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Barkham Newsletter

Issue 136 Summer 2021

from the Barkham Village Residents Association

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

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

BVRA Social events

The **Family Skittles** on Saturday October 2nd at 7.00 for 7.30 at the Village Hall. A ploughman's supper will be provided, and there will be a licensed bar. This is always a fun, family event.

The **Annual Quiz** night is Saturday November 27th at the Village Hall. This includes a fish and chip supper and licensed bar. This is always a very popular event so again make a note of the date.

Carols in The Park will take place on Friday December 17th at the Junipers Park. This is always a lovely event for families just before Christmas, and not to be missed.

Tickets can be obtained from Gill Powell by, preferably, emailing social@barkham.org.uk or by telephone on 0118 9783373.

Do you enjoy getting out and about in your local neighbourhood and meeting new neighbours? Enjoy walking in the fresh air – with or without a dog? Enjoy being part of your local community?

Become a BVRA distributor

The BVRA newsletter is a key source of information, activities and news about our community and is distributed to residents quarterly by “distributors” who live in the local area.

We now have opportunities for three new distributors with immediate effect to ensure that the newsletter is delivered in a safe and timely way to specific locales.

If you are interested in this role or would like further information, please contact Bev Dipper on 07917114643 or membership@barkham.org.uk

In this issue...

BVRA Reports	2	Planning	8	Volunteering	14
Quiz	4	St James' Church	9	Associations	16
Social	5	Junior Walking Quiz	11	Quiz answers	19
District Councillor	6	Alan's Patch	12		





Chairman's Chat

Welcome to the summer edition of the Newsletter. Not only is the weather a little brighter and warmer but we are starting to see some progress in relaxing the restrictions that we have all been living with for some time. As of writing this pubs and restaurants are open outside and I for one have spent some chilly times in restaurant gardens – just because I could. By the time you read this restrictions will have been further relaxed and we can socialise more, travel more, see relatives and loved ones and start to do the things that we have missed so much. The BVRA Social Committee have dusted themselves off and are plan-

ning social events again! Please make sure that you have a look at what is planned in the social matters section of this newsletter and please come along to one or more of these events. Also, if you would like to join our social team and get involved in planning and organising some of these events we are looking for volunteers. It's good fun and connects you to the local community. Please email social@barkham.org.uk

On the subject of volunteers, I am pleased to announce that Bev Dipper has taken over the role of Membership Secretary within the residents' association. In this role she will organise the distribution of the Newsletters and the collection of membership subscriptions. Bev has been a resident within Barkham for over 20 years and she will also add her experience and knowledge to the Residents Association Committee.

As mentioned in the last Newsletter we did not collect annual membership subscriptions at the door. Instead, we asked

residents to either set up a direct debit (which over 200 households have now done) or put £2 into the supplied envelope and return it to your distributor. This was reasonably successful although we are still down on the normal level of subscriptions that we have had in past years. We will however try to fill this gap by collecting at the door although this will only happen if the individual distributors are happy to do this. Just as a reminder, subscriptions are used to pay for the printing costs of the newsletter, maintenance of the BVRA website and part funding of some of the free activities that we put on in normal years like the Easter Egg Hunt and Carols in the Park. We also donate a percentage of every direct debit membership payment to local charities and good causes.

On a final note if you have suggestions as to what we could / should do as a Residents Association please email me at chairman@barkham.org.uk Please enjoy the summer and the additional freedom that we hopefully continue to receive

Advertising and Newsletter Contributions

Newsletter articles / contributions for the Summer edition should be in by 13 August 2021. 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 September.

BVRA 2021/22 GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Chairman: Alan Dixon 977 1831
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secretary@barkham.org.uk
- Treasurer: Alison Goudge 989 2287
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Editorial

I hope this newsletter finds you all well and hopeful for a more positive 2021. We look to be turning the corner with Covid as the successful vaccine rollout continues. Though I think we are all feeling a little tentative and possibly a bit fearful of being more social. Our rules and behaviour are all in question; do we hug when we meet a friend or, do we awkwardly blow air kisses. Our lack of contact has left us questioning what actions are acceptable, or indeed wanted. I feel

we may have to learn from dog trainers and wear colour coded scarves to signal whether we are friendly, nervous, or likely to bite your head off if you invade personal space. We need to remain respectful of each other, as many will have been scarred by their experiences of the last 18 months.

If you fancy making your local walk a little more interesting, check out the fun walking quiz on page 11. We also welcome a new advertiser Wokingham Music Club, see the back page for details of events we can look forward to this summer.

If you would like to submit any articles for the autumn newsletter then please do so before 14th August to newsletter@barkham.org.uk

I wish to congratulate the winner of the Spring art competition Phoebe Stromdale (4 years) received an Amazon voucher for her great picture.



The BVRA Needs Your Support

Please help us by paying your £2 subscription by direct debit. If you haven't paid this year, your debit will be taken shortly after you sign up. If you have paid, you will not be charged twice and your debit will be used to take next year's subscription in April / May 2022.

To create a debit please go to: <https://www.barkham.org.uk/bvra/bvra-membership> where full details are available.

All debits are fully protected under the UK direct debit scheme. By setting a debit up you will be helping to ensure the future of the BVRA



Welcome to the new Membership Secretary Bev Dipper

I retired five years ago having worked most of my life in IT marketing roles. I have lived in Barkham with my husband Martin for the last 22 years having moved here all the way from Arborfield! I am now at a stage in my retirement where I am ready to get involved more in the local community and engage in ap-

propriate voluntary activities to "give something back". Having enjoyed a number of past BVRA social events and activities the current vacancy for the Membership Secretary piqued my interest and I look forward to contributing in this role and the wider BVRA.

I would like to invite anyone who has a couple of hours free per quarter and likes a nice walk to come and join our distributors.

We are looking for 3 more volunteers to distribute our quarterly newsletter, the areas we are keen to fill are: Langley Common Road (22 houses), Barkham Road (34 houses), The Junipers (30 houses). We attempt to allocate a couple of roads close to where you live, if possible.

The key activities which should take no more than 3 hours per quarter are:

1. The newsletters are delivered directly to each distributor
2. Distributors deliver to residents who are on the round list and collect and record any £2 subscriptions from those residents who pay in cash.
3. Update any change in resident details.
4. Submit the information and subscription money to the BVRA Membership Secretary.

Additionally, we hold an annual social event/party for all distributors (and partners) in the summer by way of thanks and appreciation—a fun evening and great way to meet other local residents and make new local friends

If you are interested in this role or would like further information please contact Bev Dipper on 07917 114643 or membership@barkham.org.uk



Social Matters

It's the Summer Newsletter time, and this time there is some good news for a change! After so many dark cold Winter months in the 3rd Lockdown the weather has warmed up a bit and restrictions have eased just a little. The weeks of cold northerly and easterly winds and the odd snowy days are behind us now so that getting out into our gardens and parks is now very pleasant. The trees, shrubs and flowers are all busting into life again and the bluebells are again spectacular this year.

So onto the good news - after no social events taking place this year so far I can now announce:

Future Events and Dates for 2021

The Family Skittles evening is on Saturday October 2nd at 7.00 for

7.30 at the Village Hall. A ploughman's supper will be provided, and there will be a licensed bar. Tickets can be obtained from Gill Powell by, preferably, emailing social@barkham.org.uk or by telephone on 0118 9783373.

This is always a fun, family event so do make a note of the date in your diaries and to book your tickets. A reminder will appear in the Autumn newsletter so that you don't miss out.

The Annual Quiz night is booked for Saturday November 27th at the Village Hall. This includes a fish and chip supper and licensed bar. This is always a very popular event so again make a note of the date. Further details will be in the next, Autumn, newsletter.

Looking to later in the year the annual Carols in The Park will take place on Friday December 17th at the Junipers Park. This is always a lovely event for families just before Christmas, and not to be missed.. Further details in the next newsletter.

In the newsletter there is a Walking Treasure Hunt/Quiz for children and families to do around Barkham. It has been produced by one of our committee members. So if you do this any time during the Summer and enjoy it, then do please let us know your thoughts

by mailing us.

So, things are looking so much more positive for resuming our normal social lives. I hope to see many of you at our social events - they are always great fun, and a great way to get to know people in Barkham Village, especially if you are new to the area.

We are looking for other people to join our very friendly committee. Recently some members have moved away and we are down to a small group who organise and run events. So please think about coming to join us - a few more willing helpers will make the events run even more smoothly, and have fun at the same time. Please contact Gill or Shirley at social@barkham.org.uk for more information.

Until the next time I hope you all have a wonderful Summer and enjoy lovely weather whatever you do and wherever you go - we all do certainly deserve it ! Do keep checking the website regularly for news and information about events www.barkham.org.uk

Shirley Warner
Social Committee member.

The Quiz

At the time of writing (early May), hopes are rising for a return to normality (or at least the "new normal"!). So, perhaps there are reasons to be cheerful, which suggested a theme for this issue. In 1979, Ian Dury and the Blockheads made no 3 in the charts with "Reasons to be Cheerful, part 3". Ian listed over 50 "reasons" in the stream of consciousness song and some of these are featured in this edition of the quiz. Knowledge of the song is not required but anyone who is old enough may remember some of the lyrics. This is probably the first (and last) quiz based on an Ian Dury song! Bear with me – back to less "off the wall" topics next time!

1. Two American singers are featured in the first verse. One died in a plane crash in 1959 and an eponymous musical about his life premiered in London in 1989. The second (Little Richard) had a hit with an alliterative song about a lady whose name rhymes with that of the first singer. I need the name of the first singer and the Little Richard song.
2. Which "big" Russian dance institution is mentioned in the second verse?
3. Verse 3 includes "Scammells". What is/was a Scammell?
4. Verse 4 ends with a breakfast cereal, probably most associated with Scotland. What is it?
5. Verse 7 rhymes a vegetable and a bird: "The Juice of a [vegetable]" and "The smile of a [bird]". Name the vegetable and bird.
6. Verse 8 opens with 2 cultural icons. "The King of Rock and Roll" and the nickname of the original engineer of the USS Enterprise, played by James Doohan in the original series and Simon Pegg more recently. Name them.
7. Verse 10 starts with "Take your mum to [where?]" Clue – home city of PSG.
8. Three Marx Brothers appear in verse 11. Name them.
9. Verse 12 has two favourite ingredients of a Ploughman's Lunch. – which? Clue – it rhymes with "slap and tickle".
10. And finally.....what colour are the socks in verse 5? OK this hard to guess, so a clue – Donovan had a hit featuring the same colour in the song title.

Answers on page 19

Do you enjoy meeting new people and want to be involved with your local community?

Join the BVRA Social Committee

The BVRA organize community events such as skittles, quizzes, Carols in the Park, Easter egg hunt, BBQ's and family fun days.

We would love to hear what you enjoy and maybe you are interested in becoming part of a fun team? If you would like further information, please contact social@barkham.org.uk



voted the healthiest place to live in the UK, but it is important we prevent the destruction of what people enjoy most about the environment.

The council is determined to block excessive development. Last year, we exerted pressure and successfully reversed the decision in the government white paper, to double the number of new builds in the borough. We have our own housing companies who deliver not just affordable homes but also profits to be used by the council to provide services. Our mantra is very much about the right home in the right place at the right price. Planning is vitally important to ensure homes and places of work are delivered but the environment is also protected. Green space such as SANG's Country parks, well planned estates with wide roads and good parking plus plenty of green ensures developments blend into the environment and not detract from the quality of life. We have a large development where nearly 40% of the approved developed space is non-housing green space.

Protecting the environment is a fine balance. It is important to attract businesses like the new film studios in the south of the borough which will bring up to 5000 new jobs including apprenticeships, skilled trade, craft jobs and not just hi-tech roles. Wokingham borough is unusual as it is a place where people not only live but also work.

Before the Wokingham town regeneration, we had 10 charity shops in the town centre, and more companies were moving out leading to the town looking tired. A refresh was needed to maintain the vibrant market town image. We found it was difficult to align the values which represented

Wokingham with the sort of profits being demanded by developers, the challenge was to find the right balance of environment and return required. Using the correct partners we have bucked the trend (not our words but an independent agent) and have 95% of new units rented or under offer. I will admit it has been difficult during the pandemic, but all bodes well for the future, the homes are beginning to sell for over our wildest estimates and if you do not believe how much the resident like what we have done, go to Elms Field or Peach Place on any day and just look at the number of people using the facilities. All profits generated will allow us to fund other town centres in the borough in addition to councils' services.

We have a well-educated population in the borough, and it is important we continue to ensure this continues for future generations so our commitment is total as you can see by the number of new schools built over the last few years.

Amazingly, we have been awarded the healthiest place to live in the UK which is outstanding when you consider the demographics and the average age of the residents, we have over 50 places providing adult care in the borough. Adult care is a massive part of the councils' costs in the borough, and we are constantly looking for better ways to deliver this service and one area where we are leading is keeping people safely in their own homes for as long as possible and our commitment to affordable homes for life which are easily adapted.

In the last 3 years we have built 7 major new roads including by-passes at Shinfield and Arborfield in addition to major ongoing re-

pairs and alterations in response to the demands of the residents, we are not just the highest car ownership in the UK but also the highest 2nd car ownership. We are working with bus companies with 2 high quality successful park-and-rides and are in the process of delivering a third. As you can imagine it has been difficult to maintain bus services during the pandemic but as things open we will see an increase in bus frequency responding to demands of residents. The flip side is we have been able to carry out far more road repairs due to the pandemic making the roads quieter, add to this the extensive greenways plan to give people a safer, healthier and more climate friendly alternative to driving.

We are a well funded council with high level of reserves and well controlled finances having saved over £30m over the last 5 years and plans to save another £6m next year with no reduction in service. We continue to maintain and improve important services such as weekly bin collection, in addition to delivering 1400 affordable homes and leisure facilities both indoors and country parks such as Dinton and California.

The council is committed to delivering quality services to residents and ensuring Wokingham borough remains a great place to live.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Stay Safe

Councillor John Kaiser
Member for Barkham
Wokingham Borough Council

Tel: 0771 419 2352

Email: john.kaiser@wokingham.gov.uk



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 22 Thorn Close, Barkham

Neighbourhood Watch Network is a charity registered in England & Wales, CIO no: 1173349



PROTECT YOUR POOCH
 Dog theft is on the rise and we are urging the public to keep their dogs **SECURE, IN SIGHT and SEARCHABLE**, and to help make pet theft a **SPECIFIC OFFENCE**.

Keep them:

- 1. SECURE** (pets are easily stolen from unsecured gardens if left unattended)
- 2. IN SIGHT** (when out and about keep them close and practice good recall)
- 3. SEARCHABLE** (to support quicker recovery if they go missing keep them microchipped, tagged and up to date photos)

AND HELP MAKE PET THEFT
A SPECIFIC OFFENCE

Find out more on all of the above and more at
ourwatch.org.uk/ProtectYourPooch






Planning

Apart from the Solar Farm, it has been relatively quiet on the planning front over the last few months. Work on the Local Plan Update with increasing urgency to relocate the 3750 homes that were destined for Grazeley. The 2010 Core Plan is getting long in the tooth and does not include all the houses that need to be built by 2036. This makes Barkham and surrounding parishes vulnerable should Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) fail to demonstrate an adequate 5 Year Land Supply.

Overall Barkham has supported the solar farm, either because of the move to green energy or the fear of more housing and accompanying traffic. However, there will be changes – the livelihood of farmers will be permanently affected, walkers will have to get used to new scenery across the parish, those living nearby will have new views, users of Barkham Road will face more delays as the grid connecting cables are laid and the setting of the heritage centre around the Church will be altered.

The impact on the heritage assets raises many interesting archaeological and planning questions especially as the Solar Farm is deemed to be a ‘temporary’ installation. It is a fascinating part of Barkham. Earliest records of

‘Beorchamme’ was in an Anglo-Saxon Chronicle of 952 and the Domesday Book of 1086 as Bercheham. The Grade II listed Church is the centre of medieval Barkham and part of an Area of Special Character which was rebuilt around 1860 on the site of an earlier church dating from early 13th Century. Church Cottages were built around 1485 are located on a moated site known as Church Farm which is designated as a Scheduled Monument. The surrounding farmland is the original manorial landholding which in 1755 formed part of a 120-acre estate. Wessex Archaeology, a leading centre of archaeological expertise in the country, report that these heritage assets and surrounding fields ‘combine to create an unusually well-preserved, small-scale, post-medieval rural landscape’. Many of these fields will become part of the solar farm.

Two options as to how to minimise the impact, or harm, to the setting and hence significance of Barkham’s heritage by the proposed solar farm are being reviewed. Total screening by full sized trees that completely separates the assets from the solar farm or lighter screening across the buffer zone to hide the solar farm perimeter fence but allow a semblance of the original rural

setting to be experienced and retain a connection to the historic past.

The relevance of whether the solar farm project is temporary or permanent is that if it is temporary then ‘technically’ everything can be reversed and therefore any harm is for a limited period. The implication is that mitigations can be more relaxed. No one knows what will happen in 25 years and it is not clear in the planning application whether the trees or the new Greenway are intended to be temporary as well – but it seems unlikely.

So, in addition to the infirmary stables, Barkham has a second important heritage centre and much needs to be considered to ensure it is protected. To recognise this, Wessex Archaeology has suggested information boards be placed along a suitable heritage trail to enhance public understanding. Sounds like a useful project for someone!

If you have any comments about anything written here then please e-mail to clerk@barkham-parish-council.org.uk.

Take care.

Graeme Dexter
Barkham Parish Council

Barkham Village Hall is situated next to St. James' church in a beautiful rural setting with spacious grounds and large car park. Perfect for weddings, christenings, meetings and parties.

The main hall can accommodate 175 guests and benefits from dimmable lighting and a fully equipped kitchen. A smaller meeting room is also available. If you are a group who need to meet regularly we have plenty of chairs and tables

We offer competitive rates for hiring both halls from as little as £24.50/hr, except Saturday after 6.00pm when the cost is £28.50/hr. All day bookings are £410.00 with the option to erect a marquee for an additional £100.00

Further information with photographs and availability calendar can be obtained from the parish council website <https://barkham-parishcouncil.org.uk/barkham-village-hall>.

To book and for any other enquires please email Judith.Neuhofer@btinternet.com.



HBC 2021...?

‘What are your plans for the summer?’ That’s always been a common enough question that we get asked at this time of year and not an awkward one – well within the safe territory of topics you’d happily cover with, say, the person cutting your hair. Now, however, this simple enquiry can provoke all manner of eye-rolling, shrugging and puffing of cheeks, as we go through the complex permutations of how we’d love a holiday in the sunshine, but don’t fancy anywhere on the green list and how we really ought to visit aunt Agatha, but only if we’ve had our second jab – none of which helps the barber to focus

on the urgent remedial work required after a winter of home hairdressing...

It has been difficult for many of us not to be able to look confidently ahead to events marked in the calendar and the same has been true for us at Arborfield and Barkham Churches. Normally in this issue I would be telling you about our plans for this year’s Holiday Bible Club – a wonderful week of activity for children offering sports, crafts, music, fun and games and a chance to hear the great news about Jesus. Until 2020 HBC had run for well over 50 years with up to 300 children joining us on The Coombes playing field. This summer, well... everything depends on how well the easing of restrictions goes over the next few weeks. Being realistic, we are unlikely to be able to run HBC exactly as normal, but we very much hope to be able to offer something fun for your children in the first week of the summer holidays.

So, put the week of 26th-30th July in your diary and then, from around half term, keep an eye on our website www.abch.org.uk to find out what is being planned.

I’m sorry I can’t be more precise but, to quote my barber, “Trust me, it’s the best I can manage.”

Sundays at Barkham

Sunday services are running at 10am and 6pm at Barkham Church and we have now started up groups for children again in the morning. For the moment, you need to book in on-line, again at our website. Everyone is always very welcome.

Julian Bidgood
Minister of Barkham

Where in Barkham?

Where is this stream and why is it orange?

Answer on page 19



Neighbourhood Policing

As lockdown restrictions continue to be lifted, there may be an increase in offences that start with a 'cold call' knock at your door, from someone claiming to be a tradesman working in the area. They call unexpectedly, offering services or goods that you have not asked for. Those who accept work often find the price increases or is left unfinished. Common types of work offered include pressure washing driveways, garden clearance, replacing loose roof tiles, repairing leaks or guttering and driveway work.

When you accept services from a doorstep trader you are likely to pay much more than the price initially agreed, for very poor, unnecessary and sometimes dangerous work and are possibly be targeted by them in the future. They often target the older generation who can be more trusting and vulnerable to falling victim to these offences. Doorstep traders rarely provide paperwork so they cannot be traced once they have left your home. Their names, addresses and business details are often false. They have no interest in doing work properly, their only concern is getting the cash and disappearing before Trading Standards or the Police can catch up with them. Genuine, reputable local tradesmen do not need to find work in this way and you should never feel pressured to accept any work or service you do not want. It is your home and your right to say 'No'.

No Cold Calling Zones (NCCZ) aim to decrease doorstep crime incidents by specifying a 'Zone' in which doorstep callers are not welcome. NCCZ are defined

by window stickers placed in the doors or windows of homes within the zone area and larger signs on lamp posts and street furniture. Zones range in size and can be from a block of flats to streets in a residential estate up to villages in rural areas. NCCZ are set up by the Public Protection Partnership's Trading Standards team working in partnership with Thames Valley Police. For more information, visit: publicprotectionpartnership.org.uk/trading-standards/no-cold-calling-zones/

Cold Calling can also be a cover for criminals planning more serious offences such as burglary, car crime or 'Bogus Official' offences where they gain entry to a home by deception in order to steal while the occupant is distracted.

Common methods used by distraction burglars are:

Pretending to be from a care agency, the council or a utility company investigating a gas or water leak.

Seeking help to leave a note for a neighbour or even asking for a drink of water if they claim to be thirsty or unwell.

Claiming to be in a hurry or emergency and needing to get into your home quickly.

Working in teams, with one person distracting you while the other searches your home.

There are a number of things you can do to prevent distraction burglary. Always remember "if in doubt, keep them out":

Use your door viewer to see who is there and if you open the door put the chain on first.

Always ask for ID and check it with the company before letting someone into your home. Genuine callers won't mind checks - if you feel at all unsure, schedule a time for the caller to come back when a friend or relative is with you.

Use the phone number advertised in the phone book or online, as the number on their identity card could be fake. For a utility company, call the customer service department and close the door while you do this.

For pre-planned appointments with utility companies, a password scheme can be set up.

If you feel threatened by the presence of the cold caller, call the police emergency number 999.

Contact us

Email: You can contact your local neighbourhood team via FieldsNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk - please note this email address cannot be used to report crimes or for any urgent matters. Please report crimes online at www.thamesvalleypolice.co.uk or by calling 101, in an emergency call 999. Facebook: TVP Bracknell & Wokingham Twitter: @TVP_Wokingham You can receive free information updates from Thames Valley Police by registering for Thames Valley Alert at: www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk

BVRA Walking Quiz

Start at the Post Office on Bearwood Road.

1. What time is the post collected on Saturdays?

2. What time is the shop open on Sundays?

With your back to the shop, turn right along Bearwood Road.

3. What is the speed limit after number 58A?

4. What Road is opposite number 76?

Carefully cross Bearwood Road and go up Hayes Lane

5. What is the speed limit in Hayes Lane?

6 Which house might prickle you?

7. What is leaning against the wall outside Hamilton House?

8. Who is running free inside the gates of Coombe Hill on the right?

Carry on up the lane and turn right between the blue arrows towards the field

9. What is the danger if you do not keep out?

Go straight ahead under the fence/gate and cross the field keeping the fence close on your right. Go through the gap by the gate

Turn right onto Coombes lane

Carefully cross Bearwood Road and go straight ahead into Sandy Lane

10. What can you play at number 53?

11. Who can get a drink of water at number 46?

12. Who do you think lives at number 42? (The name might help you)

13. What the maximum fine for Dumping?

Follow the path down the hill and turn right towards the play park

14. What can't you ride here?

Go through the fence and follow the path past the play park

15. What colour is the play-park gate?

16. How many old tyres are there?

Go straight on along The Junipers after leaving the park

17. What colour is the door of number 3?

Turn right into The Woodlands

18. What letters are on number 17's burglar alarm?

Cross the road and go straight on along the path

19. What is the number on the lamp post half way along the path?

Turn right into The Lilacs and keep on the same side

20. What colour is the big box on the corner?

21. What colour are the garage doors of number 40?

22. What tree is in the name of the first road you cross?

23. What nut is in the name of the second road you cross?

Keep straight ahead and you will find yourself back at the Post Office

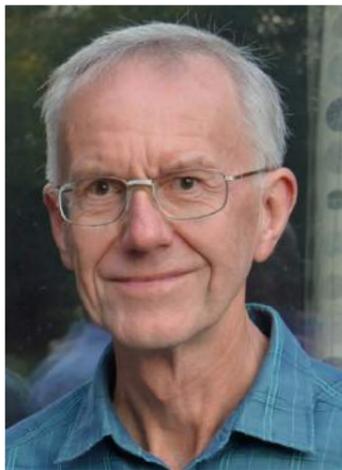
THE END



Collect from our dairy

If you would like to collect your cheeses directly from our dairy please contact us at info@twohootscheese.co.uk to arrange payment and collection.

Social distancing will be upheld during collections.



Alan's Patch

This Spring has generally been cold and dry. Until very late April the only precipitation we had was a heavy snowstorm early one Monday morning that melted by late afternoon. So, after a very wet winter we have had a very dry Spring. In addition, there have been cold northerly and easterly winds most of the time. I had a large bough drop from one of my trees during the extremely strong winds recently. Despite the harsh weather plant life continues, even if a bit late. My wisteria is in full bloom as I write, as is my solitary self-seeded cowslip!

This has meant a late Spring in the garden, what a contrast from last Spring when everything was two weeks early! So let me tell you about what has been going on in my patch.

I am delighted with my newly constructed raised beds. They are just the right size and allows me to segregate my crops better. All sixteen of them have something growing in them, even if in two it is just weeds! These are waiting for the sweet corn, butternut squashes and courgettes to be planted out in early June when I hope it will be warmer.

The broad beans I sowed in November have grown well. They are very resilient. When it snowed in April the stems were



horizontal on the ground covered with snow. But a couple of days later they had perked up, only to be poleaxed regularly by frost. Yet still they survive, well most of them. The second batch sown in February are doing all right too.

It is only May and I already have my first disaster of the season to report. I thought I had found the solution to prevent sawfly attacking the gooseberries by sowing broad beans alongside to deter the sawfly. Unfortunately, I was distracted for a few days and look what's happened! Half the leaves have been eaten by this wretched fly. I think the broad bean plants have not grown sufficiently to create enough smell to fool the sawfly. The bush will survive and



recover to grow fresh leaves but obviously it affects the crop.

Because of the cold Spring I have sowed lots of seeds several weeks later than normal. The early potatoes have now emerged and are vulnerable to frosts for the rest of May, so I have to keep an eye on the weather and cover them if necessary.

I am growing shallots both from seed and from 'sets'. A 'set' is simply a shallot that you might eat but plant instead. I planted the sets last Autumn and they will be ready in July. I sowed the seeds in Spring and they will be ready in October. Both produce shallots of excellent eating quality, but I find I can get bigger ones from seed, which is easier to deal with in the kitchen! As sets grow, they multiply and produce about half a dozen shallots to eat. When you sow seeds then they produce just a single shallot.

In the greenhouse the electric propagator and lights have done their stuff. The tomatoes, chillies, bell peppers, aubergines and cucumbers have mostly been planted out into their final position in the greenhouse. Salads are

growing along with some carrots, and a couple of cabbages to make an early crop.

One of last year's successful experiments was Jerusalem artichoke so I have planted some again. As with potatoes it is difficult to dig out all last year's crop and with having moved soil around more than normal while re-building the raised beds some rogues have emerged in some surprising places!

The (perpetual) spinach was hit hard by the frost and snow but it has recovered and provided a useful second crop of new leaves over the past few weeks but is now starting to 'bolt' - grows rapidly to produce seeds and quickly becomes inedible.

Seeds that have been sown this Spring so far include carrots, parsnips, leeks, lettuce, radish, beetroot and all are progressing well although the parsnips are a bit patchy and might need a second sowing.

I ate the last of the stored apples in late March and I've only a few spuds left. It is difficult to store apples for a long time. Too dry and they shrivel, too damp and they rot, then there are the mice! I am probably expecting too much. I enjoy my apples from end of July until March/April which is not bad really.

Despite the cold weather and frosts the fruit trees have blossomed well and I can see the fruit developing. Lots of pears, apples, black currants, damsons, gooseberries (especially on the plant not so far affected by sawfly!) to look forward to.

The deer are regularly visiting the field behind me. Kites are regular visitors overhead and it was quite some time until I recognised their very distinctive call. Last week I spotted a fox in the field chasing some prey. There was something low down in the long grass that had attracted its attention. It leapt into the air a couple of times to pounce on whatever it was. I wonder if it caught anything!

Since the end of April, we have had a fair amount of rain, so the weeds are growing well and, if you'll excuse me, I'll get back to work in my patch!



Volunteering is good for you and good for society!

I seem to have been volunteering in one way or another for most of my adult life – church, school governor, conservation team member, residents committee, gardening, trustee, befriender, and Covid vaccine marshal amongst many roles. Over the years volunteering has needed to fit around my work and family commitments. I have learnt new things from every group I have been involved with, met new people and had fun! Volunteering has proven links to health and wellbeing and gives opportunities to meet people and learn new skills. For many it's about putting something back and for some it can be a path back to employment and confidence building.

The Wokingham Volunteer Centre (TWVC) is a locally focused charity, supporting the voluntary and community sector and many hundreds of vulnerable residents across Wokingham Borough, including Barkham and Arborfield.

With eight part-time staff and over regular 100 volunteers, we match potential volunteers with the charities and voluntary groups that need them. We also run volunteer delivered driving and gardening schemes that help elderly and disabled residents to stay safely in their own homes for longer than might otherwise be possible.

During the Pandemic we have been playing a leading role, with other local groups, in the Wokingham Borough Community Response. We have recruited over 700 new volunteers, including drivers to deliver prescriptions and volunteer marshals. These new recruits help the teams vaccinating at doctors' surger-

ies and vaccination centres and support the lateral flow testing centres. Some drive elderly or disabled residents to their vaccination and other medical appointments – busy times!

We are always looking to talk to people interested in finding out more about volunteering and we can help you to find the charity and role that best suits your interests and availability (however limited). So do look at our website or get in touch and find out how you could make a difference.

TWVC is also seeking several volunteers to join and strengthen our own friendly and committed Trustee Board. The Board has oversight of the charity and its strategic direction. Members bring their life skills and professional experience, and work collaboratively to discuss and make decisions. We welcome interest from all sections of society and backgrounds. Some experience as a volunteer would be useful and currently the Board would benefit from additional experience in the

areas of HR, Fundraising, Communications, or social media.

Trustees attend six Board meetings a year in Wokingham (but currently via video link) and other meetings and events as may arise. Minimum time commitment is around 2-3 hours per month - maximum is up to you! Induction and training will be provided.

Contact us: tel. 0118 977 0749, email volunteer@wok-vol.org.uk or visit our website www.volunteerwokinghamborough.org.uk to find out more and have a look at all the volunteer roles that local groups are looking to fill right now.

Graham Powell, Chair of Trustees
The Wokingham Volunteer Centre.
chair@wok-vol.org.uk



A day in the life of a Volunteer at Wokingham Foodbank

Wokingham is one of the wealthiest towns in England - and also one of the most expensive places to live, however not every resident has an income that enables them to live comfortably.

No one in Wokingham – or indeed in the UK - should go hungry or have to choose between eating or heating and lighting their home. That's why the Foodbank provide nutritionally balanced emergency food and support to local people who are referred to us by one of the 80 local agencies with whom we work in Wokingham.

I am a local Barkham resident who had the opportunity to take early retirement in 2015. My plan was to keep active; with this in mind in 2016 I trained and started working as a Volunteer Assistant Lock Keeper on the River Thames at Hamble Lock. Driving home from the lock listening to Radio Berkshire I heard an interview with the manager of Wokingham Foodbank (FB) and was amazed that Wokingham even had a FB and even more surprised that there was a need for a FB in Wokingham. I started to investigate the FB on social media and found out that it was run entirely by volunteers. I mentioned this to my wife Lesley (who is also retired) and in 2017 we both started volunteering at the FB.

The main elements of work comprise the following activities: -

- Collecting food donations (non-perishable) from local supporting supermarkets.
- Sorting food by date and category.
- Prepping the picking area to ensure food is always available.

- Offsite storage of food with long best before dates.
- Monitoring food requests from referring agencies.
- Picking and packing food as per the receiving client family requirements.
- Meeting and distributing food packages to the client at the FB or delivering food packages directly to the client at their home.

For example, on a Wednesday morning, I work in a back-office role alongside four other volunteers where we manage the date and category sorting of food. This involves restocking the picking shelves for the afternoon teams, sorting the food by date and moving food with long best before dates to our long-term storage in Molly Miller Lane. In the afternoon I deliver food directly to clients. The clients are so appreciative of the food deliveries and their gratitude well justifies the function and value of FB's in our community.

Wokingham FB currently has 83 volunteers (some currently not volunteering because of clinical vulnerability) and we've supported 5090 clients during 2020.



How can you help?

- Donate food at one of our food donation points at our local Tesco, Waitrose, Sainsbury and Morrisons supermarkets.
- Donate food directly to the FB in Broad Street Walk on Mon & Fri mornings.
- Please check our web site or Facebook page to see what food donations we need at the time.
- Donate money - we rely on financial donations whether they be single or on a regular basis to enable us to pay for the running of the FB. These donations also allow us to purchase specific foodstuffs when we run low.
- Become one of our volunteers - it is a rewarding role in a very much needed organisation and feedback on your contribution to clients in need is immediate

Contact Wokingham Foodbank

Phone us
[07926 524605](tel:07926524605)

Email us
info@wokingham.foodbank.org.uk

Website
<https://wokingham.foodbank.org.uk/>

FARLEY HILL BOWLS CLUB

I am pleased to announce that we will be starting to bowl again on the 5th May and warmly welcome new players. The club mainly plays friendly matches against other clubs on Saturday and Sunday afternoons and Wednesday evenings. If you would like to try the sport of Outdoor Bowling come along to one of our Open

Days on the 30th and 31st May between 2.00pm and 5.00pm. Other times are available but due to the virus individual sessions must be booked in advance by contacting the undersigned. Bowls will be available for your use but please note that only flat-soled shoes or trainers can be worn on the Green. We are situated at the Victory Hall, Church Road, Farley Hill RG7 1TR, approximately two miles from Arborfield Cross.

The beginning of this season will be different from normal years because of Covid-19 regulations. This means less players on the Green in May but hopefully we will be back to normal later in the season.

For more information please visit our website – www.farley-hillbowlsclub.org.uk or contact Club Secretary Bill Dowling on 01344 772130 or at secretary@farleyhillbowlsclub.org.uk

Barkham Hookers

For Easter we ran a fun competition to raise money for local charity DINGLEY'S PROMISE which helps disabled and special needs children and their families. We crocheted 42 post-box toppers which were distributed throughout the local area and we encouraged everyone to get out and visit as many as possible and post photos with the attached QR code on our Facebook page. It was fabulous to see so many great photos on our Facebook page.

delighted winners. The winning pair were Mum and daughter Katherine and Evelyn who found an amazing 33 boxes! Simmi and her beautiful daughters won the kid's selfie category and Tracy Edwards won the adult selfie with her fabulous duet with the Postie! Very pleased that Sarah Phillips won the most snapped box as not only was it the first one but it was all her idea too. I am pleased to announce we raised over £250! Well done everyone.

We have now removed them all and am keeping them safe ready for next year. In the meantime, we are planning Christmas ones so

keep your eyes peeled and more information will be in the autumn newsletter!

Our weekly zoom calls have helped to keep us all sane but as from May 21st we will be able to resume meetings at SANPA, Wokingham on Friday mornings (10 – 12). As things start to open up more, we will resume other face to face meetings so keep an eye out on the Facebook page or email me for more information.

Gaynor White (Madam)
Facebook: The Barkham Hookers
Email: gaynorwhite@madasafish.com
www.gaynorwhite.blogspot.com



CROWTHORNE Symphony ORCHESTRA

At last it is starting to look possible to return to making music alongside other people, rather than on Zoom. I look forward to restarting 'workshops' for small numbers of players, as we did last autumn. With the first one being a String workshop for CSO members on 17th May, when as many as 25 string players can meet at Oaklands School. Similar workshops for Woodwind and Brass will follow on subsequent weeks, taking us to early June.

We have also made provisional plans for a Public String Workshop on Saturday 12th June at Oaklands Junior School, Crowthorne. This will take place from 2pm-5pm and will be open to both members and non-members of the orchestra with a maximum capacity of 25 players. Social dis-

tancing measures will be in place as recommended at the time, but we are planning to include refreshments and hope to run this event as normally as possible. Some of you will know that we have held an annual String Workshop for many years, and it has always been a popular and very enjoyable afternoon. By the time you read this, details will be confirmed on our website. If you would like to attend, or know someone who would, sign-up will be via an online ticket (£10).

From Monday 21st June there should be no limits on indoor gatherings, and no requirement for social distancing. So, our intention is to resume full orchestral rehearsals weekly from Monday 21st June at Oaklands Junior

On Wednesday June 2nd we are planning an early evening group picnic on the terrace and the grass area at back of the hall. Ladies will bring their own picnics and drinks, together with their own picnic chairs for what will be the first time we can all get together, catch up and have a good chat. We do hope the weather is kind to us.

From July onwards, all being well, we should be able to meet up as usual in the Village Hall, and maybe have our program of 'speakers' again.

Before then, Marilyn New, our treasurer and seasoned walker, has arranged for a walk on Thursday 20th May, meeting at 10.30. This will be along the Greenway starting at Finchampstead Baptist Hall (FBH), with a coffee stop outside at California Park cafe, and

School, until 19th July. We will be playing a range of inclusive music rather than a concert.

Soon I hope to report on some live music and perhaps a concert in the not-to-distant future (27th November is booked at Wellington College in hope!) Meanwhile, check the links on the home page of our web site. <https://www.crowthorneorchestra.com/> There are many interesting items on a variety of topics.

Chris Gadsby

then lunch back at the cafe at FBH for those ladies who wish too. Marilyn usually arranges several walks for the Ladies over the Spring, Summer and early Autumn months. So we look forward to a few more to come, when we can visit different places and enjoy each other's company along with her lovely friendly dog, Freddie!

So the outlook for the Summer and onwards is looking much more rosy. I hope things all go according to plan. For information about the group please contact Shirley on 0118 9789124

Shirley Warner
Chairperson

Finchampstead Flower Club

Finchampstead Flower Club used to meet once a month at California Hall. We are currently meeting online using Zoom, but we hope to be back at the hall from July. We have a demonstration and then a catch up. Recent demonstrations have been around the theme of Spring and they have certainly brightened up those long cold evenings.

National Flower Arranging Day is on Friday 7th May. Many members are planning to put a display on their windowsill or to decorate the outside of your house. Do keep a lookout for innovative designs

If you would like to follow our activities you can find us on Facebook

<https://bit.ly/33XGefY>



or you can phone the chair, Lis Barrett, 01189892092.

We look forward to greeting new members in the not too distant future.

Kriss Turner

- The Quiz - Answers
1. Buddy Holly and Good Golly Miss Molly
 2. Bolshoi Ballet
 3. Scammell Lorries Limited was a British manufacturer of trucks, particularly specialist and military off-highway vehicles, between 1921 and 1988. The actual reference in the song is to "Eighteen Wheeler Scammells".
 4. Porridge oats.
 5. Carrot and parrot.
 6. Elvis and Scotty. Actually, the Scotty reference is a lot more well known. 1st Scotty Moore but the Star Trek of the song refers to Dury's guitar.
 7. Paris
 8. Harpo, Groucho, Chico.
 9. Cheddar cheese and pickle.
 10. Yellow (song is Mellow Yellow)

Where in Barkham:
Along the footpath that runs along the edge of the field from the St James Church towards Rook's Nest Wood SU786663 approx.
The orange colour is caused by iron, leached from local sandstones.

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“Wouldn’t it be great if Wokingham had its own Festival?!”

That’s how it all started, with a local resident who fancied a Bank Holiday festival for those who weren’t keen on the mud and mayhem of Reading! Plenty of good music, food and beer in a safe and fun environment for the whole family. 14 years later, we’ve moved from the Town Centre in order to accommodate the growing attendees and loving every minute of running an independent festival. On both our Trademark and Wokingham Music Club stages you’ll find a brilliantly eclectic mix of local, national and international artists.

Run by a group of local volunteers, the festival is completely independent with no council funding - simply a bunch of locals who love a good time. Will you come join us this August Bank Holiday?

To learn all about the fantastic acts we have in store for your enjoyment and to purchase tickets, visit our web page. <https://www.wokinghamfestival.co.uk>

Covid-19: In the event of a cancellation a full refund policy is in place, so you can book with total peace of mind in these strange times.



**The home of live
music in Wokingham**



Wokingham Music Club brings great music to Wokingham every month. Some dates include:

Toyah 16th July 2021

Tony Christie 29th October 2021

Andy Fairweather Low 10th June 2022

Tickets are now on sale for all confirmed dates, a full list can be found on our website www.wokinghammusicclub.co.uk. To sign up for our newsletter just drop a line to info@wokinghammusicclub.co.uk. Tickets for shows can be booked at www.ticketsource.co.uk/wokinghammusicclub. If the show is cancelled your ticket monies will be refunded.

Venues: The Whitty Theatre, Emmbrook Sports & Social, The Royal British Legion Club, Winnersh.