# £1, free to Members BVRA Barkham owsletter Issue 133 Autumn 2020 from the Barkham Village Residents Association https://www.barkham.org.uk Twitter: @BarkhamVRA Facebook: https://gid.uk/BVRAF

### The BVRA Needs Your Support

As a result of the current covid19 crisis our distributors have been unable to collect all of the annual subscriptions. To date we have collected only 75% of our expected revenue. We do not expect to be able to collect money at the door for some considerable time.

As a consequence, 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 years' subscription in April / May 2021.

### 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 this

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**BVRA Reports** Planning **Development Watch** District Councillor Barkham Church

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Let's Localise Share Wokingham Lockdown Diary Quiz answers

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Chairman's Chat

At the time of writing this summer is still in full swing with sunny and warm days. Although we know that autumn is just around the corner. I hope that all of you have enjoyed or at least made the most of the good weather. We are still some way from getting back to "normal" but it is refreshing to see the center of Wokingham has re-opened and that local pubs and restaurants are once again serving us. I feel personally that it's our responsibility to support these local businesses so I have made it a point to use the town center and the Bull at Barkham. Let's hope they recover and emerge in a

healthy way from the restrictions that they have been under.

Whilst the Residents Association is still not able to provide the community social activities that we usually do we are keeping this under constant review. As soon as government rules and guidelines allow, we will re-introduce these. Please make sure that you have a look at the Residents Association's website to get the latest updates. On the subject of social activities, we are always looking for additional volunteers to join our Social Team. Now is a great time to join, ready for the restart. Please see contact details later in this newsletter. We are also not collecting outstanding subscriptions (in cash) with this edition, but all residents will again be receiving a copy. I would like to emphasise the message on the front cover that we would appreciate any residents that have not yet paid their subscriptions for this year set up a Direct Debit.

From my own experience and talking to residents I am pleased

to see that we are still helping neighbours with shopping, prescription and all sorts of other helpful activities. This has been great to see and experience.

We would be interested to hear about readers experiences during Coronavirus. I personally have spent more time walking and cycling which I have really enjoyed. I have seen parts of the local area that I didn't know existed. I am writing this article whilst on a small family gathering in Denmark for my grand-daughters' first birthday. Restrictions in Denmark at the time of writing are very different from the UK. I am in a small coastal town where you have to remind yourself that there is actually a pandemic. Life is very much the same as it is every summer apart from the usual influx or German and other Northern European tourists. Danish flags fly proudly in the resident's gardens and the Danish "hygge", a relaxed and contented life is still very much in evidence in everything and everyone that you encounter.

# 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 on p 5), if you are interested in helping the BVRA by taking on this role or would like more details.

**Editor's Notes** 

In this edition we have the Parish Planning report updating us on potential changes to traffic management and of course the on-going discussions about new housing. We hear of the initiatives Wokingham Council have been

undertaking to support businesses and individuals in the borough during these difficult times and we too are backing our local businesses by featuring some in this edition. The Neighborhood Policing Team are wanting to hear from you about ways they can better serve the community, or you could investigate the Safety in Neighbours campaign.

Iam gladdened to see Wokingham Theatre are forging forward and planning an open-air production in September, I hope the weather is kind to you. If you are taking a 'Staycation' this year and spending time at home, then you may be

### **Direct Debit - are they safe to use?**

Q I'm worried direct debits aren't secure and money could be taken incorrectly from my account.

Direct debits are the Α. most secure of all banking and credit card transactions. Organisations using the Direct Debit Scheme go through a careful vetting process before they're authorised and are closely monitored by the banking industry. The provider we use, (Gocardless) is also regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). The Direct Debit Guarantee applies to all Direct Debits. It protects you in the rare event that there is an error in the payment of your Direct Debit, for instance if a payment is taken on the incorrect date, or the wrong amount is collected.

If in the unlikely event that an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit, by the organisation or your bank or building society you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society

Q. It's not worth setting up a direct debit for  $\pounds 2$ 

A. Setting up the debit takes less than 5 minutes. Once set up you will no longer have to find cash to pay your distributor every year. It helps our volunteer distributors as often they have to make multiple calls due to people not being at home when they try to collect membership fees. It also ensures that no face to face contact takes place – an important point to note during the current pandemic. interested in the busy gardening section or just settle down with the Quiz.

I wish to thank Gaynor White for the fabulous double rainbow over Barkham photo on our front page. If you have any photos or a lockdown diary you wish to share, then please send them to newsletter@barkham.org.uk and who knows you may be featured in the next issue.

Q. Why is the BVRA putting so much emphasis on Direct Debits?

A. As stated above this reduces the work that the volunteer distributors have to undertake. It makes the whole process more efficient and secure as cash is less widely used. We started the DD option before Coronavirus but we now realise that if we had a greater adoption, collection of subscriptions would have been so much easier. Nearly all of us have multiple Direct Debits that we use to manage our normal lives, so Direct Debits for your BVRA subscription can be regarded in the same way.



### **Planning report**

In the last edition of this magazine, Laurence Heath announced that as he was no longer a parish There is little to add regarding councillor, he would be standing down from writing this regular feature. His knowledge of the planning system and the issues around the parish together with his drive mean that he is leaving big shoes to fill. The tremendous success of the Neighbourhood Plan under Laurence's leadership ensures that he definitely leaves us on a high. It will be a pleasure for me to take over this regular article and I wish Laurence and Marion all the very best as they move forward.

At the beginning of August when this article is being written, the Arborfield relief road is on target to open early Autumn. Its effect on Barkham is hard to judge but it is unlikely to reduce any traffic in the area. However, there is a proposal to close School Road to through traffic in the vicinity of Wood Lane to reduce traffic through Arborfield village.

There are pros and cons. It would prevent heavy vehicles passing The Coombes school but would not reduce problems caused by the tidal flow of traffic to and from the School.

It would affect Barkham residents in School Road and Langley Common Road. There will inevitably be additional traffic in Langley Common Road for which it is not suited. The Parish Council has been pressing for a 30mph speed limit from Biggs Lane to Barkham Bridge and the School Road proposal, if implemented, would make this even more urgent. Restrictions on heavy vehicles will also be required. Residents will have an opportunity to comment when the proposals go to public consultation.

the Borough's Local Plan Update other than that members of Wokingham Borough Council are continuing to discuss housing numbers with central government ministers.

One of the main themes of the Neighbourhood Plan was about the countryside and maintaining the open areas between the various settlements. As the Plan evolved, it became more and more apparent just how fortunate we are to be surrounded by such a diverse natural environment, although you do have to leave the car at home to enjoy it. That is exactly what has happened during the long period of lockdown as many have gone exploring as part of their daily exercise regime.

Did you know that you can walk all the way from Barkham Road along the Barkham Way through Rooks Nest Wood and on to California Country Park with only having to walk a few hundred metres along the pavement of Barkham Ride? You can then continue via the new Greenway – The California Way - to the Finchampstead Baptist

Church Community Centre or in the other direction to Hazebrouck Meadows. You can also do the same walk from School Road using the trail to Barkham Street and join the Barkham Way by the Church. These walks across fields and through woods demonstrate the vision of the ongoing Greenways project to connect such open areas and existing trails across Wokingham Borough.

On the other side of Barkham, The Coombes offers similar opportunities to roam in wonderful but very different surroundings. Recently, a part of these woods has become the subject of a series of planning applications, rejections and now appeals to enclose some relatively small plots with an assortment of fences and / or to build various structures on them. If allowed, this will adversely change the character of the area and will probably set other projects in motion.

As advised by the Barkham Village Development Watch, some of these appeals will be heard whilst this edition is being prepared. About half the households in the parish now receive these useful development alerts via e-mail and if you wish to add your name to the circulation list then you can do this via https://www.barkham. org.uk/uncategorised/keep-intouch-with-bvra.

If you have any comments about anything I this report then please e-mail to clerk@barkham-parishcouncil.org.uk.

Graeme Dexter Parish Councillor

### **Barkham Development Watch**

An extract from the BVRA Constitution states:

#### **Objects and Aims**

2.1. The object of The Association shall be to preserve and enhance the character of the Parish of Barkham as a community.

- 2.2. The aims shall be:
- a) to conserve the physical character and rural environment
- b) to provide an independent *voice for the community*
- c) to encourage involvement in Parish activities
- d) to promote the use of amenities within the Parish
- e) to foster communication between members of the community.

Whilst the BVRA may take its own view, our main focus has been on ensuring residents are aware of the issues and encouraging them to express their personal views, which, depending on the issue, is usually to WBC.

Initially, the BVRA was involved, together with the Parish Council, in reviewing Wokingham Borough's planning strategies and planning applications, in order to protect Barkham from uncontrolled and unwelcome developments.

As part of fulfilling our aims, we introduced the Barkham Development Watch email alerts some years ago. As this Barkham Newsletter is produced quarterly, we wanted to be able to communicate with interested residents in the interim period and alert them to planning issues which required more immediate ac-

tions. Over the years, the alerts have covered topics such as iterations of Wokingham Borough Council's Core Strategy and the Masterplan for the development of Arborfield Garrison SDL (now Arborfield Green). In case you're not aware "Arborfield Green" is a misnomer as the majority of it is in Barkham parish!

More recently we supported the Barkham Square petition which raised over 4000 signatures in opposition to the proposed development and the Local Plan Update. In the last couple of years there has been much activity around the sale of plots in The Coombes and planning applications from the plot holders which would detrimentally alter the unspoilt natural environment of The Coombes. A number of applications have been refused by WBC but appeals continue and this is likely to be an active issue for some time to come.

Since 2012 we have also posted alerts to the BVRA website after sending them to the Development Watch email list. There have been 91 alerts in this period.

All previous alerts are available on the BVRA website barkham. org.uk (Dev Watch tab), as is the BVRA Constitution I mention above (BVRA tab).

Finally, although we have nearly 900 residents on our Development Watch email list, anyone who is not yet signed up but wishes to receive the mails can do so via the home page of the website under "Keep in touch with the BVRA".

If the government's mantra of "Build, Build, Build" and its intended relaxation of planning controls comes to fruition, there will be a need for local people to be even more aware and resist top-down unplanned and unreasonable development as strongly as possible!

Stewart Richardson Barkham Development Watch Co-ordinator

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

Chairman: Alan Dixon 977 1831 chairman@barkham.org.uk **Richard Roberts** Secretary: 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: vacancy 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



They say every cloud has a silver lining but I must admit it is difficult to find one in the Covid-19 pandemic but one area where the Wokingham Borough Council has provided relief for one of the most vulnerable groups in the borough, is for those people who sleep rough. Even though we have only a small number, Covid has allowed us to help find emergency accommodation for thirty-five. Our figures match the national picture, with numbers trebling during this pandemic alarmingly more than half have additional support needs. To ensure we can continue to support them after the lockdown, we are in the process of developing personal housing plans for each one which offer permanent accommodation. This is something we need to applaud and feel proud that the council are taking these steps and by doing so, all but eradicate this problem in the borough.

The potential benefits to an individual of long-term accommodation are well documented, they include improved access to employment, training and skills opportunities, improved health, reduction of isolation and avoiding harm. We are in the process of commissioning the charity Two Saints to deliver a new service to support rough sleepers, in part using the funding secured through our successful bid to the governments Rough Sleeping fund.

Now let us talk about Wokingham during the pandemic.

Residence supported by the council has ballooned from 1800 to near 5000 at its height. With £39.4m paid out in government grants and rate relief to businesses large and small to support as many companies and jobs as possible.

Faced with a projected in year overspend of £19m supported by grants and other payments of £15m from government NHS and other income the council continued to collect all the waste on time unlike many councils around the country. The council has continued to work with business though grant schemes and business rate reduction, we have been quick to react in areas important to resident in line with government guidelines such as opening car park, parks and country parks owned by the council, whilst at the same time making sure they were safe for all and minimised the risk for everyone who used them.

This is a disaster the likes of which this generation has never seen or had to deal with and as we plan for recovery, we are still not out of the woods and nobody has any idea what the new normal will look like or cost.

No doubt spikes will be turning up across the UK and Europe and the 3rd world are still feeling the full cost in lives and resources across the globe. We understand that many people will be finding it harder to meet some of their financial commitments. We are working with charities such as the Citizen Advice (CAB) and even though the council is in alignment with CAB council tax protocol and best practice, it is but a short step to formally adopt the protocol and to indicate our commitment to our residents who require help and as such the council has committed signing to CAB Council Tax Protocol as agreed with the Local Government association. That said we will continually review our procedures to ensure the best outcome for all residents.

On the financial front the council continue to supply the money which oiled the machine which allow the excellent work by the volunteers and staff of the council and far beyond, to care homes and schools, paying for PPE, food and all manner of care and support for residents across the borough. As such the council has spent the money necessary to support residents and services through these tough, sad and emotional time. It is the residents money and along with the government grants we have received we have spent it to support the community, but in a very controlled and accountable way. We have used this money to support residents in their time of need especially those who have had months of lockdown due to shielding.

The council went into this pandemic with excellent cash reserves due to years of good cash management and we will no doubt come out of it still with reserves but much depleted. That said the council reserves are there to support the borough in time of need and hardship and I would suggest this is one of those times, the havoc wreaked by this pandemic not just in Wokingham or even the UK but worldwide and not just the economic damage but the personal sorrow about those who have died before their time and the families facing uncertain times with job losses it is even

more important the borough council control the cost to ensure it has the resources to continue to support residents in the best way it can as a bankrupt council cannot help anyone.

Finally, there are some who think money is more important than anything else and granted life is difficult without it but if this pandemic teaches us anything it is that there are much more important things in this life such as friends and family and I for one will value them more than I have done in the past and will take nothing for granted.

I just want to get back to normal whatever that looks like as quickly as we can.

Stay safe everyone.

John Kaiser Member for Barkham, Deputy Leader executive member for finance and housing Wokingham Borough Council

The continuing Coronavirus pandemic situation has meant we have still not been able to have our monthly meetings. We have missed having visits from some very interesting speakers, and our usual Summer BBQ in August didn't take place. It will be quite a while before we will be able to meet in the Village Hall, it's sad to say. In the meantime we have been keeping in touch with each other from time to time via emails and phone calls etc. and

# Where in Barkham?



An easy one this time. Answer on page 23.



some members have met in gardens and been on walks as the lockdown restrictions have relaxed a little.

We do still have a program of events and speakers in place in the diary for the rest on the year, so as soon as we are able to resume meetings I shall contact the Ladies - we are all looking forward to that, and remain hopeful!

Shirley Warner Chairperson



### It's church, but not as we knew it

An online booking system, alcohol gel everywhere, compulsory face coverings, sitting in alternate pews, social-distancing, a perspex screen around the pulpit, careful COVID-cleaning after services (the tiled floors have never been so clean...), communion served in the porch as we file out at the end of the service, no singing, and no children's groups: just some of the many changes we've had to make as we've begun to hold services in the church building again, following the gradual lifting of lockdown.

In somany ways, it's SO different. I'll be honest: I spent the 24 hours before our first service thinking I wasn't going to like it at all, and that I'd have to keep reminding myself how good it was to be there. But once I arrived, met the person who'd kindly agreed to run the PA system (even more important, now the preacher is tucked away behind a screen), started setting up, and then welcomed the others who came along, I was surprised how delighted I was to be back.

Not everyone has loved it. It's particularly frustrating not being able to sing. Listening to piped music really isn't the same, however good it might be. Can you imagine telling sports fans they mustn't use their voices, but only listen to their favourite

songs being played over the tannoy? Good luck with that! But, if sports fans have something to sing about, Christians believe they have more:

*Praise, my soul, the* 

King of Heaven; To His feet thy tribute bring. Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, Who like thee His praise should sing *Praise Him! Praise Him!* Praise the everlasting King.

How can you not sing about, and to, a God who ransoms, heals, restores, and forgives anyone who turns to him through the Lord Jesus?

It can be harder for those with young children to keep them sitting relatively quietly and still for 45 minutes (at least the pews make it harder for them to escape...) That said, it's been amazing seeing how well even some of the liveliest younger members of the church family have coped, and how much they've engaged with what's been going on. And if, just occasionally, one of them makes it very clear that they'd much rather be elsewhere, that's OK. We're family, after all.

Of course, the government's advice that some should continue to avoid close contact with others means many still feel the need to stay away. So, for now, we gladly continue to provide online services to serve those who can't join us. We can't wait until they can join us too.

But - even so - we're back! One big, diverse family, drawn together by God's kindness to us in the Lord Jesus, gathering to worship him and to encourage

one another. We're so very thankful indeed.

Why not come and join us sometime? We'd love to see you. It would help if you could book a place in advance, by visiting the church website (www.abch. org.uk and then click on the link for 'Barkham Church', or – if the internet isn't your thing - calling the Church Office on 0118 976 0279). This helps us keep numbers to a safe level and also means that we can easily get in touch should 'track and trace' ever be required. We might not be able to shake your hand, but I promise we'll welcome you very warmly indeed.

Stay safe, and maybe see you soon.

David Horrocks

### Advertising and **Newsletter Contributions**

Newsletter articles / contributions for the Winter edition should be in by 13 November. 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. 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 inearly December.



### Neighbourhood **Policing Team**

Superintendent Felicity Parker, the Police Area Commander for Bracknell Forest and Wokingham Borough, is in the process of developing the Independent Advisory Group (IAG) for Wokingham Borough and would like to connect with people interested in getting involved.

Message from Superintendent Felicity Parker...

The purpose of the Independent Advisory Group is to get local people involved in policing.



### Our new Neighbourhood Watch campaign to prevent burglaries

As lockdown eases in the UK, we're expecting a rise in burglaries. We've partnered with the Home Office to create a new social media campaign to help keep people safe and continue the great work your scheme is already doing.

Safety in Neighbours campaign

Life's safer when you know your neighbours. With more people looking out for unusual behav-

Members of the to bring challeng leader of the lo area, to provide and a steer on ho ter police the area the group for adv any particular iss being an issue th interest that is put on policing, or so affecting the loca

The group can h stand what more to support resid people, or those in the community

The meetings tal evenings, last app hours and are get months.

If you are interest a member of the application form then a brief (virt ment) meeting wi the role further.

iour on your stree be prevented. O designed to appe audience of 20 - 5

#### The outcome

We'll provide a for you to share It includes info combination of ures, which redu burglary by nearly than no security prevention measures, a prevention checklist, local crime map, and how to become a member.

### We need your help

Please help us spread the word and share the campaign on your local Neighbourhood Watch's so-

IAG are there ge to me as the ocal command me with ideas ow we can bet- a. I can also ask ice when facing oues; whether it at is of national tting a spotlight mething that is I community. Help me under- e I need to do lents, younger in the minority y.	To join the Wokingham IAG, applicants should navigate to the Careers (Join Us) section on the external website - www.thamesvalley.police.uk, then navigate to Roles, Vacancies and then search 'IAG' which is always carrying open vacancies. 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. Facebook: TVP Bracknell & Wokingham
ed in becoming IAG, there is an to complete and tual at the mo- th me to discuss	Twitter: @TVP_Wokingham You can receive free information updates from Thames Valley Police by registering for Thames Valley Alert at: www.thamesval- leyalert.co.uk
t, burglaries can ur campaign is al to a younger 50 year olds.	<ul> <li>cial media pages and chat groups.</li> <li>You could also share the press release attached with your local news media and radio stations.</li> <li>Visit our campaign page</li> </ul>
pack of assets with members. on the WIDE security meas- uces the risk of y 50 times more	<ul> <li>Watch our campaign video</li> <li>Download our campaign social media pack</li> <li>Share using</li> <li>#SafetyinNeighbours in the caption</li> <li>Tag Neighbourhood Watch</li> </ul>

Help spread the word

in the post

Facebook:

Twitter:

watch.insta



(a) ourwatch

(a) N watch



### **Open Air Performance of Duets by Peter Quilter**

The most exciting news is that we have planned an open-air production of Duets by Peter Quilter. The Duets are short plays (approx. 1 hour) for two actors each and we are casting them with actors who already live together, so that they can rehearse and perform safely. The playwright Peter Quilter wrote 'Glorious', which was received with great delight by our audiences a couple of years ago.



Saturday and Sunday 5th & 6th and 12th & 13th of September 2.30pm and 5.00pm on each day

#### Seating arrangements

We are marking the space off into separate areas - bubbles. Each bubble costs £10 and can hold up to 4 people. You will need to bring your own picnic chairs or a rug to sit on. We will initially offer 10 bubbles per performance – so up to 40 people. If it looks like rain, please bring an umbrella as we will not be able to move indoors. We will be performing on a specially built stage on the lawns at the front of the theatre.

#### Facilities

The theatre toilet facilities will be open, with sanitiser available. We will be following all PHE guidelines on managing the venue. You will need to wear a mask when moving about the foyer and toilets, but not when sitting in your 'bubble' and watching the performance. We are not sure whether we can serve drinks or coffee – we will keep all patrons who book bubbles informed of the latest guidance a few days before the performances.

To book your bubble please email the box office team at <u>boxoffice@</u> <u>wokinghamtheatre.org.uk</u> with the following information:

The performance date and time you would like to attend; the number of bubbles you would like to book; how many people will be in each bubble; a contact number where you can be reached to take the payment.

#### Other news

We have had to postpone all our indoor performances for the remainder of 2020, and whilst we hope to get back to normal in 2021, we don't yet know when this will be possible.

In the meantime, we are working on changes to the foyer area to make more space for our audience when our regular shows return. You will see some of the changes in September if you come to the open-air production. We are also planning to do enabling works to help us re-organise the backstage area to create more space for dressing rooms and our crews. This work should start in the autumn. We are working on a new website which should address some of the problems you may have had booking for shows earlier this year and installing new box office and accounting software too. The Youth Theatre has had some virtual workshops through the summer term and are planning to come back to the theatre from September. All our tech, costume, set building and props crews are using the pause in productions to sort out much of the general clutter.

And some of our members have set up Wokingham Digital Arts Festival, which WT is pleased to support.

Look forward to meeting some of you at the theatre in September, and meanwhile hope you stay safe and well.

Hedda BirdChairman



### Vicky Burrows Pilates

For those of you who are not familiar with Pilates it is a combination of exercises for strengthening, flexibility, flowing movement, coordination posture and alignment. All the exercises can

# The Furniture Restoration Specialist

I was trained as a furniture restorer by my father who started the family business in 1954. I continue on this skilled profession for you when you would like your furniture to be smartened up and will give you any advice you need. I also carry out insurance and removal damage claims.

From a simple chair repair to more involved repairs like re-polishing coffee and side tables to dining tables and everything in between. I am a skilled French polisher using old skills or can refinish modern tables with the original finish and colour matching.

I restore both antique and modern furniture with equal skill, learned and developed through many years of experience, keeping the patina on the antique pieces. I will always be tailored to suit all ages and abilities. I have noticed over the time I have been teaching that many people have commented on the fact that it's not only their body which has benefited from Pilates but their general sense of well-being.

It is impossible to exaggerate what a brilliant form of exercise this is for young and old alike.

My journey to teaching Pilates was through several different stages .I began my professional career as a dancer doing stage and television work .When I decided to have a family I started teaching aerobics locally which I did for many years, I was lucky enough to have a great following, we all had a lot of fun. I then discovered Pilates in 2000 which changed my life.

I have been teaching Pilates since 2000 in my home studio, Barkham Village Hall, Arborfield Village Hall and Gorse Ride school, then Covid came along and changed everything. I had to regroup pretty quickly so during lockdown I, along with many others, have been teaching my VVP (Vicky's Virtual Pilates ) classes as I call them via Zoom. Going forward I will continue to offer VVP classes and hopefully I will be back at Barkham Village and the other venues soon, Covid permitting.

I have VVP classes running at the moment am & pm but the

offer free advice on the phone and estimates either by photos, or in person operating safely throughout this Covid situation.

I can be contacted by phone: 079 7375 9091

Or email me via my website <u>www.</u> working2help.co.uk

Mike Robinson

A selection of finished pieces





times and days will potentially change in September. So, if you are interested in participating in any of the above and would like more information please don't hesitate to contact me.

Email:

<u>Vickyburrows@hotmail.com</u> Mobile. 07729783240 Home 02289892571

Prices are: £60 for a six week course £50.00 for a private 1:1 Class



### **French Polishing**

Furniture restoration of antique or modern pieces. Dining and coffee tables given the original finish All removal damage and insurance work Phone Mike on 079 7375 9091

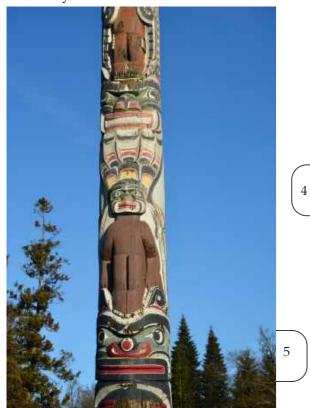
www.working2help.co.uk

### The Quiz

As we don't have the usual social event photos due to the coronavirus, the quiz is stepping in with another picture version! This one has half and half UK and worldwide. Some easy, some maybe not so!

Starting in Britain.....

- 1. Which English cathedral is this? Clue – it has a famous "imp".
- 2. This colourful Scottish town was named after a Womble (or was it the other way around?) Name the town and the island where it is situated.
- 3. This is a view from an English bridge. Which one?
- 4. No points for recognising this is Stonehenge. But the archaeologists got excited this summer when the source of the large stones was found to be about 15 miles from the site. What are the large stones called?
- 5. This totem pole is from British Columbia, but where is it situated, not many miles from Barkham?











....and moving further afield

- 6. This unusual fishing method can be found in which country?
- 7. This is "Evita's" tomb. In which city?
- 8. This is the inside of a building perhaps more famous for its external view. What is it?
- 9. An iconic site! What is it and in which country is it situated?
- 10. This is the Temple of Concordia at Agrigento, one of the best-preserved Greek temples to be found anywhere. However, it's not in Greece – where in the Mediterranean would you find it?

Answers on page 23







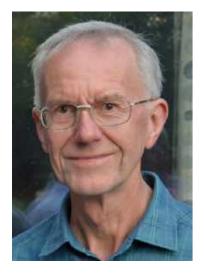


12









### Alan's Patch

Through April, May until the middle of June we had the most glorious weather with some of the clearest skies seen for quite some time. This made lockdown more bearable - scarcely a day when I couldn't get out in the garden for at least an hour or so and could walk in the woods with no chance of getting wet. Since then it's been a real mix with plenty of rain. All weather combined it's been good for my patch with excellent growing conditions.

Remarkably I ate my first broad beans on the last day of May much earlier than normal. They are best eaten before they get to full size, unfortunately, they suffered repeated attacks of black fly, spraying with soft soap helped but was not a complete cure. I read that if gooseberries and broad beans are grown nearby, they act as a deterrent to the annual problem of gooseberry sawfly. The flies lay their eggs on the gooseberry leaves and the caterpillars munch their way through the foliage making the leaves look jagged rather like a saw blade. Of course, this weakens the plants and reduces the crop next year, so, in Spring I sowed some additional broad beans alongside the gooseberry bushes. In the middle of April

there was an attack and I removed them in the usual way but as the broad bean plants grew so the sawfly attacks stopped and I can report that I have had no further attacks since. This is an example of companion planting - plants that grow well together helping each other. The gooseberry crop was so sweet and the plants as healthy as I have seen them. The high amount of sunshine has made many fruits sweeter than normal. Interestingly these broad beans were not attacked by the blackfly which was affecting the other broad beans – perhaps companion planting works both ways. French beans love this weather - quantity and quality have been excellent and I have been freezing the excess. Borlotti and cannellini beans are looking good so far but the runner beans are not doing very well, having been affected by blackfly migrating from the nearby broad beans.

The peas were really early too, I was eating them in June. They have cropped well however they have been attacked by pigeons! I wouldn't mind them having some but they wreck the plants so I have had to net them. I grow them in succession and am in the middle of a drought for a week or so while the next batch matures. New potatoes have been excellent. I started eating them remarkably early in June. Last year's crop lasted right through until then and the surplus old crop went onto the compost heap. After patchy germination and some re-seeding the carrots are cropping well with plenty to see me through the winter. I eat the thinnings raw in salads. You can't beat the smell of carrots freshly picked and the taste! Alongside them the parsnips are monsters! I've had a few tasty parsnip thinnings already.

Sweet corn is on the cusp of being ready to eat, I'm hoping to try them with some family friends this weekend. As another example of companion planting, I have French beans climbing the sweet corn and they are cropping beautifully with no need for canes to support them. Alongside them butternut squash are creeping along the bed and spreading into the paths as is their wont. Green and yellow courgettes are in the same bed also thriving, the yellow being the more prolific so far. I can't grow onions in my patch because they get a fungal infection so instead, I grow shallots. I planted some from last year's crop in early March, a bit late but they matured OK, if a little small. I also sowed some seeds which will crop in the Autumn and these are looking really good.



I'm growing three new crops this year. Jerusalem artichokes, planted towards the end of March as tubers, are growing vertically and are about six feet tall now, topped with innocuous yellow flowers. Not a patch on the sunflowers planted elsewhere! Second is Swiss chard, a leaf and stem crop and finally sweet potatoes, normally grown in hot regions of the world like the Caribbean. They seem to be happy and growing well but time will tell what is under the soil. Over the winter I transplanted a third of my rhubarb to a new spot. I left a third to crop this year before removing and the remainder went on the compost heap where it is gradually rotting down. The new rhubarb is thriving and I can hardly see any difference between

excellent cropper the blackcurrant bush has produced an unusually tiny crop this year, though the plant appears to be thriving. The fruit I was able to pick was delicious and very sweet, never before have I been able to eat them raw without sugar! My cordondamson planted three years ago,



the vigour of this and the original, far more than I can eat so I've stewed and frozen the excess. The new summer raspberry canes I planted in the Spring have settled in now and the existing raspberries (Autumn cropping) are already cropping beautiful and



delicious, as were the Tayberries a few weeks ago. Normally an has produced its first significant crop and so sweet too – again I can eat them raw.

Meanwhile in the greenhouse the tomatoes are thriving. I always grow the reliable Gardeners Delight, they are smallish but wonderfully tasty. Alongside the cucumbers are coming thick and fast unfortunately, they are throttling the aubergine plants. Another failure is the peppers, some of my friends have theirs cropping already! I need to do better! A good crop of cabbage, cauliflower and kale hide under the insect netting and so far, I have managed to keep out the butterflies that so love to lay their eggs on the leaves. The caterpillars are every gardener's nightmare. So far so good but the plants are the best ever. A variety of salads have been on the go for most of the time since early May. I grow Little Gem lettuce as it's crisp and tasty yet plenty big enough for me. You sow radishes very regularly to keep a constant supply as their edible life is very short. The herbs have been enjoying the sun. I've been trimming them back and drying some for use later. For instance, I use oregano in my olive bread. The basil is ready to eat now.

One day during the Spring I saw a squirrel scratching at a glazed door trying to get into the house. Another day I spotted one by the same door when it was open, tempted to enter but saw me and scurried off. Then one morning I discovered a squirrel actually inside the house, having climbed in through an open window! It was quite an escapade to get the creature out again-closing doors and guiding it to the open front door. Fortunately, it didn't do any damage or leave anything behind, so to speak! It reminded me what a pest they can be. I remember many years ago they gnawed and wrecked a partially open window trying to get into a store-room where bird seed was stored. It is bad enough having them damage and steal fruit, it's just too much to have them inside the house. If it was the same squirrel it appears to have learnt its lesson for it hasn't tried again.

I haven't seen much of the roe deer in the field for several weeks. I guess they'll return in due course. The apple season has started and I am eating my early apples (Discovery) despite the best endeavours of the birds pecking into them and the squirrels stealing some. The rest of the apples are looking good but I'll tell you about them next time, I need to get back into my patch.

### Finchampstead Flower Club

Prior to Covid-19, FFC used to meet once a month at California Hall where members would watch demonstrators produce fabulous displays to a theme and have the opportunity to win them in a raffle, some would also display their own arrangements.

Since lockdown club members have been sending photographs of their arrangements to be circulated electronically. There has been a different theme each month, for example, July was 'Using garden flowers' and August was 'A fruit and vegetable fantasy'.

We have also been watching demonstrations of flower arranging online, such as those posted on the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies (NAFAS) web site.We are unlikely to meet face to face until 2021 but if you'd like to follow our activities you can find us on Facebook

https://www.facebook. com/Finchampstead-Flower-<u>Club-2011434195620803/</u>or you can phone the chair, Lis Barrett, 989 2092

We look forward to greeting new members in the future.

Kriss Turner





# Something Something your local florist

Based at Lockey Farm shop, we offer fresh flowers for all occasion, homewares and gifts, house plants + much much more!

Our creative workshop dates are out now. Floral baskets and table arrangements dates for September are:

Wednesday 2nd 5-7pm Saturday 5th 8-10am Tuesday 8th 6-8pm Friday 11th 5-7pm Wednesday 23rd 5-7pm Sunday 27th 4-6pm

The perfect way to unwind for a couple or hours, catch up with loved ones and switch off from the craziness of the world whilst learning some new skills.

£40pp includes a glass of bubbles + tea and coffee. Max 4 people per workshop.

We also offer private workshops and dates for following months are on our website. For more details or to book please give us a call, message us or find us on Facebook! Keep a look out for our Christmas wreath workshops too!

Whatever the occasion, send someone some beautiful blooms or why not treat yourself!

We offer next day delivery on all our flowers and plants!

Jam jars £10 Posies £15 bouquets from £25 Baskets from £25 NEW Milk bottle arrangements £15

Thank you to everyone for all your ongoing support.

Mollie Mottau

Tel: 07792 802731

Email:<u>molliemottau@hotmail.</u> <u>co.uk</u>

Web: <u>www.somethingsome-</u> <u>thingfloraldesign.com</u>









All aspects of Tree / Hedge work undertaken Fully Insured /Free estimates **All Dangerous Work Undertaken** www.arborfieldtreecare.co.uk email: office@arborfieldtreecare.com

The Tree Company Others Look Up To

Arborfield Tree Care is an independent family company that has been providing tree and hedge cutting services for over 23 years. Employing three generations, we have built our business on traditional family values, and are committed to preserving and managing trees and hedges with care and consideration in line with our client's needs. We are professional in all areas of tree surgery including crown reduction, felling, pollarding, pruning, trimming and stump removal and all work is completed to the highest British standards (BS3998 2010). Our excellent reputation has been built up over the years to make us your first choice tree work contractor and tree surgeon locally. Prior to commencing work, we offer expert advice backed with the most up to date tree surgery practices, techniques and industry knowledge.

As an established local company, you can rest assured the work we carry out is reliable and meets the highest standards of health and safety, and arboricultural practices. We also carry out Local Authority checks For Tree Preservation orders and Conservation areas and submit any necessary applications on your behalf so there is no risk of hefty fines.

Arborfield Tree Care is fully insured, working within strict health and safety standards, and all current industry legislation, so you can be satisfied that the work will be carried out safely, professionally and legally compliant.

Tree surgery is dangerous and demanding work; great care must be taken to minimize the risk of injury and damage to people and property. Arborfield Tree Care use a wide range of specialist equipment to carry out safe and effective tree work on all domestic, commercial and local authority works. This covers ropes, harnesses and mobile elevated work platforms (cherry pickers) for climbing and inspecting and working on trees; cranes for the removal of large trunk sections; and chippers for quickly clearing cut wood and brush. We are environmentally aware and look to reuse and recycle tree waste materials wherever possible.

#### **Festive Tree Hire**

Arborfield Tree Care also offer Eco-Friendly living potted Christmas trees for hire. We offer a range of sizes to suit your needs. Whether you're looking for commercial Christmas tree hire, or smaller domestic trees to suit your home, we are able to offer a tree that is perfect for you and your festive celebrations. Because all of our trees are living within their pots there will be no needle drop or mess to clear after Christmas!

Thanks to our experienced team, you don't need to worry about struggling to find your perfect tree. Our qualified tree surgeons can deliver your ideal sized tree for the Christmas period and ensure that it is collected in January. The tree is then replanted and cared for throughout the year. We will maintain and prune and deliver in time for the following Christmas. As we replant the trees, you'll be able to enjoy the same tree year-in, year-out. Not only will this give you the chance to bond with your tree over the years, you'll be able to drastically cut down on waste and seasonal deforestation! We believe that a great Christmas tree shouldn'tbejustforoneChristmas.





We are a self-funded rescue based in Yateley, North Hampshire. We admit injured, poorly and orphaned hedgehogs for a full release back to the wild. Our aim is to help local hedgehogs and support the local communities, but sometimes we offer phone support to folk as far afield as Italy, Switzerland and even New Zealand.

This year we are celebrating our 10th anniversary. Sadly, due to COVID-19 this has been very challenging for us and other rescue organizations, as all our fundraising activities have been cancelled. Additionally, more hedgehogs are being found and sadly many more being hurt by strimmers as people are at home and garden more. Hedgehogs have just been added to the new UK IUCN Red List for threatened species and are now classed as vulnerable to extinction. Whilst this is sad, it isn't any surprise to anyone who rehabilitates our prickly friends, but it's not too late to help them and make a positive difference.

Hedgehogs are the gardener's friend and munch on lots of unwanted insects. Loss of habitat has really challenged hogs as they need to access at least 10 good sized gardens each night just to find enough food they need to survive and find places to live. Putting holes for hedgehogs in or under your garden fences is so important as this opens up the habitat. You can even put a 'Holes for Hedgehog sign' (see pic) just above your fence hole to make sure nobody blocks it (we sell these at £2.50 each). Once a hedgehog has access to your garden you can encourage it in by offering nightly food in

a feeding station to keep it safe, see our "How to make a feeding station" poster.

Hedgehogs also struggle to find decent nesting areas these days as we now are very tidy in the way we garden, leaving piles of leaves discreetly under shrubs will offer nesting material in autumn, and in the summer it is really important to put out bowls of water at ground level for our thirsty hedgehogs. It is important to know that a hedgehog house is either a home, or a feeding station and cannot be both, or you will be putting the poor hog at risk from predation and flies.

Our beloved, spiky, nocturnal visitors are Iconic to the UK and we cannot lose them from our gardens, but with just a little help from kind souls we can en-



A feeding station is essential for peace of mind and to keep the food safe: it's also great fun to watch your nightly visitors or as you put food out many other creatures will be tempted, and you don't want to be feeding all the neighbourhood cats rtunately, feeding stations are quite simple and easy to make; most people will already have something that they can adap make one. I prefer a clear storage box as you can see what is entering and they are quite cheap to buy. Turn the box upsid own and place on a solid surface. If you have an outside light you can watch them from the warmth of your home as the hog munch away. Good hygiene is essential as several hogs may be feeding at night, so clean the bowls and area every day. Hedgehogs are solitary and don't meet much in the wild. If you see hogs fighting in the feeding station, it's a good idea to make a second or





Don't forget to weight the box down with so Don't forget to weight the box down with som bricks or a paving slab. You may have to modify your feeding station as you will be challenged by the wildlife visiting your garden If this is the case, then you can easily add a waste pipe to the entrance (sand the bottom of it), make a right angled return out of brick at the entrance, or even place a brick inside the entrance, or even place a brick inside garden and not in the box as its less messy—if t rains. the bowls will be renlenished automat rains, the bowls will be re ically. Place your bowl of food at the bac the box.

sure that their secretive nightly wanderings are here for future generations to enjoy. Please follow the hogs progress on our web page <u>www.happyhedghog.</u> org.uk or on Facebook/Happyhedgehogyately.

You can also help The Happy Hedgehog Rescue by supporting them in the following ways:

Buy something off the Amazon wish list https://www. amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ ls/2SRTC9J49EMQS

o r donate http://www.paypal.me/happyhedgehogrescue

A great source for more information is the British Hedgehog Preservation Society https://www.britishhedgehogs. org.uk/hedgehog-homes/.

Here are some simple instructions on how to make one.



he best boxes are the long underbed storage ones ut this one is 20x15" as they're easier to find to y. I don't recommend using the lids as the surface erv and it's much easier to clean the floor if ced on a hard surface such as your patio

ing just above the lip with a 4.5" holesaw. I've ever used one before but the results were good as you can see in the next pic. Some people use a hand saw and some even drill multiple holes around the are of works for you, just be careful!









We strongly recommend only to feed plete food such as hedgehog biscu Il kibble cat/dog biscuits, fish fla re okav in smaller quantities occas Dried biscuits are much bester for their teeth and gums! Hedgehogs don't need treats; just decent high protein biscuits



Barkham based Gaurav and Divya Garg are working on an initiative to provide a digital platform to revolutionise the way communities engage with their local schools. The idea started when they found their son's Wokingham school was struggling to offer sufficient equipment and supplies despite the limitless energy and creativity of the teaching staff its equipment was often aged or broken.

They discovered that people in the community wanted actively to help their local schools but had no idea how to do so. Their solution was a digital platform, LetsLocalise, that could highlight the demand in schools and connect it to 'supply' out in the community. The support for schools could be financial but could also be volunteer time, expertise, or work experience - in fact, anything that would help pupils get a clearer window to the world beyond the core curriculum.

The idea is that state schools register on the platform identifying the programmes and activities that they would most like to pursue but cannot due to insufficient financial or human resource. For example, funds for basketball hoops, help with decorating, request for internships or work experience opportunities, an appeal for exam supervisor volunteers, or experts to talk about their profession. "Like all brilliant ideas, the LetsLocalise concept is rooted in simplicity. Headteachers can see that tapping into that reservoir of goodwill that we are convinced exists out there in every community is a 'no brainer'.

Why can't that good will be piped into local schools?

Once a school has posted their requirements, individuals in the local community, organisations and businesses are encouraged to register on the platform, they can then browse through the requests and choose how best they can help. A critical stage in the development of these schoolcommunity connections is in finding ways of reaching beyond pupils' parents and bringing in previously untapped support and resources.

LetsLocalise has managed to break down ways of supporting schools into neat categories, which can be easily navigated on the Website. Choices are; Pledge a Penny, Pledge a Minute, Pledge a Resource, Working with Schools, Expert Time and Corporate Connect. LetsLocalise can bring individuals, organisations and businesses onto the platform simultaneously, creating multiple connections and offering scope for engagement between schools and would-be supporters in a wide range of relationships. But Covid-19 came at a frustratingly inconvenient time. Once normal service is resumed they intend to expand the number of schools involved and launch a wide appeal to businesses through the Corporate Connect feature.

"We believe that Corporate Connect can be a real game-changer. It enables companies looking to support local schools to use their social investment funds but, as importantly, their knowledge, expertise and work experience opportunities to help create lasting, deepening relationships that will be of mutual benefit to schools and business," says Gaurav.

Even before the Covid-19 outbreak, despite claims from across the political spectrum that schools would be better funded in future after 10 years of austerity, few people involved in state education expected to see radical change any time soon. Now, given the inevitable economic impact of the virus, it is likely to be even longer before a dent is made in the 8% fall in spending per pupil over the last decade and headteachers' estimate of a £5.7bn gap between need and funding.

In this environment, it makes sense for schools to tap into all the external support that is available. In an ideal world, all state schools would be properly funded, and the personal development programmes of our pupils would reach well beyond the core curriculum into the world beyond the classroom, but we are not in an ideal world, so it is to initiatives like LetsLocalise that we need to turn.

"Our pilot in Berkshire is just the start of what could be a major community initiative. We want to expand to cover all state schools in Berkshire, then all state schools across the UK. "Our first ambition is to improve the lot of 1m British schoolchildren...but that is just the start of the revolution!" says Divya.

(LetsLocalise is a service offered free of charge to all state schools. The Website can be found at: www.letslocalise.co.uk)



AtthestartofCovid-19theGrub Club team were approached to offer their expertise in the area of food supply to families in Wokingham – conversations were had and meetings held about who might need help and how we could address it. **Due to the ongoing relationship** with the Grub Club Team and core members of JAC (Just Around the Corner) we pulled our resources and contacts and were able to access a lot of surplus stock from BRAKES in Reading-stock that, due to the sudden cancellation of orders for the hospitality industry, would otherwise have gone in the bin.

We also reached out to local supermarkets such as Morrisons, Waitrose, Marks and Spencer, and Lidl. Cook In Wokingham also got on board with the project and kindly donate 50 ready meals a week during the pandemic. We have received great support from a somewhat unlikely source in Reading Football Club too, as well as many other individuals and other contacts.

As a result of the partnerships we have been able to supply food parcels for up to 100 families a week at times, this excludes the people who collect food items at the church or Foodbank referrals. The contacts for the food parcels have come through various schools, individuals, and other groups. We have also arranged the purchase and packing of around 50 fresh fruit and vegetable parcels for the local food bank each week.

Since the start of Covid we have produced over 1500 food parcels between the Wokingham Community Hub, the Foodbank and direct contacts. The majority of items we have are donated and with the financial donations we receive we are able to replenish and purchase items that we require.

Share- Wokingham has been open daily to anyone who come along to Norreys Church, offering bakery items and any other surplus food stock we have – there is no charge for this but if people are able to make a donation, however small, it is always appreciated. Having the church open during this difficult time has meant that the relationships within the community have been maintained, however it has also allowed us to build new relationships too.

As the pandemic has continued the needs of those that we support have changed, initially it was people who were shielding and unable to get out and now we are really seeing the economic impact. job losses and financial woes have meant that people are struggling - that is where we can support. We will continue to support the local community and further afield for as long as we have the source for the food and the need for it.

These are tough times but together we can support one another and build a stronger community as a result.

### **INTRUST** EFFECTIVE RECRUITMENT & SUPPORT FOR

### Charities in lockdown, and after

For almost all sectors of society, the pandemic has meant change: from spending our time using video to chat to friends, to exercising in the living room, and for charities it's the same. Many have successfully moved to online delivery of services, whilst others are still struggling to invent a safe way to provide for vulnerable clients, both now and in the future. And don't ask about charity fundraising: the floor has dropped out of that 🛞

But what has radically increased during lockdown is people interested in becoming charity trustees, the group who provide the strategic direction and planning to a charity, be it large or small. People from all walks of life have been offering their skills, abilities, experience and knowledge to local charities; the inTRUSTed service has been helping to place them appropriately.

So if you are a charity operating anywhere in the Thames Valley, we may already have someone who is interested in sitting on your Board or Committee: if we haven't found the right person, we can look for you. And if you're a potential trustee, even if you've never been involved in a charity before, we can help you. Our website www.involve. community/intrusted/ explains it all, in plain language.

### Lockdown diary

Social media have been buzzing since lockdown with all sorts of ways that individuals can entertain themselves. Our kitchen table resembles a work-shop with my sewing machine and my husband Doug's tool boxes ready for the projects we have on the go. The conservatory is our main room for relaxing and eating and the gazebo in the garden with comfy loungers has been a godsend during the hot weather. We can both sit outside for hours on end reading a good book or doing a crossword.

We were in Madeira on lockdown day, the island shut down and our hire car was taken away. However, the skies were blue, we had the ocean, a good restaurant, a pool and an excellent bar and we made it onto the last flight home. Friends had rallied round and replenished our supplies, so we weren't going to starve. The first visit to Tesco was a bit surreal but while queuing I noticed that spring was just around the corner with the trees coming into bud. The silence on local roads was wonderful and we could walk down the middle of Bearwood Road without seeing a car for several minutes. The silence enabled us to hear the birds, especially the thrushes, the only thing that broke the silence was the Thursday clapping for the NHS.

Our morning walks have been a wonderful revelation as we discovered new footpaths where bluebells provided a spectacular carpet. We saw many unusual birds and butterflies but also deer, woodpeckers, geese and two peacocks who live locally who like to go walkabout. We have watched the progress of the new

Barkham Bridge and supported the Bull at Barkham with a Thai takeaway once a week.

During May, a poorly racing pigeon took up residence with us for 6 weeks. It had been attacked by a hawk and had a huge gash on his chest, he stayed on the roof looking very sorry for himself. We named him 'Lucky' and fed him from the upstairs window and were not sure if he would survive. He disappeared after three weeks then three days later he returned a totally different bird, he settled on the conservatory window ledge and looked at us through the window as if to say, "I'm back and I'm hungry". We had rung the number on his leg ring but to no avail. Lucky stayed around for a further two weeks then took off one Sunday evening and hasn't been back since. We miss him, he'd eat out of my hand and if I cooed to him, he would coorightback. Iblamelockdown fever for trying to impersonate a pigeon. By the time he left us all his breast feathers had grown back again. By dropping in on us for help he made lockdown more bearable and took our minds off the awful things that were going on in the world. I just hope he is safe and well.

We have also been busy in the garden; cleaned both sheds and have completed several projects including an all singing and dancing garden watering system. On a slight downside our garden is a paradise for rats, with sheds, decking, ponds and a hole in the wall which allowed a rat to get and then hold a dance each night above our bedroom - that was a bit spooky.

I have been involved like so many others in Zoom meetings with my fellow Trustees from

Crossroads Care Wokingham. This has proved interesting but sometimes hard to keep us all focused on the Agenda. Without this technology our organisation would have struggled but we have enjoyed being able to catch up with each other.

I think we have been very lucky during lockdown as we being retired we haven't had to worry about being fur loughed or returning to work, we have enjoyed our lovely garden and the weather has been perfect, I have to say that I have liked the peace and quiet and the thought each morning when I wake that I can do what I want without having loads of commitments on the calendar. There are thousands of people in the UK who have not been as lucky as we so I just thank my lucky stars that we have managed to remain safe and well and have had the time to enjoy lockdown.

Julia Tredwell



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Оп Ваткћат Street by Barkham

### Where in Barkham answer

### Barkham web site

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

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

### More photos please!

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

Dave Clements webmaster@barkham.org.uk



# **Barkham Diary**

As we are still under lockdown and government restrictions advise social distancing all social groups and meetings are suspended, so there is no diary of events being published in this edition.

Please refer to the BVRA website for more up to date information.

### **Sunshine Gardening Services**

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