



£1, free to Members

Barkham Newsletter

Issue 110 Winter 2014

from the Barkham Village Residents Association

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



Carols in the Park

Friday 19 December 7pm



The Junipers



Music from the Breakaway Brass

Mulled Wine and Mince Pies

More details on p8-9



Another great year for membership!

678 Barkham households are now paid-up members of the BVRA

Data Protection Act

Members are reminded that membership records are maintained on a personal computer. Details recorded are names, addresses, telephone numbers and payment records. The information is used solely for BVRA purposes, and any member is free to see his/her details by contacting the Membership Secretary.

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The Quiz

The theme this time is numbers 1-10. Each question or answer includes a number between 1 and 10. Simple!

1. Which Boy Band was formed in 1997 by the same team that had managed the Spice Girls?
2. The Social Democratic Party (SDP) was founded in 1981 by Labour Party "moderates". Known as the "Gang of 4", they were Roy Jenkins, Shirley Williams, David Owen and who else?
3. What number shirt was regularly worn by Geoff Hurst and (now) Wayne Rooney when playing for England?
4. What is the answer to this equation: Number of sides of (Reading theatre + US Defence Headquarters building – Bolton theatre) = ?
5. There were officially 9 planets in the Solar System until one was reclassified in 2006. Which one?
6. Name 5 of the 7 Deadly Sins! A bonus point for all of them (naming, not practising!)
7. What number links Norman Greenbaum ("Spirit in the Sky", Toni Basil ("Mickey"), Carl Douglas ("Kung Fu Fighting"), The Archies ("Sugar Sugar") and many more acts?
8. How many mules were there for Sister Sara in the film starring Clint Eastwood and Shirley MacLaine?
9. By what name is the 1967 Arab-Israeli conflict often known?
10. And finally, as Christmas is approaching.....how many "Maids-a-Milking" are there?

Answers on page 7

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, including some longer ones, visit Loddon Valley Ramblers Website: www.lvra.org.uk.

Sunday 21st December: Circular walk around Crazies Hill and Bottom Boles Wood (with mince pies and mulled wine) 4½ miles 10.30 from Recreation Ground, off Victoria Road, Wargrave (RG10 8BG). Leader David T 01189 784364 or 07899 938397.

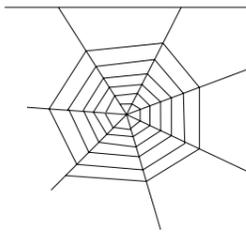
Thursday 1st January: A nearly flat circular walk and a pleasant mixture of woodland and farms around Ufton Court and Grim's Bank 4 miles 10.30 after careful verge parking on minor road that leads off Camp Road. Follow signs for Ufton Court and park near barrier into forest (RG7 4ET). Leader Ray S 07761 251217.

Thursday 8th January: Walk providing a lovely variety of scenery: woodland, lakes, The Ridges and a Saxon hilltop church. 5½ miles 10.00 from Simon's Wood NT car park, half way along Wellingtonia Avenue Crowthorne RG45 6AE Leader Jane T 0118 9784319 or 07899 734799.

Sunday 25th January: Circular walk round Mortimer, passing through Simms Copse, round the wall of Calleva Atrébatum, past the amphitheatre and back through Nine Acre Copse 4¾ miles 10.30 after meeting in the small car park, in the centre of Mortimer, opposite the 'Horse and Groom' pub RG7 3RD Leader Janet R 0118 9781093 or 07968080139.

Thursday 5th February: Circular walk from Spencer's Wood via Sheepbridge Court farm, Loddon Court, White House farm and Wokingham Way 5 miles 10.30 from CP of The Swan at The Mile Cross RG7 1AT please support pub after walk. Leader Nigel K 0118 9791740.

Thursday 5th March: Leisurely walk through Lands End, Whistley Bridge, River Loddon, then near Dinton Pastures and back through Hurst, level walk with 5 stiles 5 miles 10.30 from Village hall CP just past school in East Park Farm Park Lane Charvil. RG10 9UN Leader Barbara D 01189 345506 or 07895 635001 (on day of walk only).



Barkham web site

I hope you like our revamped 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



In September Rita Jenney came to talk to us about "Exploring Natural Healing". At the October meeting, Fiona Ghal spoke about "Tales from Berkshire" whilst in November it was Anita Cannon discussing "Healing Plants and Medicinal Herbs". The Christmas Party, which is always well attended, will take place in December.

The meetings take place on the first Wednesday of the month at approx. 7.30pm at Barkham Village Hall. New members will be made most welcome. For further details contact Pauline Vestey on 979 1714.

Angela Hands

BVRA 2014/15 GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Advertising and Newsletter Contributions

Newsletter articles / contributions for the Winter edition should be in by 20 February 2015. It helps if these can be submitted in electronic form by email to newsletter@barkham.org.uk. They may also be hand written, 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 March.



Editorial

Welcome to the winter edition of the Barkham Newsletter!

Can I start by thanking Christine Leigh for volunteering to take over as BVRA Secretary - a role which had been vacant for a few months. As you know, the resident's association is entirely run by volunteers so please consider giving up a small amount of your time to support us when another vacancy occurs.

This is a good time to look back on the year.

2014 was another successful year for the Newsletter. 20 pages is now the usual size, although this edition is 16 pages. Unlike many similar magazines from neighbouring parishes, the content is mainly articles, rather than adverts, although we do value our advertisers (see below).

We've also had articles from some new contributors, who are always welcome if difficult to find! Can I take this opportunity to appeal for more? Where are all you budding journalists? There must be a local issue that interests or annoys you - share your views and write me a piece about it! Alternatively (or as well as) use

the Forum facility on the BVRA website to air your view.

Regular contributors cover the church, history, gardening, rambling and other local organisations, including local music societies. There is also a regular report from our district councillor. The centre pages are usually reserved for "Social" - Judith's report and plans for forthcoming events and pictures of recent ones.

Laurence Heath has continued to contribute Development Watch updates, particularly on the plans for the Arborfield Garrison development.

The quiz has become a fixture and I hope I manage to set the questions at the right level. Topics this year have included missing links, the weather, parts of the body and connections. An eclectic mix!

We continue to cover the activities of Barkham Parish Council and I'd like to take the chance to thank them for once again supporting the newsletter with an annual grant. Without it we would have to reduce the size of the newsletter and increase membership fees, both of which we want to avoid.

I also want to thank the advertisers who give us an important source of revenue to offset against our costs. I hope they get some return from their investment!

Finally, as always I'd like to thank Bob Bishop for his continuing work as the "publisher", Steve Young as the "wholesaler" who packages up the copies and to all the distributors without whom the newsletters would never reach the streets of Barkham!

Stewart Richardson
Editor



News from Your Parish Council

These last few weeks have been a busy time for the Parish Council with the two planning applications being submitted to the Borough Council. These two applications cover the whole of the Arborfield Garrison. The first application is from Crest Nicholson for 2000 homes, district centre (including supermarket and community facilities), secondary school and primary school. The second application is from the Marino Family known as Hogwood Farm and this is for 1500 homes, employment land, neighbourhood centre and primary school plus SANGS (Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space). Wokingham Borough Council will submit its own application for a 1500 place secondary school in the District Centre. The plans can be viewed at the Council Offices and the libraries of Wokingham, Finchampstead and Arborfield.

Laurence Heath (vice Chairman) will explain these in detail. We urge you to submit your comments to the Borough by 5th December.

The application for 25 houses behind Barkham Road was passed by the Planning Inspector. The application was for the demolition of 346 Barkham Road and the erection of 25 dwellings together with new vehicle and

pedestrian access from Barkham Road. Barkham Parish Council was extremely disappointed about the result of this appeal, especially as the decision was based on technical arguments that are obscure to anyone who is not a planning expert.

We hope that many of you were able to view the World War 1 Centenary banners that have been on display at the British Legion in Arborfield. After Remembrance Sunday they will be moved into St James Church, Barkham. The Church is not locked during the day time and so it should be easier to view them.

Sporting Endeavour Fund

The photograph shows the four talented young people receiving a grant from Pam Stubbs (Chairman), Katie Abrahams (trampoline), Lucy and Amy Rothwell (synchronized swimming), and Jacob Payne (ice dance). Cheques were presented to the sports personalities by Sam Hosgood who



was the ex Chairman of Barkham Parish Council and the instigator of the fund. If you are a talented sports person and would like to be considered for a grant next year you must be under the age of 18 and representing England, we would be delighted to hear from you.

History Book

We are delighted to inform you that the Parish Council now have a new stock of "Barkham A History". The history book has now been reprinted with a new Foreword which details the forthcoming move of the Garrison to RAF Lyneham. If you are new to the area and do not own a copy of the history book they can now be purchased from the Clerk for £8.50 each, or they are on sale at Henry Street Garden Centre and Barkham Post Office.

The Community Forums

The Community forums are held at Henry Street Garden Centre and are an excellent opportunity for residents to have their say on the future development and its impact on residents; these have been very well attended. The last Forum held on 23rd October was particularly informative as it was also attended by the appointed developers Crest Nicholson, they were able to answer the many

questions that were fired at them. Both of these applications are available to view and it is vital that comments are received by the Borough Council.

Judith Neuhofer
Clerk to Barkham
Parish Council



Planning Applications for the Garrison Development

Planning applications have now been submitted for the development of the Garrison. There are two applications. One is on behalf of the Arborfield Garrison Landowners Consortium (AGLC) and is for 2,000 homes, mainly within the boundaries of the military establishment: it is also mainly within the parish of Barkham. Crest Nicholson is the lead developer for the AGLC. The second application is on behalf of the Marino Family Trust (MFT) which covers land immediately to the south of the garrison. Obviously the AGLC application is of greater interest to Barkham residents.

Unfortunately it is very difficult for residents to understand many important aspects of the proposals, given the vast amount of technical information that constitute the applications. For example the AGLC application contains 20 major documents amounting to 3.5GB of disc space while the MFT application contains a further 5 documents (329MB). I defy anyone to read the whole of these documents (let alone understand them all) within the six weeks consultation period!

Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) has advised that it intends to submit its own, stand-alone, detailed planning application

for the secondary school later this year. This will include full details of the building's design and layout, with sufficient detail to enable construction to commence in summer 2015.

Most of the AGLC and MFT applications are outline. This means that the applications will spell out where houses will be built within the site, how many in each area and the height of the buildings, e.g. two or three storeys. It is encouraging that both the AGLC and MFT espouse garden village principles but architectural details and precise layout within each sector will not be finalised until detail applications are submitted at a later date. However some items are detailed proposals, especially changes to road junctions, and these must be designed correctly from the outset.

It is important that residents send comments to WBC, as this large development will affect the local community for years to come. There are a lot of constructive points that can be made, which need to be addressed by the developers and by WBC.

Transport

As expected, transport is the main concern. It is fortunate that the Arborfield bypass is now proposed and the main entry point for the development will be on to the A327. Crest's transport consultants have adopted a strategy to encourage traffic on to this main artery and that is to be welcomed. In theory, traffic increase will be contained by the "internalisation" of journeys, for example using the development's own shops and schools, thus eliminating longer trips to reach equivalent facilities in Wokingham itself.

Nevertheless it is inescapable that there will be yet more traffic on our local roads. It has to be questioned whether the traffic forecasts are entirely realistic. When the construction of 3,500 homes is complete, it can be conservatively estimated that approaching 2,000 additional peak hour journeys will be generated. Hopefully the proposed Arborfield bypass will absorb the lion's share of this traffic, but it is still likely that 10 to 20% of these extra journeys will be to Wokingham. That could be up to 400 additional vehicles travelling along Barkham Road in the peak hours; this compares with a current peak hour flow of around 1,500 (both directions combined). It will make become increasingly difficult for anyone wanting to turn out of junctions such as at Sandy Lane and Doles Lane or for residents along the main roads from as far back as Langley Common Road, to emerge from their own driveways.

I would like to see Crest produce a plain language summary of their traffic assumptions, so that we can really understand the implications of what is proposed.

Barkham Parish Council (BPC) have long argued that the road layout of the north end of the development, where Biggs Lane meets Langley Common Road and further links to the A327, will be a crucial part of the transport plan. The layout proposed by Crest proposes a new roundabout set back from the existing Biggs Lane junction, accompanied by a sharp turn into Langley Common Road: this is an attempt to discourage the use of Langley Common Road as a through route, which is a positive. However, as there will be three roundabouts to get from Biggs lane to the start of the bypass, this will hardly

encourage traffic heading towards the M4 eastbound to take the bypass – more likely they will come via Langley Common Road and eventually to Bearwood Road. There has to be a better solution, for example providing a direct link from Baird Road to the southern end of the bypass. BPC will ask Crest to assess some alternative proposals.

Barkham Bridge will be controversial. There is strong support in many quarters for widening the bridge. This is a two edged sword - while safety would be improved, it would encourage more traffic to use Langley Common Road and hence to travel through Barkham and would simply move the peak hour queues. Crest have proposed new road markings and a special surface to slow traffic heading east towards the bridge. This could improve safety and help traffic flow. BPC will be asking Crest whether they can show us any examples where this sort of solution has worked successfully. BPC also believes more assertive warning signs are required

The proposal for the Commonfield Lane/Barkham Street/Barkham Ride junction seems distinctly odd. Crest have proposed changing the priorities so that Commonfield Lane would have priority and that traffic from the Finchampstead direction would have to give way. At the same time no significant improvement to Commonfield Lane is suggested. BPC will ask Crest to investigate the possibility of improving this junction with better sight lines. (The neighbouring land owner has in the past shown willingness to co-operate with a realignment of Barkham Street at this junction.) Additionally we would like Crest to demonstrate

the traffic modelling impact of improvements to Commonfield Lane, either to widen it for two way traffic for its whole length. Alternatively partial widening, with a limited number of properly marked pinch points, would be better than relying on muddy verges as passing points, as currently happens..

Greenways

The application makes aspirational statements about greenways linking the development to local communities including Barkham, but there appear to be no firm plans, as far as I can see. Greenways for walking, cycling and horse riding are much needed for leisure purposes as local roads have become too busy to use safely. In addition, with the new secondary school opening in 2016, provision of all weather off road cycle ways could contribute towards a significant reduction in peak hour traffic. BPC will ask Crest to make a firm commitment to fund greenways outside the development area.

Landscape

Landscaping around the periphery has become an issue. WBC's original masterplan for the Garrison development proposed a "soft edge" to the development. This needs to be revisited: for example there should be a landscape buffer along Langley Common Road. Though this land will be among the last to be developed, there is ample opportunity to establish hedging and trees that will have matured by the time construction starts. This will help make the area more attractive, which has to be good for the local community and good for the eventual occupants of the nearby houses.

Juxtaposition of housing to Commonfield Lane urbanises what is supposed to be a country lane. This could easily be resolved by changing the shape of the neighbouring open space so that it is longer and narrower, as was shown in earlier versions of the plans.

The plans show some of the zones on the edge of the development with building up to three storeys high. In the interests of creating a "soft edge", BPC would expect that buildings on the extremity of the development should not be more than two storeys high.

Crest have committed to retaining the best trees within the development area, but a large number will be removed. BPC believes that Crest should commit to provide one additional tree for every one that is felled. This would help to support the ethos of garden village.

Demolition

It is proposed that the water tower will be demolished. Do you agree with this? I do, but have your say.

Langley House is also proposed for demolition. For many years this red brick building has been allowed to decay, languishing behind a barbed wire fence along Langley Common Road. I think this could be renovated as housing and that it could become a local landmark. Do you agree? Again, have your say.

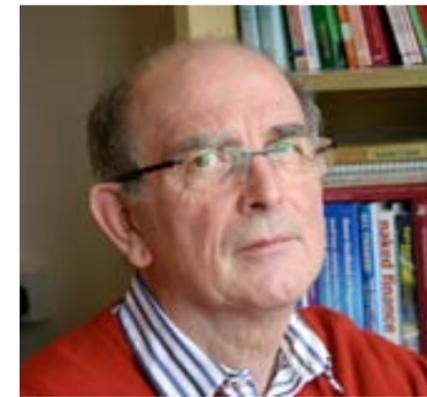
Consultation

As I said earlier, it is important that local residents should comment on the proposals. A list of issues and details of how to comment will be posted on the BVRA

website www.barkham.org.uk/index.php/development-watch. This may have happened by the time you read this newsletter – an email alert will be sent to the Development Watch mailing list (please see BVRA website for details of how to join the list). The consultation period ends on 5th December 2014, emails should be sent to development.control@wokingham.gov.uk. Do note that you must specify the development on which you wish to comment – this means you may have to send two responses if you wish to comment on both of them.

The development will have a big impact on the local community, particularly in terms of transport and the character of the area. Whether we like it or not, it will go ahead, but it is not too late to influence important aspects of the plans.

Laurence Heath
Vice Chairman
Barkham Parish Council



Shaping your neighbourhood

Is there something missing in Barkham or Arborfield that would make your life better? Perhaps you would like new footpaths or bridleways, extra facilities for children and teenagers, or simply more opportunities for leisure?

If so, where should they be and what would they look like? Now is the time to make your views known because they could then form part of the Arborfield & Newland and Barkham Neighbourhood Plan.

For every one person's good idea and ideal location for facilities, there will be others who disagree. But that's no reason for not investigating opportunities. It's the reason that Barkham Parish Council has been pondering ideas on sports provision, rumours of which seem to have alarmed some people and pleased others.

The good news is that any policies adopted in a Neighbourhood Plan that can then lead to new facilities, have to go through a rigorous development procedure and can only be adopted following a referendum of all residents. In other words we will all have the right to vote yes or no!

An adopted plan will carry considerable weight in terms of planning in the area when adopted, but the legislation makes clear that the policies in a plan have to be positive. So this isn't a charter for preventing development.

The Green Ways and Transport groups have already made considerable progress. Some of the issues raised about transport, for instance, can't be solved by a Neighbourhood Plan, but can be taken up with Wokingham Borough Council, or inform comments on the Arborfield Garrison and Hogwood planning applications (see elsewhere in this issue). So this is an excellent way for residents to play a real part in shaping our neighbourhoods for our own and future generations.

All the working groups are looking for volunteers. We will shortly be giving details on the Parish websites of the regular public meetings of the Steering Group and details of the Working Groups and how to join them. The groups are: Transport; Green Ways; Community Amenities; Heritage; Education and Employment.

Ken Lane
Chairman, Neighbourhood
Plan Steering Group
Barkham Parish Councillor

For more information or to join a group please contact
Judith Neuhofer
clerk@barkham-parishcouncil.org.uk
979 0296

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.

Naomi Agius

Quiz answers

1. Five (or five)
2. Bill Rodgers
3. 10
4. Hexagon (6)+Pentagon(5)- Octagon(8) = 3
5. Pluto
6. Wrath, greed, sloth, pride, lust, envy, and gluttony
7. They all achieved No1 in the UK Charts but are all "One Hit Wonders"
8. 2
9. The Six-Day War
10. 8



Social Matters

up warm, bring your torches (we will supply the carol sheets) and some money for the bucket collection in aid of the musicians who give up their time to accompany us. During the singing we will process up to the top of The Junipers where the mulled wine, warm blackcurrant and mince pies will be available before we resume the singing.

The first event of 2015 will be a family skittles evening on Saturday 14th March, with a ploughman's supper included in the price. The tickets will be £5.00 for children still at primary school and £8.50 for others. We will do a 'family' ticket of 2 primary school children plus 2 others for £25.00 – please either email or ring me (details on page 3) to book. As this is usually a popular event please put it in your diary / calendar NOW. If you could arrange teams of six that would be fine but we can usually make them for you as we have couples who often come on their own.

We are still looking for any ideas that you would like your social committee to consider and arrange. Unfortunately over the past few years we have had to cancel a couple of events due to lack of support. Time and effort goes into making the arrangements and it is very dejecting to us all when things do not go ahead. Other villages in the area are able to put on similar events so why can't we?

In the meantime, may the social committee wish you a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year and we look forward to seeing you in the future.

Judith Collins

It does not seem all that long ago that I was writing the report for the last newsletter and once again the shops are stocked with Christmas items and the children have only just started their half term holiday.

After a dry September, it appears that October has had more than its fair share of rain to compensate. Now that the clocks have gone back, many of us have mowed the lawn for the last time, planted the bulbs (hoping that the squirrels will not remove them later), put away all our gardening implements and are now on the countdown to the festive season.

Where does the time go? It only feels like yesterday that your committee were arranging last winter's events. By the time this reaches you we will have had the quiz evening and therefore I hope to have the write-up in the next edition.

We are in the process of arranging the Carols in the Park which, this year, will be held on Friday 19th December. Once again we will be accompanied by "Breakaway Brass" and will assemble at the junction of The Woodlands and The Junipers to commence singing at 7.00 pm. We often get up to 100 residents turn out for this free event, but for those of you that have not been before please wrap



Christmas at St James' Barkham

I was very struck by a line in a song about Christmas that I came across recently. It went, 'And I do believe in angels, but not the kind that do not scare you.' I don't know much about the artist Miriam Jones but she has certainly cottoned on to something in the gospels' accounts of the events leading up to the birth of Jesus. That is, whenever people meet angels their instinctive reaction is one of fear. Mary is 'greatly troubled' and the shepherds are 'terrified'. A little different from our school nativity images of little girls dressed in white with tinsel in their hair!

The way people respond to angels is a reminder that for people like us to encounter the living God even via a messenger is no small matter. And the Bible is consistent on that point. Psalm 24 asks the question, 'Who may ascend the hill of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart.' Which of us could genuinely claim that for ourselves?

Yet if we look again at these encounters with angels, we see that they have something else in common. As people quake before these heavenly messengers, the next words they all hear are, "Do not be afraid" and this leads into God's message

to us at Christmas. The God before whom we are not worthy to stand on our own, has come into the world to do what we cannot do. "I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people" the angel announces to the shepherds. "Today in the town of David, a Saviour has been born to you: he is Christ the Lord."

This Christmas at Barkham, we will be hearing and celebrating that good news all over again and we warmly invite you to join us for one of our Christmas services.

Julian Bidgood
Minister of Barkham

Christmas Services

Carols by Candlelight
21 Dec @ 7pm

Children's Carols
24 Dec @ 4pm

Midnight Carols
24 Dec @ 11.30pm

Christmas Day
25 Dec @ 10am

Arborfield Local History Society

In October we welcomed back an old friend, Paul Stacey to speak at our monthly meeting. He clearly enjoys his chosen subject of Thames Valley Buses in the 60s which he has thoroughly researched and we were entertained by his knowledge and photos of the 60s which gave us glimpses of Wokingham, Reading and Bracknell in that era.

In November the subject of our meeting was "Family History and Genealogy" introduced by Jameson Wooders. Jameson explained about the various sources available for tracing our ancestors, from the widely used websites back to much older hearth tax records, probate records, hand written parish records, and many others. It was fascinating to discover new avenues of research into personal family history.

By the time you read this in December, we will probably have already enjoyed our society's Christmas celebrations at Bearwood Lakes Golf Club. If it is anything like the previous Christmas events held there, then the surroundings will have been comfortable, seasonal and delightful and everyone will have had their fill of tasty food and enjoyed a really good evening.

Now on to 2015.....The January meeting is entitled "The GWR comes to the Thames Valley" introduced by John Chapman and in February we will be entertained with "Berkshire Folk Tales" presented by David England. Details of meetings and dates can always be found on our website or on the Village Hall notice board.

The Arborfield and Newland W.I. celebrated their 95th Birthday in

November and so "CONGRATULATIONS" are in order. This special event reminded me of the "Book on History, Stories and Customs of the Parish of Arborfield and the Liberty of Newland 1922", which was compiled for the W.I. by Beatrice Simonds. This document is invaluable reading for those who really want to know about the parish of Arborfield and Newland (and it can be found on our website). Sufficient to say that the Simonds family played an important role locally and that many of them lived at Newlands House which was situated east of the B3030 Sindlesham Road (grid. ref. SU76891 68058).

Whilst searching old newspaper articles, I came across this from the Berkshire Chronicle dated 31.7.1830:

"Lost, on Tuesday last, from Newlands, in the parish of Hurst, - A fine LIVER-COLOUR and WHITE POINTER DOG, with rather a Tan Muzzle, - answers to the name of "CARLOW", had on a steel chain and collar, engraved "J. SIMONDS, Newlands." - If stolen, a reward of FIVE POUNDS will be given upon the conviction of the offenders; if strayed, any person bringing it to Mr. JOHN SIMONDS, Newlands, shall be handsomely rewarded. - Any person detaining him after this notice, will be prosecuted."

The concerned Mr. John Simonds mentioned, was the grandfather of Beatrice Simonds (1807-1876).

More about the Simonds family another time perhaps?

Ray Hill

www.arborfieldhistory.org.uk



find when the number is in small numerals on a front door 50 yards down a drive. All the emergency services have the same problem as well as Royal Mail and other delivery services.

Ideally we need a national system of house numbering. House owners could still use a name as well if they wished. A house number is permanent and with the post code uniquely identifies that property. If you agree with this argument, I urge you to contact your local councillor or MP.

In the meantime, if your house has a number or name, make sure it is plain to see by someone in a moving vehicle approaching from either direction. Large clear numerals are best. If your house is set well back, fix the number to the front gate or the fence – anywhere it can be seen easily and quickly.

If you do have to call an ambulance, open gates and leave lights on. Ideally, leave someone at the front to flag us down. If it is safe to do so, leave the front door ajar if you have to stay with the patient. If your property is protected by a coded barrier or gate, it would help if it could be left open, or the barrier left up. Alternatively have someone waiting at the entrance to let us in. It all saves time.

If you do have need to call 999 for an ambulance, a First Responder may well be dispatched and be at your property within a few minutes, so you may well have to act quickly.

Don't let your number be up for the sake of a house name! Support the call for a National House Numbering Scheme

Ted Hodby

Community First Responder calls for a National House Numbering Scheme

Missing numbers put lives at risk

I live in Barkham and work as a volunteer Community First Responder in the Wokingham area with South Central Ambulance Service. My job is to get to an emergency quickly to treat the patient until the professionals arrive. All I have to go on is a text message with the address and postcode. All too often there is just a house name and a postcode which covers a group of houses.

Three times recently in the small hours, an ambulance crew and I have wasted precious time scouring both sides of a road to find a house with no number where as far as we knew, someone could have been dying. Without a number, there is no knowing whether you are moving towards the emergency or away from it. With heart attacks and strokes, fast treatment is crucial. The minutes we waste looking for houses can make the difference between full recovery and permanent disability or even death.

Even when we have a house number, addresses are not easy to

Secondary glazing, not second best

If your single glazed windows are characterful and perfectly serviceable then adding secondary glazing might be a better option than replacement. Secondary glazing has numerous benefits:

- Reduces draughts, condensation, and heat loss through windows (by up to 63%)
- Sound insulation can be better than double glazing (if panes are 10cm or more apart)
- Outward appearance of windows unchanged, home security may be enhanced

Secondary glazing can be temporary or integrated more permanently. Temporary DIY options include lightweight acrylic panes mounted using magnetic strips. Plastic films that can be stuck to the window pane or frame are lower cost options.

Integrated options include heavier glazed units which can be hinged or sliding, allowing you to open your windows. At the top end, custom made timber frame units and those highly rated by the BFRC2 will be more durable and their airtight seals will further reduce heat losses. For the best visual match, align the glazing bars with those on the original window.

Existing windows should be repaired first when fitting secondary glazing and all units should remain closed in winter to discourage condensation on the primary window pane. For more tips on making an older home more energy efficient, visit www.superhomes.org.uk



We are looking forward to this year's Afternoon Christmas Concert on Saturday 13th December at St John the Baptist Church in Crowthorne. This family concert starts at 4.30pm and as usual will include seasonal music and carols with audience participation. There is an added attraction this



year as we are delighted to have guitarist Manus Noble to join us as soloist in the popular and very beautiful Concerto de Aranjuez by Rodrigo, a piece which makes a regular appearance in the Classic FM 'Hall of Fame'. Manus has been described as one of the most exciting and innovative of today's generation of young guitarists and as well as winning many prestigious awards for his performances, he has given recitals throughout the UK and abroad. So put the date in your diary and bring all the family – young and old!

Tickets for the concert are available online and from Traveltime in Crowthorne High Street. They cost £10 in advance (£12 on the night) with free entry for children of 16 and under.

Rehearsals will resume in January at Oaklands Junior School in Butler Road Crowthorne on Monday evenings 7.45-10.00 pm. We will be working on the programme for our Spring Concert which is on Saturday 18th April at The Old Gym, Wellington College. The concert will include Sibelius

Valse Triste, Mahler Kindertotenlieder (Soloist: Richard Bannan) and Sibelius Symphony No 5. If you are interested in joining the orchestra, see our website or contact Ruth on 972 2164 – competent string players are always welcome and there may be vacancies for other instruments.

www.crowthorneorchestra.com

Chris Gadsby



Trinity Concert Band



Christmas Concert

The Christmas Concert will take place on Saturday 13th December 2014 at 7:30pm, in Bearwood College Theatre, Sindlesham.

A favourite with both our band members and audience alike, our Christmas spectacular promises to be a real cracker! The programme will include the theme music from "Jurassic Park" and the Disney Cartoon "Frozen". We'll also be performing a festive feast of music including "Midnight Sleigh Ride", a touch of jazz with a Glenn Miller selection, "In The Christmas Mood", "Festival Fanfare for Xmas", "Jingle Bells" plus many more and there will also be an opportunity for you to join in with our audience carols.

Theresa Jones will be performing a fabulous alto saxophone solo of Phil Collins' "Against All Odds".

Tickets are £10 up to 24 hours before the concert and £12 on the door. Children under 16 years are free when accompanied by a paying member of the audience. Tickets can be purchased from the Box Office (0845 2263047) or via our website (www.trinityband.co.uk)



member for Barkham holding the portfolio of executive member for highways and planning I will work to ensure the delivery and quality of the development will meet and where possible exceed the best possible standards.

This will mean close engagement with residents, developers and officers of the council.

The decision in principle to develop the garrison and surrounding land was made many years ago and there was always the question would the army actually move as it had been mooted many times over the last 20 to 30 years, well I think we all have the answer now and working with the developers is the best way to ensure what is delivered is of good quality and the infrastructure provided brings improvements to not only new resident but all existing people living around the development.

Remember last year around this time the first application was submitted and was subsequently withdrawn by the applicant at the request of the council because of it did not reach the standards expected and it has taken almost 12 months of additional work before its resubmission in October.

Both the applications have now been validated which basically means that the council has accepted the necessary documents to assess the application. This is in no way an agreement or approval of the application but now the clock starts to tick and the officers have until end March 2015 in which to negotiate and work with developer's to ensure the application meets all the planning guidance and conforms with the core strategy and the council management delivery plan. These applications

will be considered by the councils full and public planning committee before end of April 2015 with a recommendation, and the committee will then approve or refuse these based on the evidence placed before them.

Win some lose some In the past I have spoken about the council having a local plan (Core Strategy) with its allocated development sites and the fact it was inspected in public and found to be sound. Why have a plan? Well, some years ago housing numbers were handed down via something called the southeast plan whereby councils in the southeast had to comply with the housing numbers set out and identify land to enable the land to be developed for these in their areas. This was scrapped some years ago which on the face meant local councils could choose their own numbers. However, as part of this process, the government now requires that locally identified housing numbers are based upon evidence of housing need and that councils such as Wokingham Borough Council produce a local plan to justify these numbers and to identify land for this housing. The government made it clear failure to have a plan would in most cases result in the granting of permission to developers on appeal for unplanned development, and Wokingham therefore decided to produce such a local plan. The council's local plan identifies a number of Strategic Development Locations within the borough which not only provided 13000 homes for local people but also all the necessary infrastructure including schools and roads by 2026. In the main this has worked in the favour of the borough and residents by stopping unsuitable development in back gardens and the like, and the has council has

defended a number of refusals of this unplanned and unsuitable development at appeal.

The council is required to have 5 years of housing land supply going forward. In most cases, we have been able to prove this is the case but here's the rub, even though the council have granted permissions for housing, if the builder cannot deliver or is unlikely to bring forward the development for one reason or another in a timely fashion, these housing units with planning permission must come out of the 5 year land supply number. So in essence the land supply number is a constantly moving number and as such, it is challenged at most appeals as a justification for allowing an unplanned development which has been previously refused by the council.

In most cases we win this argument but on occasion we lose and we have just lost an appeal in Barkham as it was proved by the developers legal team we had a very small shortfall at the time of the appeal and as such the housing got permission. Remember this application would have been refused by the council at a public planning committee by elected members or by officer following guidelines as agreed by members using delegated powers, only to get to appeal to be overturned on a technicality by a government inspector. I guess while this is the case it will always be a bit of a lottery, my feelings are clear that this is very unsatisfactory when a council follows all the rules only to have its position overturned by an unelected government official. I have made my views clear both to our MPs and at a Westminster committee hearing and these views were supported by representatives from other councils

from around the country who were in attendance at the hearing.

Hopefully the minister will listen to our pleas and will urge inspectors to support councils who aspire to sustainable development with local plans in place. Until then, the council will continue the fight to ensure the homes delivered in the borough are sustainable and in the right locations.

I would like to wish all who live in Barkham a very merry Christmas and a very happy New Year and don't forget you can contact me on any issues relating to Barkham or Wokingham Borough Council

John Kaiser
Councillor for Barkham
Wokingham Borough Council
Email: john.kaiser@wokingham.gov.uk
Telephone: 0118 9762116
Mobile 0771 419 2352

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

Further information can be obtained from the parish council web site with photographs of the hall plus a calendar with availability. Please contact Judith Neuhofer on 979 0296 or email clerk@barkham-parishcouncil.org.uk

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Please indulge me in a bit of reminiscing... I started as a Trainee Adviser at Rushmoor CAB in 2002 and, as I was out of work at the time, volunteered 2.5 days a week. There were usually around 4 Advisers on duty and we did not have appointments. We saw whoever arrived in the order they told us they came in.

My first solo interview was in January 2003, in the Aldershot Bureau. It was very cold outside with a light dusting of snow. The client was a young lad who was sleeping rough outside, wherever he could find a sheltered spot. His entire worldly possessions were a tatty sleeping bag and whatever was in his rucksack. He told me that the weather was getting to him and he asked for help to try and find somewhere warm to stay at night.

It was not advice he needed (although that would follow) but immediate practical help. It took the best part of that session to find him a place at a local hostel and off he went. That was almost 12 years ago and the same thing is still happening in Wokingham! Except there is no hostel and unless we can convince the Local Authority that there is a priority need (which we are finding very difficult to do) the rough sleepers in Wokingham stay on the streets.

This was when I learned first-hand the actual effect of homelessness on people. The relatively large number of recent clients we have had who are homeless has brought this all back to me and I realize that very little has been done to improve the plight of...

Wokingham Choral Society

We have a Family Christmas concert on Saturday 13 December. It will be at the Sindlesham Masonic Centre at 6.30pm. Tickets are £10.00 (£5 under 18s and students). Details can be found on www.wokingham-choral-society.org.uk. It will be a great start to the festive season!

Alison Sears

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...homeless people in our society. Anecdotal evidence in conjunction with our own data indicates that there are certainly in the region of 50 rough sleepers in and around Wokingham – many of them young people. This is where I think it is important for the CAB to make a stand. We will not accept anything but the best effort from everyone involved in homelessness and housing. We will robustly challenge anything we see that we think needs changing or improving. We will do everything we can to raise awareness of this problem and that things are done.

Many thanks.

John Ferguson
CEO Wokingham CAB.

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

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

9-Dec-14	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
10-Dec-14	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
14-Dec-14	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
19-Dec-14	BVRA Carols in the Park	Junipers	7pm
7-Jan-15	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
13-Jan-15	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
13-Jan-15	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
14-Jan-15	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
24-Jan-15	Refuse Lorry	Junipers	8-11am
26-Jan-15	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	7.30pm
27-Jan-15	Parish Council Planning Review	BVH	7.30pm
4-Feb-15	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
10-Feb-15	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
10-Feb-15	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
11-Feb-15	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
20-Feb-15	Copy deadline for Spring Newsletter		
23-Feb-15	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	7.30pm
24-Feb-15	Parish Council Planning Review	BVH	7.30pm
28-Feb-15	Refuse Lorry	Junipers	8-11am
4-Mar-15	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
10-Mar-15	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
10-Mar-15	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
11-Mar-15	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
14-Mar-15	BVRA Skittles Evening	BVH	7.30pm
23-Mar-15	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	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

AVH is Arborfield Village Hall
CRH is California Ratepayers Hall

BVH is Barkham Village Hall
FMH is Finchampstead Memorial Hall

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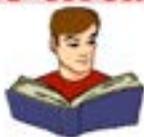
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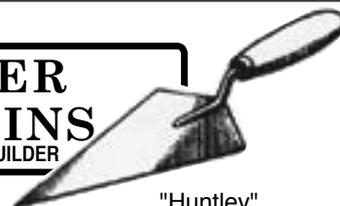
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