. Jessica Ennis (Heptathlon), Greg Rutherford (Long Jump), Mo Farah (10000 metres)

12. Poly Styrene

LL. It was the Icelandic volcano
which erupted, causing a dust
cloud which badly disrupted
air travel in Europe

10. Albania and Croatia

9. The Bird's Nest

эполчі .8

7. Ιταίγ

е. Місһае! Номага

2. John Κerry

4. Barry (aged 73) (Andy died aged 52)

3. Bali

2. Stanley Kubrick

J. Pulp

Quiz Answers

Answer: On Barkham Koad half-way up the hill walking towards Wokingham. It's on the right-hand side by the footpath that leads to the church OS: SU788673
Lat/long: 51.3998,-0.8685

Where in Barkham?

**Barkham Diary** 

03/03/20	Arborfield Green WI	AGCC	7.30pm
04/03/20	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.30pm
10/03/20	Barkham Parish Council	AGCC	7.30pm
10/03/20	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
11/03/20	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
14/03/20	BVRA Skittles	BVH	7.00pm
23/03/20	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	7.40pm
01/04/20	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
07/04/20	Arborfield Green WI	AGCC	7.30pm
08/04/20	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
14/04/20	Barkham Parish Council	AGCC	7.30pm
14/04/20	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
12/04/20	Easter egg hunt	The Junipers	
27/04/20	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	7.40pm
05/05/20	Arborfield Green WI	AGCC	7.30pm
06/05/20	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
08/05/20	Copy deadline for Summer Newsletter		
12/05/20	Barkham Parish Council	AGCC	7.30pm
12/05/20	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
13/05/20	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
25/05/20	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	7.40pm
Weekly Ever	nts		
Mondays	Pilates Class	BVH	11.30ar
Mondays	Dog Training	BVH	6.30pm
Mondays	Yoga with Jude	AVH	7.30pm
Tues-Fri	Barkham Pre-School	BVH	9.00am
Tuesdays	Sing For Your Self	AVH	1.00pm
	Yoga with Jude	AVH	2.00pm
Thursdays	Pilates Class	BVH	6.15pm
Thursdays	Yoga with Jude	AVH	5.00pm
Fridays	Yoga with Jude	AVH	9.30am

AGCC is Arborfield Green Community Centre AVH is Arborfield Village Hall BVH is Barkham Village Hall CRH is California Ratepayers Hall FMH is Finchampstead Memorial Hall



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