

£1, free to Members

Barkham Newsletter

Issue 101 Autumn 2012

from the Barkham Village Residents Association

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

Barkham's Queen waves to her subjects



25th BVRA AGM - 22nd November 2012

In accordance with the constitution, the BVRA Annual General Meeting will take place at 8pm on Thursday 22nd November 2012. The meeting will take place at Barkham Village Hall and all residents of Barkham are welcome to attend. Nominations for any post should reach the Secretary by 1st November.

Quiz Night

24th November

7:00 pm for 7:30

Licenced bar

Fish & Chip Supper

Tickets £8.00 see p.10

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BVRA Chairman

Can you help please?



The Barkham Village Residents Association's role is "to preserve and enhance the character of the Parish of Barkham as a community". The chairman facilitates this role and specific duties include:

- To chair the Association, Committee meetings (4 per year) and the AGM.
- Co-ordinate actions across the Association's fields of activities.
- Represent the BVRA with outside bodies (e.g. Parish Council, media, the public).
- Recruit new Committee members when necessary.
- Write the Chairman's introduction to each Newsletter.
- Time commitment could be a maximum of half a day per month.

If you feel you may be able to take on this important role in the local community or would like more information, please contact any member of the committee (details opposite).

The Quiz

You may have noticed there were the Olympic Games this summer. Here are a few questions to test whether it's a forgotten memory! Answers on page 21

1. The colours of the Olympic rings are blue, yellow, green, red and what other colour?
2. What was the name of the company that failed to recruit enough security staff and so the army had to be called in?
3. Which "Great Briton" did Kenneth Branagh play at the Opening Ceremony?
4. What was Anish Kapoor's main contribution to the Olympic Park?
5. What was the O2 arena renamed for the Games?
6. Which sports took place at the Copper Box?
7. Jessica Ennis won the heptathlon gold medal but which other UK women have won Olympic gold in this event (and its predecessor the pentathlon)?
8. Which BBC presenter is credited with suggesting the "Mobot" celebration to Mo Farah?
9. Which English County would have finished 12th in the medals table had it been an independent country?
10. Seb Coe famously won gold medals at successive Olympics in 1980 and 1984. However what was the event in which he "only" won 2 silvers but for which he was the world record holder for 17 years and is still the British record holder?

Advertising and Newsletter Contributions

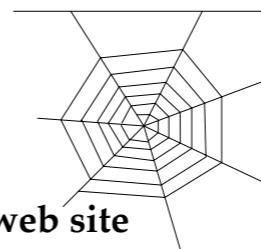
Newsletter articles / contributions for the Winter edition should be in by Friday 9 November. It helps if these can be submitted in electronic form by email to newsletter@barkham.org.uk. They may also be hand written or typed, and should be sent to the Editor, Stewart Richardson, at 342 Barkham Road, Wokingham, RG41 4DE.

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

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

BVRA 2011/12 GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman: vacant
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Barkham web site

Now that the Parish Council have launched their own website, I shall be making some changes to the BVRA site to ensure it maintains its own distinct identity and to avoid confusion to residents. Primarily we will focus on social and Development Watch news.

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.

Simon Zarywacz



Editorial

Welcome to the autumn edition of the Barkham Newsletter! As we publish quarterly, this is our first issue since the very successful Barkham events to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee in June. We were lucky with the weather (given this atrocious summer) and record the events with a photo extravaganza in this edition! We have stretched to a colour centre spread, which we don't normally do in order to minimise the printing costs.

As well as the Jubilee pictures we have contributors old and new in a packed 24 page issue. In addition to the regular features on Social, BPC, church, music, local history, gardening and other societies we have some new contributors. These include news of a Patients Forum at Finchampsted Surgery, an invitation to become a member of our Ambulance Service Foundation Trust and an organisation to help older people become familiar with computers. There are also a number of chances to volunteer to help the local community.

Our own BVRA Secretary Rob Rowe explains why he couldn't make the Jubilee event but he did give us a fly past (we couldn't afford the Red Arrows!)

Also there is news of the creation of the Wokingham Way – a 56 mile circular walking route around the Wokingham Borough, which is (fortunately) broken up into bite-sized sections for those of us not quite ready for a 56 mile trek!

Finally, I thought (not very) long and hard about the Quiz theme and decided on..... the Olympics! I've limited it to the Olympics but wasn't the Paralympics amazing too? One of the highlights for us was being among the thousands watching the wheelchair marathon near Westminster Bridge and seeing David Weir and Shelly Woods on their way to their gold and silver medals. We were then lucky enough to have tickets for the Closing Ceremony which really rounded off the whole month or so.

Stewart Richardson
Editor

Barkham Village Hall

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

From as little as £10.50/hr for the small hall to £15.75/hr for large hall or £22/hr for both (£25/hr after 6.00pm on Saturday).

Can accommodate 175 guests and has a new fully equipped kitchen. Early booking is essential.

If you are a group who needs somewhere to meet on a regular basis why not use your local village hall, we have plenty of tables and chairs and spacious car park and grounds for use during the summer. We offer very competitive rates for regular users. Please contact Judith Neuhofer for further details on 9790296 or email clerk@barkham-parishcouncil.org.uk



coming years. Analysing the questionnaires will be just the first step in producing a Neighbourhood Plan. As the Plan evolves, there will be further consultation with local people. The final Plan will then only be adopted after a referendum for all residents.

New Website

The Parish Council now has its own web site, take a look at all the information that is now readily available. The agendas and minutes of the Council meetings, planning applications are all there at: www.barkham.parishcouncil.org.uk. There is also a great deal of information about local clubs and societies, where to visit, where to get help and local news. Please let us know if you belong to a group that would like to see included through the contact form. The web site is intended to be complementary to the existing Barkham website run by the BVRA and there will be links to make it easy for users to move between the two websites.

The Village Hall also has a new home under the local information tab at the same website. You can find all the information about the hall including photographs, capacity, dimensions and even when it is already booked or available!

Sporting Endeavour

The Barkham Parish Council Sam Hosgood Sporting Endeavour Fund aims to assist young people who are under the age of 18, live in Barkham and are representing their country at a national level. We have all been inspired by the success of Team GB this summer at the Olympics and are delighted that we have 2 talented

youngsters living in Barkham. The Parish Council is delighted to be giving small grants from this fund to our talented young people to help with their travel and training. Sam Hosgood who is a previous long standing Chairman, will be making the presentations on 11th September to the following :

Katie Abrahams aged 15 has been trampolining since the age of 6 and trains at the Edgebarrow Trampoline Club, she has competed in many international competitions, achieving second place in the Junior Girls synchro final. She has also been selected to attend the international training camp in Portugal.

Jacob Payne aged 15 is a new winner of this award, his chosen sport is ice dance and he has just started to compete at an international level. He has successfully competed in the couples ice dance at national competitions. He trains 5 mornings a week at Bracknell ice skating rink.

We would like to congratulate these worthy winners.

Judith Neuhofer
Clerk to Barkham Parish Council



Borough Councillor's Report

Wokingham Borough pupils were celebrating after A-Level results were announced during August and all of the schools in the borough surpassed the overall national pass rate and made improvements in the percentage of students gaining A*- C grades. Initial calculations of the provisional results available from schools so far show that the overall pass rate (A* to E) in the Borough is 99.0 per cent - slightly higher than last year's results of 98.9 per cent (2011). This means that the borough is once again above the national pass rate of 98.0 per cent. The percentage of A* to B pass rates also improved by 0.9 per cent (53.2 per cent in 2012 compared with 52.3 per cent in 2011) and there was also a significant improvement of 3.9 percentage points in A* to C results (79.2 per cent in 2012 compared with 75.3 per cent in 2011).

The new "Local Plan" (MDD DPD) consultation has now closed and it is proposed all the responses will be presented to elected members during November to ensure they are included in the final document. Once this has happened the consultation will have to go before an Inspector at a Public Inquiry. The document is planning based but it also cov-

ers where to build more houses, settlement boundaries, flooding policy and wind farms to name but some.

By the time you read this Wokingham Borough Council will have held a number of drop in sessions to gauge the results of the effectiveness of the changes in the waste collection service provided by the Council and comments will be taken into consideration when updating the contract in the future.

The level of recycling remains at a high level and continues to grow.

There is still no firm indication on or when the Garrison will be vacated but the MOD and the council continue to negotiate but rest assured I will keep pressing for the best case for Barkham, fighting to ensure that all the necessary infrastructure is forthcoming in any future planning decisions.

Please remember if you require any help or information with regards to issues you may have with regards to local or council matters please do not hesitate to contact me at john.kaiser@wokingham.gov.uk or 0771 4192352

All the best

John Kaiser (Cllr)
Wokingham Borough Council
Barkham Ward

Wokingham Times

If you have local news or would like your event photographing for the paper, please let me know. My direct line is 918 3023.

Jon Nurse



A new forum gives patients a voice in local health care at Finchampstead surgery.

Finchampstead Surgery announces the Finch Patient Forum (FPF), a Patient Participation Group, which links patients and medical staff, establishing a formal voice in the delivery of care at their surgery and the development of health care locally.

The FPF, a voluntary patient group, has a key role to liaise between the patients and medical staff of Finchampstead Surgery to ensure excellence in services with improvements as necessary. High on the FPF's agenda is to listen to patients' thoughts on surgery services, raise funds for any improvements in the surgery, and answer patients' questions on the reform of the NHS and how any changes are to be introduced in the Wokingham area.

As an important first event for patients, the FPF is planning an open evening to present the Changes in GP Responsibilities under NHS reform, and to introduce the FPF objectives and the committee.

Keen to encourage two-way participation in the future of Finchampstead Surgery, the FPF will conduct occasional surveys to monitor the needs of ALL patients in the catchment area, and will welcome ideas and additional help on the Committee.

Get in touch initially via: - patient.finchampstead@nhs.net or Finchampstead Surgery Reception.

The best laid plans

When the BVRA Committee, of which I'm Secretary, first looked into holding a Diamond Jubilee fete a year ago I didn't imagine that come the chosen day I would have a conflicting adventure of my own to manage.

How did this come to pass? Well over the last 10 years I've volunteered my light aircraft for Project Propeller ... an annual fly-in reunion for World War II RAF veterans at an airfield 'somewhere in England'.

When I was first involved there were many more veteran RAF crew than aircraft available, sadly the passage of time has now transposed the logistics.

Having volunteered again this year I'd all but given up attending when I was put in contact with Richard Harder, an 88 year old former Halifax bomber navigator, who was hoping to be flown to this year's event being held at Coventry airport.

The event date had just been confirmed as the 9th June ... the same day as Barkham's Diamond Jubilee fete. Now all I had to do was explain this conflict of interests to my colleagues on the BVRA Committee!

Come the day, and true to form, the weather was doing its best to conspire against us all. And I had real concerns that our flight to Coventry would have to be scrubbed as being just too hazardous.

On my conscience was the knowledge that my passenger had survived a tour of 32 missions over Germany without coming to harm and I didn't want to be responsible for blemishing that safety record.

Fortunately, although far from ideal, the wind dropped sufficiently by late morning and we set off on a somewhat bumpy flight to Coventry from Popham airfield. En-route taking in a detour over the Village Hall where I was reassured to see the fete preparations progressing nicely, at least from the vantage point of 1000ft aloft.

The low cloud base required some other detours along the way and we duly arrived just after midday



at Coventry under darkening skies ... the weather was beginning to deteriorate again.

However nearly 80 aircraft had made it, bringing around 150 veteran crew, to this superbly organised event with all the bonhomie expected from those who have survived adversity past and present.

During the afternoon we had hoped for a fly past by the RAF's Battle of Britain flight, but 20 knots of wind was their safety limit & the weather at their base to the north-east of us was still above that strength ... so sadly they had to cancel.

But at least this disappointment was offset by the Coventry based Avro Shackleton (descendent of the Lancaster bomber) that fired

up its Rolls Royce Griffon engines to provide a suitably cacophonous tribute to the assembled veterans.

Finally, suitably replete with tea & sausage rolls, the farewells were said with hopes to see all again in good health the following year, and we set off back again to Popham around 4pm.

With the weather now improving (for a change) our flight was

graced with some new challenges. Some stalwart glider pilots had taken to the air and had to be kept at a safe distance; power gives way to sail in the air as well as at sea.

And for a while a large military Merlin helicopter took an unhealthy interest in our progress, by mirroring any course changes at a distance, before they finally seemed to tire of this game and left us alone.

At this point it's worth mentioning that the light aircraft I'm flying is a radial engine Russian YAK-52 military trainer; resplendent in Soviet Air Force markings with a dispensation not to display its UK registration ... on reflection this may have had some influence on the Merlin's interest!

Another quick orbit of the Village Hall on the way back with a waggle of wings for good measure (all missed by our Chairman I might add) and we arrived back at a still blustery Popham safe and sound.

Concerned for my 88 year old former navigator making it home safely I offered to drive him home. Not to worry was the reassuring reply "last month I drove to my old squadron reunion in Yorkshire and back" and with that he drove off smiling.

Should I be so fortunate as to reach that age I can only hope to have Richard Harder's peerless spirit.

All in all a very satisfying day for pilot and passenger alike ... let's hope we have less 'interesting' weather for next year's Project Propeller.

Postscript ... my thoughts were with Richard on the 28th June when he attended the unveiling of the Bomber Command memorial in Green Park.

No matter the ethics of their leadership the 55,573 men of Bomber Command who lost their lives during the war are long overdue recognition.

Their statistics make chilling reading — out of every 100 RAF bomber aircrew;

... 55 were killed on operations or died from wounds

... 3 were injured on active service

... 13 were taken prisoner of war

... 2 were shot down & evaded capture

... just 27 survived unharmed from a tour of operations.

Thought provoking indeed to consider their chances of survival were less than a Great War Infantry Officer of a generation before.

Rob Rowe



For Me2...

Love Cake? Want to eat cake AND help a local children's disability charity - Me2 Club? Then get involved in 'What a Difference a Cake Makes'. Bring bake and buy cakes and help change children's lives.

Me2 Club have organised a fantastic fundraising event. They are asking everyone in the local community to get behind them and raise money by selling cake in the month of October. Could you hold a cake sale, tea party or coffee morning at your school, office or community centre in the month of October to support Me2 Club?

Me2 Club will provide everything needed to make these events a success including balloons, cake decorations and posters, all you need is cake and some friends (with money!). Get started and download a fundraising pack, recipe ideas and posters from www.me2club.org.uk/cake.htm.

Me2 Club has an incredible team of volunteers, who support children with disabilities to join in activities and be part of their local communities, gain confidence, make friends and have fun! Without this local charity many children with disabilities would miss out on these important childhood milestones and memories.

So, shout about your plans, baking successes and events – tell everyone on twitter and facebook, upload photos and inspire other people to get involved too as together we can make hundreds and thousands to change children's lives!

Facebook: Me2ClubCharity
Twitter: @Me2Club
0118 969 6369 and cake@me2club.org.uk

For you...

One of the projects Me2 Club runs is their Inclusion Training Project - increasing the inclusion of children with disabilities in mainstream groups. Do you work at or support a Wokingham borough mainstream activity group or club for children and young people? Would you like to sign up to FREE training?

Me2 Club's Inclusion Training Project offers free training sessions on a variety of topics, to increase the knowledge, skills and confidence of activity leaders and workers to include children with disabilities and additional needs. The sessions offer insight into a variety of interesting and relevant topics such as Autism, Epilepsy, Supporting Behaviour, Makaton and more!

Me2 Club also offers bespoke sessions which will be tailored to help you and your group to overcome any barriers to inclusion you are facing – struggling to develop strategies to manage difficult behaviours? Not sure how to encourage your other group members to be understanding and inclusive? Thanks to subsidising from the Big Lottery Fund Me2 Club can help, at no charge to you!

Me2 Club is providing a fantastic opportunity that benefits local communities, work that is really valued by anyone it touches; the children and their families, volunteers and the activity leaders "Brilliant, this training will help me in the rest of my career"

If you would like to find out more or book onto the training, go to www.me2club.org.uk/inclusion.htm and download Me2 Club's inclusion training brochure. Alternatively send an email to info@me2club.org.uk or give Me2 Club a call 0118 969 6369 for more information

St James' Church

Going for gold in the sun! HBC 2012

You may remember the summer of 2012 as being a complete wash-out and who would disagree?! But if you recall, there was one week of hot sunny weather at the end of July and we were just thrilled that it coincided with our Holiday Bible Club, held as ever on the sports field at The Coombes School. A warm weekend before enabled the ground to dry out, then the marquees and tents went up and we prepared to welcome around 350 children for fantastic week together.

Our theme, in this year of the London 2012 Olympics was 'Going for Gold'. So each morning, as well as the usual mix of songs, fun and games, we also met an athlete from ancient Athens, who



also told us about the good news of Jesus Christ that first came to that city 2000 years ago.

In the afternoons, the children were able to choose between various sports and crafts around the field before re-gathering in the

main marquee at the end of the day to see which leader was going to fall victim to the gunge tank!

As ever, HBC was run by around 100 volunteers from Arborfield, Barkham and The White House churches, many of them taking time off work and we are so grateful, not only for everyone's hard work, but also to The Coombes School for letting us use their facilities.

'If you could ask God one question, what would it be?'

This was our one-question survey that we invited people to respond to at the Jubilee family fun afternoon back in June, promising that we would address the most common theme in one of our autumn services. Most people were really intrigued by the question and keen to give their responses. And the most common questions were concerned with.... evil and suffering. Several asked about why there is so much division in the world and many had questions about sickness and death. So, at our 10am service on Sunday 11th November we will address these questions and see if the Bible has any an-



swers for us. That will of course be Remembrance Sunday and it would seem to be a fitting topic for that day. So, even if you have never come to St James before, you are warmly invited to join us on that day. For families – a crèche and children's groups will be available too. You will be very welcome.

Julian Bidgood
Minister of Barkham



The Wokingham Way

56 walkers start off 56 miles trail around Wokingham

You've all heard of the Pennine Way and the Wales Coast Path that recently opened. Well now there's the Wokingham Way. It's

"thanked Loddon Valley Ramblers for their splendid work in so carefully preparing the route as it provides opportunities for

The walk is immensely varied, from the majesty of the broad Thames, to ancient lanes and by-ways and open fields – cross the River Thames by the weir above Hambleden lock to see the beautiful clapboard mill, now converted to flats, then through Henley on Thames, best known for its Royal Regatta in June or perhaps walk past Caesar's camp, an Iron Age hill fort found in Crowthorne wood. Imagine a centurion marching as the Way takes you along a Roman road which linked Silchester with London called Devil's Highway. Another day you could walk on footpaths through the grounds of Culham Court to enjoy the enclosed deer park. Whilst on a further stage you follow the Blackwater Valley Path to see dragonflies darting over the river and if you are lucky catch a glimpse of a kingfisher.



WW Ribbon Cutting: Gwen McGregor, Thursday Leader of LVR walk and David Turner, Chairman of LVR hold the ribbon for cutting by Councillor Angus Ross, Member of LVR. Photo by Stewart Turkington.

56 miles round the unitary boundary of Wokingham Borough but you don't have to complete it in one trip because it is split into easy stages of between 4 and 7 miles with good links to public transport to return to your starting point.

The circular tour of the Borough was designed by Loddon Valley Ramblers to follow the boundary as near as possible, by staying on footpaths & bridleways. The Wokingham Way was launched by Councillor Angus Ross at a ribbon cutting ceremony beside the River Thames near Temple Island (Editor – picture link below?). It was celebrated by 56 walkers from Loddon Valley Ramblers and neighbouring Rambler Groups. Councillor Ross

residents to enjoy our rich and varied countryside."

The footpaths have all been walked to check for good access and all are clearly marked. There are concise instructions to describe the walk with individual maps for each section. The Wokingham Way is laid out in sections to be found on the Loddon Valley website: www.lvra.org.uk whilst also providing links to points of interest on the walk. It was decided to make the route web based to ensure it was always up to date. It also allows walkers to either print out a section with its map, or even download the directions to a smart phone or tablet, to follow as they walk the route.

The walk can be followed at all times of the year and sections will look entirely different walked in the opposite direction or in a different season. If you enjoyed walking The Wokingham Way, there are 143 miles of public rights of way in Wokingham Borough and several good books of walks in local bookshops, or you could walk with Loddon Valley Ramblers on their regular Sunday & Thursday walks, described on their website.

The Wokingham Way was sponsored by Rohan's makers of outdoor gear.



it well - dancing and listening to the very professional Mike Wells Band. We also all enjoyed the excellent buffet which was organised and prepared for us by Joanne and Colin Cable. How they managed it was incredible and my grateful thanks go to them and their background team. Colin would like to thank Grace Spinks (Chef/Manager) and Frank Bothwell (MD) both of Thomas Franks Limited for their valuable time, effort and support, and also Andy and Sandy Rose from Two Hoots Cheese, for their Barkham Blue cheese donation. My thanks also go to the village stores for selling the tickets and to The Bull at Barkham for running the bar.

A montage of photos from the afternoon and evening events are shown on the next 4 pages and the back cover. A good time was had by all!

By the time this newsletter reaches you we will have had the skittles evening and I hope that all who attended had an enjoyable time. Our next event will be the QUIZ EVENING on SATURDAY 24TH NOVEMBER and you are advised to get your tickets early as this is a most popular event. It will be in the village hall as usual and the tickets will be £8 each to include a fish and chip supper. Please contact me on 977 1579 or by email on social@barkham.org.uk to order your tickets - 6 people to a table. As usual there will be a bar and a raffle and the profit from these go towards keeping the price of the tickets down.

The final event of 2012 will be the Carols in the Park and this will be in the lead up to Christmas. At the moment we do not know the date but it should be in the next edition of the newsletter.

Social News

What a mixture of celebrations have occurred in 2012 - the national Queen's Diamond Jubilee with its river pageant, concert and procession, followed by our hosting of the Olympic games and at the moment the Paralympic games are being held. How spectacular were the opening and closing ceremonies and our athletes were absolutely amazing. What a multitude of talent we have in this country and it makes me proud to be British.

However, since the last newsletter we have had our own Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations complete with a mini Olympics. How fortunate we were with the weather considering how wet this year has been. I should like to thank the Parish Council and Village Hall Committee for their support financially and the various hall users and stall holders for making the family afternoon so successful.

The Reverend Julian Bidgood was able to 'crown' Pat McCarthy our Queen, and I am sure that she and her husband Jim enjoyed the afternoon handing out the prizes to our craft competition winners as well as to our athletes. I would also like to thank Rob Rowe for managing to give us our own fly-past in his Yak aeroplane.

Those of you that came to the evening function will remember

I should like to thank all the members of the main and social committees for their help - without it the events would not be able to happen. If you feel that you can contribute towards any event that we organise, or can come up with any new ideas then please contact me or any member of the committee.

Judith Collins - 977 1579

Jubilee prize winners

Congratulations to the following people who entered and won prizes in the competitions being held on the day.

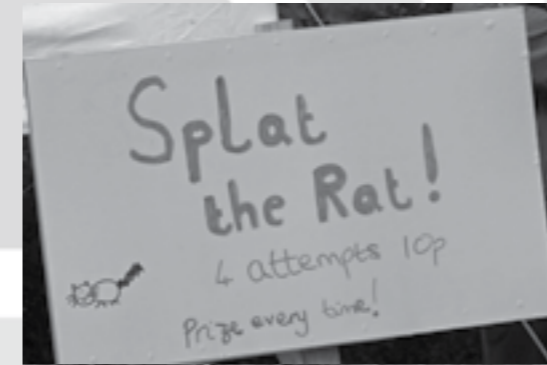
- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Adult cakes: | 1 Amanda Osborn
2 Louise Goldring |
| Under 12s cakes: | 1 Ethan Feinberg
2 Kaitlyn Garrod |
| Under 18 photo: | 1 Emma Foster
2 Laura Whittington |
| Over 18 photo: | Alison Foster |
| Anthem under 18: | Laura Whittington |
| Anthem under 12: | 1 Tom Goldring
2 Holly Chard |
| Under 12's Torch: | Holly Chard |

The British Red Cross

Please may I thank the Residents of Barkham for their generosity to the Red Cross House-to-House Collection in early May. We raised £831.62 which is our best total ever. I am especially grateful to the collectors who gave their time and effort in this good cause.

The Red Cross and Red Crescent are accepted throughout the world in conflicts and natural disasters though they are not a part of any government or military organisation. Closer to home the Red Cross gives First Aid and emergency support in the Wokingham area and provides loans of vital equipment following accident or illness

Richard Firth.





Arborfield Local History Society

As expected, we have had a busy "summer" with both social events and our regular meetings.

We started in June at the Arborfield Village Diamond Jubilee Fete, where a lot of interest was shown, particularly in the progress with the Old Churchyard.

Then, on the 11th June, Trevor Ottewski gave a talk on The Wokingham Town Halls.

This was followed on the 2nd July with a presentation by Ken Wells, Curator of the Thames Valley Police Museum at Sulhamstead and former Scenes of Crime Officer. He detailed many of his experiences in this role.

Later in the month, we had a Garden Party, kindly hosted by Sheila Bunce in her delightful garden. Though the weather could have been better, at least the rain held off.

Our planned coach trip to Bristol in August had to be cancelled due to lack of numbers and we will be looking for suggestions for future destinations.

On the 3rd September, acknowledged "Titanic Expert", Philip Littlejohn returned and gave a talk on his experiences on board the 100th Anniversary Cruise to the site of the sinking. He also detailed his dive to the site of the wreck some years ago. A most enjoyable evening!

Future events include our 10th Anniversary evening on the 1st October. This will be a ticket only event confined to members and will include a Chilli Supper and a topical evening's entertainment.

On November 5th, Gordon Brockman will present Antiques and Valuations, when he will evaluate and value up to four of your antiques. Our final event of the year will be our Christmas Dinner at the Bull, Arborfield on December 3rd.

Unless otherwise stated, meetings are held in the Arborfield Village Hall, commencing at 7.45 PM.

All are welcome and admission is free for members and £2-00 per person for guests. We are now finalising our schedule for the next year and hope to continue to offer a varied selection of local and other events.

Our activities in the upkeep of The Old Churchyard have now resumed and regular work parties are under way. We are making progress towards establishing a charitable body to take over responsibility for this and will keep you informed of developments. At the same time, we are hopeful that we will shortly agree with the Parish Council that we can arrange our own insurance cover for this work and by so doing, we can overcome some of the present restraints. Details of the work party schedules are shown on our website <http://www.arborfieldhistory.org.uk/>

Lastly, we recently received a request via The Arborfield British Legion, from a lady in Holland who had recently purchased a secretaire at an auction. When she got it home, she discovered a metal plaque stating "Presented to W.Chas.Grant by the Members of the Newland, Arborfield &

Barkham Branch of The British Legion" and she was curious how this came to be in Holland. Some 24 hours after receiving this enquiry, our "Super Sleuths" in the Society had discovered the following:-

William Charles Grant lived at Church Cottage, Barkham and he was a farmer.

His daughter was Joan Marjorie (Margery), depending if you look at baptism or marriage record and his wife was Violette.

Daughter baptised at St James, Barkham on 28.12.1924 - they were living at Church Cottage at the time.

Daughter married on 14.8.1948 at St James, Barkham. She was 23 and a civil servant. Her husband was Meidest De Koning, also 23 and an engineer.

His address is given as:

*Van Messtraat 34,
Haarlem,
Holland*

The witnesses were W.C.Grant, M. De-Koning, V.B.Grant and L.M.A.Koning Sparreboom. Father of the groom name was Meindest and he was an engineer.

William Charles Grant was buried in Barkham on 17.1.1950 aged 56 years.

The only outstanding question is when this Secretaire was presented and why. If the Legion records can be accessed (and they may be in The Berkshire Records Office), they may throw some light on this. In view of Mr Grant's age and that Newland ceased to exist as such in 1948, this was probably presented to him in the immediate post war years.

This was passed back to the originator who was impressed and delighted with the outcome.

Ray Hill
0118 9760784
rayhill@aol.com



Arborfield Gardening Association

Every year the weather throws different challenges to gardeners, and this year the climate has certainly been a challenge, but being a hardy bunch, we're not easily put off! The joint Summer Show with Shinfield Allotment Holders and Gardeners Association happily saw entries for almost all classes, which is unusual, however the number of entries as a whole were down. This is a pity because we've introduced a medal prize for everyone who wins a class, and so more exhibitors than usual won a prize to keep. Please see the picture of our Secretary Angela Hands with her medal, won for her display of



pansies. Next year should be good for folk new to exhibiting, so do come along to one of our autumn meetings to get to know us and learn the ropes, new members are always welcome and we make things easy by having no joining fee. Participation in the Show is not expected by any means, you can come along just to admire the displays, but if you've produce to

show-off our summer show is a good opportunity.

We've enjoyed some super visits to local gardens of interest this summer; Whitehouse Farm Cottage and Moor Close Gardens in Binfield for instance. A lovely summer evening with wine, homemade nibbles, welcoming hosts and delightful settings for the former and a damp drizzly visit to the latter venue was rescued by an impromptu tour of the house, not usually open to the public. We were honoured to be allowed access to the historic building and view the garden from the comfort (and shelter) of the wooden panelled reception room. We heard about the vision of the creator of the garden in the dry, sitting on sofas where royalty too have sat, and a break in the rain let us venture out into one of the most charming gardens we've ever visited – even with hardly a flower in bloom the architecture and numerous vistas made pictures at every turn – delightful!

Coming Up;

Thurs 11th Oct – 7.45 Speaker meeting at Arborfield Village Hall.

Sat 13th Oct – 3 Society Social £5 to include dinner (members only).

Do join us, ring me, Jan on 9760243 for a membership form and details.



Our new term has started at Our Lady's Prep School in The Avenue, Crowthorne. We rehearse there weekly during term time from 7.45 – 10pm and welcome new members. Like many amateur orchestras we can always do with more string players so if you are looking for a good local orchestra to join give us a try! There are vacancies for other instruments too from time to time. Some of our members are very experienced players but others have returned to playing after a long gap and our members are from all walks of life, and all ages. So why not get that violin out from under the bed and get back to playing! Come to a rehearsal just to listen if you wish.

Our next concert at The Old Gym, Wellington College will be on Saturday November 24th at 8pm. The programme will include the ever popular Grieg Piano Concerto, Schubert's 'Unfinished Symphony', Kodály's 'Háry János' Suite and Kabelevksy's Overture 'Colas Breugnon'. As usual, advance tickets at £10 will be available from Traveltime Travel Agents, High Street Crowthorne, and Bookends, Peach Street, Wokingham or £12 on the door. Our Christmas Concert is at St John's Church, Crowthorne on Saturday 15th December. Don't forget, children of 16 or under go free to all our concerts.

For more information about the orchestra, our workshops and concerts, as well as online ticket sales, see our website www.crowthorneorchestra.com or ring Ruth on 0118 972 2164.

Chris Gadsby



The Citizens Advice Bureau is an independent charity. We help people to resolve their problems by providing free, confidential and impartial information and advice.

2012 marks the 35th anniversary of Wokingham CAB. That is thirty five years of helping people in the Wokingham area, ensuring that people are treated fairly, do not suffer through lack of knowledge and are not discriminated against for any reason.

Like all bureaux in the country, our focus has been on two things in the past year – our clients and how will we be able to continue to help them in this climate of increasing problems and shrinking resources.

The recent and upcoming changes in both welfare benefits and employment law are affecting more people than ever before and we are busy making sure that we are ready for the inevitable problems in these areas that people have already started to bring to us.

WOKINGHAM
26-28 Market Place
(next to WH Smith), RG40 2AP
Telephone: 0844 499 4126
Fax: 0118 979 6194
E-Mail: public@wokingham-cab.org.uk
Website: www.wokingham-cab.org.uk

Hours:
Mon - Thu: 9.00am - 3.00pm
Fri: 9.00am - 1.00pm



Another busy and fun packed year with many of the older children leaving for big school after a fantastic time at Barkham Pre-School, and many parents commented how much the children are going to miss it as well as the excellent attention children get from the staff. The children enjoyed the Sports day just before breaking up for the Summer holidays. A great turn out from parents all lined up and cheering for the little Barkham Olympians – from the fastest to the most careful toddler who ensured the egg stayed on the spoon all the way.... going for gold!

BARKHAM PRE-SCHOOL HAS FREE SPACES FOR OVER 3s SO PLEASE DO LET PARENTS KNOW before we get full. Children attend from Barkham, Finchampstead, Wokingham and Arborfield area. We are always happy to set up visits and welcome all on our open days. Next open day is 4th October 2012.

Barkham Pre-School offers children from 2 years 6 months to 5 years the opportunity to make new friends, socialise and follow a structured session and was recently awarded "Good" by Ofsted, "Children are very happy, confident and safe at the pre-school. The dedicated and caring staff team recognise each individual uniqueness and treat them with kindness and respect" (Ofsted April 2011)

Activities include plenty of free play with a large variety of toys,

music, singing, storytime, physical games and activities. The children also get to make use of the kitchen facilities and have made pizza, gingerbread men and decorated biscuits amongst other things. "Staff provide a wide range of interesting play opportunities and activities both inside and outside which help the children make good progress in their learning an development" (Ofsted April 2011)

The pre-school is in a lovely rural setting at Barkham Village Hall where there is plenty of off road parking and lots of outside space for the children. Sessions are from 9.00am to 12.45pm, Tuesday to Friday during term time. Non funded places cost £12 per session which also includes staying for a packed lunch. Childcare vouchers are accepted.

If you are looking for a Pre-School for your child please contact us by email or phone (details below) to arrange a convenient time for you to come and see the Pre-School.

We welcome your questions and hope to make you and your little one feel welcome.

Please contact Jackie Lawrence on 0118 9760750 (session times only) (or Bhavna Hardiman on 07769 708005), or go to www.barkhampreschool.net for more information and where to find us.



New from Wokingham Volunteer Centre

It has been an amazing summer for Wokingham Volunteer Centre as we were awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in June! This award recognises the fantastic work of staff and volunteers across the various projects that we run, from the Volunteer Brokerage function which helps local people to find voluntary roles that match their interests and availability, to the services for elderly and disabled clients, mobility (scooter hire), transport and our newest activity, the Green 'n' Tidy gardening scheme.



Over the summer, Green 'n' Tidy (G'n'T to its many friends!), has gone from strength to strength. The project was set up, with funding from the Borough Council, to help older and disabled people to stay safely in their own homes for longer and improve their quality of life. In the first year, almost 80

clients have been helped at least once, with new referrals constantly coming through. Libby Lewis, project co-ordinator, assesses all potential clients to make sure that our volunteers are helping the most needy of the Borough's elderly. Those who can afford a gardener but just need a trusted recommendation are helped with that.

Over the summer, local young people aged 16-22 have been volunteering with the project. They are now back at school, college or university. As well as giving them a very social way to contribute to the community, it has been great for the older people to see young people in such a positive light. We hope to have them back in future holidays, with their friends!

Now, as we head into the autumn, we are looking for volunteers who could give a few hours once or twice a week – particularly anyone who could help on Thursday or Friday morning with the teams who do the regular maintenance in small gardens. For those who prefer the challenge of 'jungle clearance', the Monday team is the one for you! Tuesday and Wednesday team places are also available. All equipment is supplied to make the job fun and manageable. If you would like to volunteer with this very worthwhile project, or get advice on the hundreds of volunteer roles available in the Borough, please call Helena Badger or Christine Knox on 977 0749.

Finally, the Volunteer Centre will be hosting the annual Volunteer Recruitment Fair on Saturday 8th October from 10am-1.30pm at the Bradbury Centre in Wokingham, next to Rose Street Methodist Church and behind M & S. Around 25 local charities have

booked stands and you will be able to chat to people who help the elderly, children, families, people with disabilities, the environment, emergency services and so on. Entry is free and there is no need to book, just turn up! Last year was a huge success with over 150 people attending.

Volunteering is extremely rewarding and there are many reasons to do it – it can help build your confidence, help you gain new skills, meet new friends, test the water before a career change, gain experience to add to your CV and keep you busy if you have some time on your hands. If you have volunteered in the past and would like to get involved again or you have never tried it before, please come along and discover a whole new world!

For more information, please contact the Wokingham Volunteer Centre on 977 0749, email wokvol@btconnect.com, follow us on Facebook or Twitter, or check out our website www.volunteercen-trewokingham.org.uk.

Wokingham NCT

The next Wokingham NCT Nearly New Sale is on 11 Nov at St Crispins School. You can sell many of your child's items (clothes, books, toys, equipment, bedding, furniture) as well as maternity clothes so long as it's of 'nearly new' quality. There is loads of info online on how to sell your items (very easy). If you'd like to volunteer on the day then you get to shop at the sale first and last and if you have a business and want to get leaflets into our goodie bags then drop us a line as we give away bags to the first 400 parents, parents-to-be and the odd Grandparent! Email nearlynewsale@wokingham-nct.org.uk



Your South Central Ambulance Service Foundation Trust Public Governor

My name is Gary Clark and I am one of three appointed Public Governors in Berkshire for the newly formed South Central Ambulance Foundation Trust, as well as being a member of a local Community Responder Group in Swallowfield. What is a Foundation Trust?

Foundation Trusts are still part of the NHS, but unlike ordinary NHS trusts, they have thousands of members and a Council of Governors (of which I am one) who form an integral part of the governance structure that exists in all NHS FTs.

NHS Foundation Trusts (FTs):

- are free from direct central government control and are able to decide how to improve their services
- retain any surpluses they generate to invest in new services, and can borrow money to support these investments
- are accountable to their local communities; local people can become members and governors.

These freedoms mean that together they can shape our ambulance service around local needs and priorities.

Benefits at a glance

Real opportunities to be involved in developing health services,

which meet the needs of local people

Opportunities to be involved in decision making in areas of particular interest to them

Greater access to more in-depth information about the workings of the Trust and its future plans

More control for the Trust over the pace of change in terms of local target setting and meeting contracts

More stability resulting in less workplace stress

To provide health services and employment opportunities to a local population which has significant health and social needs? We feel that, as an NHS Foundation Trust, we can play a much greater role in supporting the ongoing development and success of our local communities

To expect that our members and Council of Governors will challenge them to improve health and healthcare for local people

I have been to several Governors meetings now, (which are all held in Public and therefore anyone is able to attend) and I can assure everyone that the Governors mean business and are not afraid to challenge or ask questions. I am convinced that as the Foundation Trust finds its feet, it will start to reap the benefits of being a Foundation Trust.

As your public governor I am here to listen to your views and take them forward to the main Board so that your voices are heard in the shaping of the Trust. As a Foundation Trust, the Board is accountable to all of its key stakeholders and that most definitely includes you – the public.

I am therefore particularly interested in any views that you

may have on the service or any questions that you may want answered. I can be contacted via :FAO Company Secretary, South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust, 7-8 Talisman Business Centre, Talisman Road, Bicester, Oxfordshire, OX26 6HR. (Please ensure that you put my name in the correspondence so that it gets to me and I will respond as soon as I can). You can alternatively send me an email directly via gary.scasft@gmail.com

A Foundation Trust also needs members. By becoming a member, whether you are a member of the public, work for a partner organisation or an employee of the Trust, you are able to have more say in how things are done in order to achieve the best possible quality of care.

Membership numbers are increasing all the time, strengthening the link between your local ambulance service and the local community. It is voluntary and free of charge and obligation. Members are able to give their views on relevant issues for Governors such as myself to act on.

I would therefore urge you to join the Foundation Trust by applying on line at <http://www.southcentralambulance.nhs.uk/foundation-trust/becomeamember.ashx>. Every individual member of the household is eligible to register and we do need to ensure that we have as many members of the public signed up as we can. If you have any questions about membership then please send them to: Getinvolved@scas.nhs.uk.

I look forward to welcoming you as members.

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Everyone is welcome to join Loddon Valley Ramblers on any of these walks.

Just turn up at the start or phone the leader for more details. Please wear appropriate clothing & footwear.

For more walks visit Loddon Valley Ramblers Website: www.lvra.org.uk

Sunday 7th October: Thames Path & Cookham, 5 miles. 10.30 from Cookham Moor Free Car Park, SL6 9SA Leader – John Wager 0118 932 0127.

Thursday 11th October: Chiltern Hills via Stonor Deer Park, Southend & Upper Woodend Farm, 5 miles. 10.30 after parking in lay-by opposite farm buildings in Stonor when approaching the village on B480 from Henley, RG9 6HE Leader – Gerry Cooper 07805 356708.

Sunday 14th October: Dorney Court & England's First Pineapple, 5 miles. 10.30 in large Car Park at Dorney Common, SL4 6QQ **No dogs, please!** Leader – Ian Murray 07429 337369.

Thursday 18th October: Finchampstead Ridges, Blackwater River, Finchampstead Village & Wick Hill, 5 miles. 10.30 from NT Free Car Park, Simons Wood, Wellingtonia Avenue, Crowthorne, RG45 6AE Leader – Jo Metcalfe 07702 123793

Sunday 21st October: Pinkneys Green, Cookhamdean Common returning through Copas Bros Farm, 4 ¼ miles. 10.00 from NT Free Car Park off Pinkneys Drive, Pinkneys Green, SL6 6QE Leader – Stewart Macleod 07901 514832.

Sunday 28th October: Famlend, woods & countryside around Arborfield Cross & Farley Hill, 4 ½ miles. 10.30 from Free Car Park at Arborfield Cross, about 200 yards down Swallowfield Road from The Bull at Arborfield, RG2 9QD Leader – Marianne Murray 0118 979 1842.

Thursday 1st November: Lanes & gently undulating farmland of Warfield, 5 miles. 10.00 from Frost Folly Free Car Park, Weller's Lane, Warfield, RG42 6EN. Leader – Jane Thomas 0118 978 4319 / 07899 734799.

Thursday 8th November: Wood & farmland near Knowl Hill, west of Maidenhead, 5 miles. 10.30 after parking on the verge facing inwards at the lower end of Littlewick Green opposite Cricketers pub, SL6 3QU **No dogs, please!** Leader – Martin Dalton 0118 966 1536.

Thursday 15th November: Littlewick Green, Hall Place College & Ashley Hill, 4 ½ miles. 10.30 from Car Park of Dew Drop Inn, Hurley, near Littlewick Green (permission obtained), SL6 6RB. **No dogs, please!** Leader – Barbara Curtis 0118 940 3158

Thursday 29th November: Rolling Chilterns countryside west of Henley, 5 miles. 10.30 from Red Lion pub, Rotherfield Peppard after parking in slip road on west side of A481, (RG9 5LB). **No dogs, please!** Leader – Gwen McGregor 0118 940 2688.

Thursday 6th December: Ridge Wood, Great Wood & Barn Wood, Hambleden, 5 ½ miles. 10.30 in Mill End Free Car Park, Hambleden Road, RG9 6TL Leader – Alan Bright 0118 961 6595.

Understanding Computers!

Are you baffled by computers? Would you like to learn more but don't know where to start? We've helped over 200 older people to learn the basics in computers. We offer one to one tuition in a friendly jargon-free atmosphere to help get you started. Before long you'll be getting to grips with email so that you can keep in touch with grand-children and



far away friends; you'll be able to pursue hobbies and write letters and even browse the shops online. If you're aged 60 or over and would like to learn more then get in touch. Our sessions happen every Wednesday morning in Wokingham town centre. These sessions are run by The Link Visiting Scheme, a small local charity who care about older people in Wokingham Borough. For more information please call us on 0118 9798019 or ask a friend to check out our website on

www.linkvisiting.org

Trinity Concert Band Christmas Concert

The annual Christmas concert will take place on Saturday 8th December 2012 at 7:30pm, in Bearwood College Theatre, Sindlesham. As usual there will be lots of Christmas music and fun. The concert will be followed by the band caroling in Reading town centre on 11th and 15th December.

1. Black
2. GAS
3. Isambard Kingdom Brunel
4. He designed the Orbit tower.
5. The North Greenwich Arena.
6. Handball and the Modern Pentathlon fencing.
7. Denise Lewis (2000) and Mary Peters (1972, when it was the pentathlon).
8. Clare Balding (on "A League of Their Own" on Sky 1), based on the M in "MCA"; Yorkshire.
9. 800m (he won golds at 1500m)

The Quiz - Answers



At the June meeting Paul Whittall gave us a talk about China "Beyond the Great Wall". In July, Mr I. Currie came to talk about the Frosted Earth. It was our BBQ in August. Fortunately the weather stayed fine and we all managed to eat outside. Mrs M. Gibson told us about her wartime education in September.

There have been numerous visits to Wokingham Theatre, which everyone has enjoyed. Dr. Nobbs is coming to talk to us in October about "Return of the Red Kite".

The meetings take place on the first Wednesday of the month at approx.. 7.30pm at Barkham Village Hall. For further details, please contact our chairperson Pauline Vestey on 979 1714.

Angela Hands



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Attention all computer users!



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Barkham Diary

3-Oct-12	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
9-Oct-12	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
9-Oct-12	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
10-Oct-12	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
11-Oct-12	Arborfield Gardening Association	AVH	7.45pm
22-Oct-12	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	7.30pm
23-Oct-12	Parish Council Planning Review	BVH	7.30pm
27-Oct-12	Refuse Lorry	Junipers	8-11am
5-Nov-12	Arborfield History Society	AVH	7.45pm
7-Nov-12	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
9-Nov-12	Copy deadline for winter newsletter		
13-Nov-12	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
13-Nov-12	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
14-Nov-12	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
14-Nov-12	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
22-Nov-12	BVRA AGM	BVH	8.00pm
24-Nov-12	BVRA Quiz Night	BVH	7 for 7.30pm
24-Nov-12	Refuse Lorry	Junipers	8-11am
26-Nov-12	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	7.30pm
27-Nov-12	Parish Council Planning Review	BVH	7.30pm
5-Dec-12	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
11-Dec-12	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
11-Dec-12	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
Weekly Events			
Mondays	Pilates Class	BVH	11.30am
Mondays	Dog Training	BVH	6.30pm
Tues-Fri	Barkham Pre-School	BVH	9.00am
Thursdays	Pilates Class	BVH	6.15pm
Fridays	Youth Club	BVH	6.30pm

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

Useful Numbers

Police

Wokingham Police Station
0845 8 505 505

Crimestoppers
0800 555 111

Council

Wokingham Borough Council 974 6000
Environmental health 974 6384
Social Services 978 9800
Trading Standards 974 6400
24hr out of hours 0800 212 111

Wokingham Town Council 978 3185
Citizen's Advice 0844 499 4126
Wokingham Library 978 1368
Job Support Centre 977 0517

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