



£1, free to Members

Barkham Newsletter

Issue 114 Winter 2015

from the Barkham Village Residents Association

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



Carols in the Park

Friday 18 December 7pm



The Junipers



Family Skittles Evening Saturday 5 March

See Social Event details on p9

Could you be our new Social Secretary?

See page 2 for details

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BVRA Social Secretary Vacancy

As mentioned in the autumn newsletter, our Social Secretary Judith Collins is planning to move out of the parish and we need a volunteer to replace her. Judith and the rest of the Social Committee have organised the various regular social events we hold each year, such as the quiz and the Easter Egg Hunt.

Please consider volunteering to take on this important and interesting role on behalf of the Barkham community. It's a great opportunity to contribute to and be part of the social life of the village. Judith will be happy to provide more details as to what the role entails and to support the new Social Secretary as they "learn the ropes".

Alternatively, if you would like to help but do not feel able to take on the leading role, the Social Committee is always looking for new members and ideas for events so please consider helping by joining the committee.

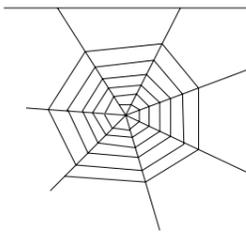
Judith's contact details can be found on the facing page.

The Quiz

A "Famous Firsts" theme this time. Some may be more famous than others!

1. Who wrote "First Among Equals"?
2. The film "First Blood" introduced which (in)famous action hero who then also appeared in several sequels?
3. "The first time ever I saw your face" has been recorded many times, but who had a worldwide hit with it in 1972? If you're really clever, for a bonus point, who wrote it?
4. Who was the first man to break the 4 minute barrier for the mile and in what year did he do it?
5. Where is Tranquillity Base and what happened there?
6. Who, in 1875, was the first man to swim the English Channel?
7. What is Vaughan Williams's first symphony called?
8. Which footballer was the first man to score 50 goals for England?
9. Who carried out the first heart transplant and in what year?
10. And finally (apologies in advance!) when might you find 70s heartthrob David Cassidy in a Conference?

Answers on page 19



Barkham web site

We are constantly looking for ways to improve our website www.barkham.org.uk 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

Barkham Village Hall

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

From as little as £22/hr for both halls. £25/hr after 6.00 p.m. on Saturday.

Can accommodate 175 guests and now has a new fully equipped kitchen. Plus with the benefit of Lottery Funding a new ceiling and lighting have been installed which can be fully dimmable for evening celebrations.

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

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

BVRA 2014/15 GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Editorial

Welcome to the winter edition of the Barkham Newsletter!

This is a good time to look back on the year. BVRA membership reached another all-time high of 687 households.

2015 was another successful year for the Newsletter. 20 pages is now the usual size.. 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

Advertising and Newsletter Contributions

Newsletter articles / contributions for the Spring edition should be in by 19 February 2016. 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.

pictures of recent ones. As you see elsewhere in the newsletter, Judith will be leaving Barkham so please consider volunteering to take on her role as Social secretary.

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 numbers 1-10, Time, Royals and Australia. 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!

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!

Finally, I've just realised this is my 38th edition as editor, which equals the record of my predecessor, Paul Steel. I have no immediate plans to "retire" from the role but if anyone fancies taking over (or just helping out) I'll listen to offers! New blood and fresh ideas are always welcome.

Stewart Richardson
Editor



News from Your Parish Council

Keep up to date with all the local news and information at our website.

Arborfield Garrison SDL Update

Crest Nicholson have now submitted a Reserved Matters (the detail of the design) application to Wokingham Borough Council for the first parcel of land to be developed. This will be for 113 dwellings with access from Biggs Lane and Princess Marina Drive overlooking the lake. The Parish Council expressed their concerns over the design of the properties which were bland and not what we expected to see on this prestigious site. We are delighted to inform you that Crest have listened to our concerns and made substantial revisions to the architectural style. We want to ensure that Barkham remains a pleasant place to live for us all. This development will eventually be a very significant part of our Parish. There are still areas that require discussion such as an improved bus service and the greenways, paths within the development must link into the wider area, especially with the new secondary school being located within our Parish, it is vital our children can access the school safely.

See more detailed report from Laurence Heath on page 6.

Basketball Hoop

We are delighted to inform you that the funding has been allocated and the order placed, the hoop should be installed in the next few weeks, weather permitting, as the installation will require an area of tarmac to be laid in order that the ball can be bounced, the ground will need to be relatively dry for the construction vehicles to access the park.

In Memory of Frank Postlethwaite

Many of you will remember Frank as a very active member of the Parish Council. The Parish Council is delighted that the bench in his memory has now been erected in the Park. Do sit on it and enjoy the view. Frank was instrumental in providing the play equipment for the older children and this seemed to be a fitting reminder of his commitment to Barkham.

Proposed new footpaths

The Parish Council is considering a project to alter the existing footpath in Bearwood Road so that it would extend from Hayes Lane to Coombes Lane, where currently there is only an obstructed grass verge. This would link two well used public rights of ways and would enable adjacent residents to walk safely, without having to cross the busy Bearwood Road twice to use the footpath on the opposite side. The Parish Council is also considering a project to extend the current footpath in Barkham Street on the east side so that it links in from the bus stop to Church Lane, where currently there is an overgrown grass verge. This would benefit both vehicle

and pedestrian users of this busy road by:

- Improving the sight lines of vehicles accessing Barkham Street from Church Lane
- Improving pedestrian safety as the current pathway (west side) requires pedestrians to cross on a blind bend to access the Parish Church, Village Hall and adjacent public footpaths (BA7, BA8).

There is only sufficient space for a new 1.5 metre wide pathway to be built on the east side but this still represents a much safer alternative than no pathway at all. Funding would be sought from money contributed by the developers of new properties in the Borough through the Community Infrastructure Levy and not from your Council Tax or Parish Precept. This money is specifically for local infrastructure improvements and the Parish Council believes that this footpath extension would be such an improvement.

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 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. These will make an ideal Christmas present.

Judith Neuhofer
Clerk to Barkham
Parish Council



Does God 'like' us?

There's no question we should be grateful for the internet and the blessings it brings. So much useful information just a few clicks of a mouse away! So many ways to stay in touch!

But there's no question the internet has its troubling side too. Like anything good, it can so easily be misused. Just ask any school about the work they have to do to promote e-safety and tackle cyber-bullying...

So I wonder how you feel about one new app that's been in the news. What Trip Advisor allows you to do for

restaurants and holiday destinations, 'People' will allow you to do for people you meet. Imagine the power of being able to give star ratings to your friends, your colleagues, parents you meet in the school playground, your exes – anyone, in fact!

And imagine the potential harm. In a world where some are already so anxious about how many 'likes' or 'friends' they have on Facebook, it's not hard to imagine the distress something like People could cause? Who wants to receive one star out of five? Or even four stars from someone they thought would give them five? And imagine the crushing disappointment some will feel when they discover no-one bothers to rate them at all.

The approach of Christmas reminds us that God speaks to our insecurities in a very profound and unexpected way.

In our more honest moments most of us know we don't even measure up to our own standards, let's alone

his. Think of some of the things about you you're so glad no-one else knows. He says he knows them all. Imagine he was asked to give a star rating for how we have treated others, and especially for the way we've treated him.

But just when we're expecting to hear that God wants nothing more to do with us, we find Jesus explaining what was going on at the first Christmas by speaking the best words we could ever hope to hear: 'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have everlasting life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.'

It won't just be tradition that brings us together at Barkham Church this Christmas to sing carols and hear readings that remind us how Jesus came. It will also be the opportunity to remember and rejoice in a love beyond our wildest dreams. We warmly invite you to join us as we do.

Christmas Services at St James' Barkham

Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 20 Dec @ 7pm

Children's Carols

Thursday 24 Dec @ 4pm

Midnight Carols

Thursday 24 Dec @ 11.30pm

Christmas Day

Friday 25 Dec @ 10am



Christmas Willow Workshop

Saturday 12 December

2.30-5pm

Barkham Village Hall

Tickets £10

(pre-booking is essential)

Make a Christmas willow wreath or centrepiece, and indulge in Christmas Crafts

The afternoon will include:

- ◆ All materials needed
- ◆ Refreshments
- ◆ A short Christian talk

office@abch.org.uk
for tickets and information



Garrison Update

The Garrison is rapidly ceasing to be a garrison. After more than 100 years, the military are now vacating the site. Most of the personnel have now moved to their new facilities at Lyneham in Wiltshire, with just a small number remaining carrying out various closing down duties. Meanwhile demolition of some buildings has already commenced and it is intended to start construction of the first phase early next year.

Designs of the first phase

In the previous edition of the Newsletter, you may recall that the parish council were very disappointed with the architectural style of the proposed buildings that had been submitted by Crest Nicholson. As a result we requested a meeting with them to discuss how the plans could be approved. To give Crest their due, they did indeed respond and a meeting was duly set up. To our surprise, when the meeting took place, Crest's architects had taken on board our comments and had prepared some new designs. In particular, the new designs incorporated more gables, considerably reduced the amount of weather boarding. The new designs also pay more attention to detailing, which should have the benefit of making the larger buildings less ponderous. I would not suggest that Crest did everything that we sought, but certainly the revisions are a vast improvement

on the original plans (see opposite for illustration).

Planning Committee

By the time you read this, the planning application for the new school will have been considered by WBC's planning committee at a meeting in mid November. At the time of writing I do not know for sure the decision, but I anticipate that it will be approved.

There are still a few matters that I feel can be improved. A particular concern is the intention to fell some large willows next to the lake. While considerable replanting is proposed, it will take many years before these new trees reach maturity. A slight adjustment to the location of a proposed apartment block might create a better solution. The location in question will be very visible so it is in everyone's interests - not least Crest's - to get this right.

Also we really want Crest and WBC between them to double check the drainage scheme. Biggs Lane has endured serious flooding in recent years so this has to be right. We are told that the flood modelling suggest that the proposed scheme will be satisfactory and will meet the statutory standards. Plenty of examples have emerged, unfortunately, where regulations have turned out to be not quite what they seem. There has to be as much certainty as possible, as it will be expensive to rectify shortcomings after the site has been constructed.

Contractors' vehicles

With building work beginning soon on the first phase of works and with the new secondary school being built at the same time, there will be a huge increase

in HGVs delivering materials in the area. It has been agreed with the contractors that HGVs must access the site via designated routes - essentially using the A327 from the north or south. This should mean that this traffic does not use Barkham's roads.

Secondary School

The land for the new secondary school has been handed over to Wokingham Borough Council. Ground works have begun, but almost inevitably the construction programme has begun to fall behind schedule. As a consequence it has been decided to make use of some adjacent ex REME buildings which are close by, specifically the gym and a fairly modern educational building which includes a lecture hall and class rooms. Some minor works on these buildings is being carried out to make them suitable for use by the school. The gym itself is of a very high specification and is far superior to what would normally have been built for a school. My biggest surprise is that this was not proposed as a solution in the first place.

It is possibly old news now, but Wokingham Borough Council selected the Bohunt Education Trust to manage the new secondary school. They run a school at Liphook in Hampshire and are in the process of opening a new school at Worthing for this academic year. By all accounts, Bohunt are a forward looking organisation so I would expect some innovative approaches. A number of open evenings were held for parents in October. You may have seen the Liphook school in a recent television series featuring an experiment with using Chinese teachers teaching with Chinese methods - as far as I am

aware, Bohunt are not planning to use Chinese methods on a permanent basis!

Future plans

More planning applications will be submitted in the new year. These will include important infrastructure improvements including the Arborfield relief road and the Nine Mile Ride extension (which will link the western end of Nine Mile Ride to the A327, taking a curved route through the centre of the site).

Plans will also be submitted for the open spaces known in planning parlance as SANGS (Suitable Accessible Natural Green Space). This will be in an area on the east side of the site, adjacent to Commonfield Lane and Park Lane.

Name of the community

A new marketing name for the development was proposed by Crest. This received a fairly tepid response and so they have decided to carry out a more widespread consultation, which is something the parish council had sought (and had expected in the first place). The consultation will be in two parts, the first to seek suggestions and the second to gauge support for a short list to be put together by Crest. It is intended that the new name will be used initially for marketing purposes, so I imagine that Crest will assess the results "Strictly" style by combining the public response with the scores of the own marketing people. However it will be good if a name is finally chosen that has wide public acceptance.

Laurence Heath
Vice Chairman
Barkham Parish Council





Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA)

All Local Authorities are required by central government to produce a SHMA in order to assess the future need for housing in the local area and then to set their housing target through their Local Plan (produced through engagement with residents and co-operation with other local authorities). The SHMA is a highly technical document that objectively produces a figure for housing need, which is broadly indicative of potential housing numbers we may need to provide for. The council will consult and engage in public as widely as possible when it comes to the production of the council's new Local Plan.

This is the first step in the process to protect the long-term prosperity and popularity of Wokingham borough for residents and businesses with the publication of a Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA), which has been produced in partnership with the five other Berkshire authorities and the Thames Valley Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership.

We now live in a world where the support for development by government has accelerated and failure by the council to try to control development will end up in tears; Wokingham will just become just another urban

sprawl with inadequate infrastructure and the disaster that will bring.

I am sure residents will agree we have got to the point where there are many parts of our borough which physically cannot accept any more houses due to infrastructure constraints, although developers will tell you a different story, so numbers apart, delivery in the right locations is key to protect both existing new and residents.

The SHMA is a dry, technical document but it is directly linked to those winning ingredients because it gives us the foundation stone on which to build long-term plans for Wokingham. From the SHMA, the council will be able to agree housing numbers with its neighbouring authorities and from those figures each of the Berkshire authorities will be able to plan where the new homes go and what schools, roads, health facilities, parks, play areas, sports and community facilities and nature reserves are needed to maintain a high quality of life.

Wokingham Borough is a great success story – we have excellent schools, more and more parks play areas and nature reserves, a thriving economy and extremely low-crime rates. Businesses want to do business here and people want to live here - and those are the winning ingredients the borough needs to retain. That said we are victims of our own success as so many people want to live and work here for the reason I have stated and to ensure Wokingham stays that way, development in the right place with the right infrastructure is essential to secure this objective

The Council in 2010 allocated four large Strategic Development Locations (SDL), which are designed to 'consume their own smoke' in terms of providing the infrastructure needed, including a substantial road building programme and new schools, to ensure the new housing is sustainable. This will continue to be the council's approach rather than allow the small back garden developments which produce very little in the way of infrastructure and takes away the green spaces in urban and semi-urban areas around the borough

Due to the economic growth, more homes are coming to the borough – and that they will come regardless of whether we carry out a SHMA, Local Plan or anything else. But, by producing a SHMA and then a robust Local Plan we can retain control over where homes go and how they are planned and to make sure we maximise benefits for existing residents – the alternative is a developers' free-for-all where we get housing everywhere and anywhere but not the infrastructure needed.

The way Wokingham will accommodate its future homes will be set out in a new Local Plan and there will be significant consultation and engagement with residents before this is produced. With the numbers of homes with planning permission on the Strategic Development Locations coming forward and the fact the new SHMA will wipe away any deficit in the current housing numbers we should be able to clearly demonstrate a robust 5 year land supply for additional homes in the borough which will allow the council to defend against unsuitable and unsustainable development at appeal

but this will depend on having a SHMA plan which takes us to 2035.

The task which now faces the council once the numbers are finalised is to agree where these new homes need to be located and we must ensure the council gets this right to protect the quality of life for all of us who live in Wokingham.

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

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War horses update

In the autumn newsletter, Janet Firth wrote a very interesting article on the life of the "war horses" at the Garrison. She included a poem about the horses that she had found in a recent book. However she has since discovered some errors in that version and has been able to research the correct original which we show opposite. Janet also includes her photo of the recently dedicated statue of a war horse and his handler, set up in The Parks, Romsey which was another Remount Depot. The gardens were created on the rubble of the Depot after it was demolished. The statue is of bronze resin and was created by a local craftswoman. Should something similar be erected to commemorate "our" war horses?

The Remount Train (1915)

by William Henry Ogilvie
1869 – 1963

*Every head across the bar,
Every blaze and snip and star,
Every nervous twitching ear,
Every soft eye filled with fear,
Seeks a friend and seems to say:
'Whither now, and where away?'
Seeks a friend and seems to ask:
'Where the goal
and what the task?'*

*Wave the green flag! Let them go! -
Only horses? Yes I know;
But my heart goes down the line
With them, and their grief is mine! -
There goes honour, there goes faith,
Down the way of duel and death,
Hidden in the cloud that clings
To the battle-wrath of kings!*

*There goes timid childlike trust
To the burden and the dust!
High born courage, princely grace
To the peril it must face!
There goes stoutness,
strength, and speed
To be spent where none shall heed,
And great hearts to face their fate
In the clash of human hate!*

*Wave the flag, and let them go! -
Hats off to that wistful row
Of lean heads of brown and bay,
Black and chestnut, roan and grey!
Here's to good luck in lands afar -
Snow-white streak,
and blaze, and star!
May you find in those far lands
Kindly hearts
and horseman's hands!*



Social Matters

Now that the clocks have gone back we can realise that winter is nearly here and let's hope it will not be too snowy this year. I don't want to tempt fate by looking back at the pictures that were taken when we had the very heavy snowfalls a few years ago - they do look pretty but with so many hills around journeys can become treacherous.

In October we arranged a belated summer dance – renamed the Barkham Bop and although there were not that many people attending, those that did certainly had a good time. The duet was excellent and kept us on our feet with a varying selection of music and the supper which the committee had laid on was enjoyed by all. Unfortunately it was not until I got home that I realised that we had not taken any photographs.

As Halloween fell on a Saturday this year we decided to hold a Halloween party for the children so that the parents would not have to take them out in the evening. As we found out later it was the final of the Rugby World Cup. However the children had a good time decorating cakes and biscuits, apple bobbing, making spiders and other games. The one they seemed to enjoy the most was skittles – knocking down partially filled tonic bottles with a small pumpkin. This time we did take photos!

In November we held another quiz evening and obviously this is a very popular event as all the tables were sold before the end of October. I am grateful to the quizmaster and his wife for setting the questions and giving up their time to journey here from Portland.

The Carols in the Park will be on Friday 18th December starting at 7pm at the junction of The Junipers and The Woodlands. Please don't forget to bring your torches as well as your singing voices – carol sheets will be provided and there will be a bucket collection for the musicians who again will be Breakaway Brass. The committee will again be serving mince pies and mulled wine, with hot blackcurrant available as well.

Please put the following dates in your 2016 diaries now – Saturday 5th March – Family Skittles in the Village Hall – tickets £9.00 (those

still at Primary School) £6 and a family ticket of 2 adults and 2 still at primary school –£28.00. Please see the web site for further details.

Sunday 27th March will be the Children's Easter Egg Hunt in The Junipers – again please see the web site.

As was reported in the last newsletter, I intend to leave Barkham at some time in the future. To date no-one has come forward to take my place so please give this matter some thought. The committee are a very good group to work with and the work load could be spread out.

On behalf of the committee I would like to thank you for your support during 2015 and wish you all a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Judith Collins





Alan's Patch

What a lovely Autumn we have been experiencing, I've really enjoyed the colours this year. On Halloween it was warm enough to sit outside to eat our supper, yet the sky was really clear and we could enjoy the stars of the winter sky for the first time in a while. Unfortunately the large bonfire I planned for the evening was not so keen and I didn't manage to get it going properly until after we had eaten! Nevertheless it was a very enjoyable evening. The bonfire was large enough that the residue was sufficient for two more bonfires on the next couple of days so now there is almost nothing left. When the ashes had cooled I collect a large bucket-full to add nutrients to the soil in the Spring to help the fruit trees and bushes mainly.

Now as I write (with the deadline looming!) the forecast is for heavy rain over the weekend. It is time to reflect on the past season and to start planning the winter activity in readiness for the next.



Butternut squash ready to harvest

It has been an excellent season for fruit. Everyone seems to have had a bumper crop of apples. I know I have. I store mine in trays filled with shredded paper in an old fridge in the garage and it is overflowing. The insulation of the fridge keeps the temperature even, especially to avoid the frost, and keeps the mice out! Incidentally I store the potatoes in sacks in a similar freezer for just the same reason.

The damson trees that I planted all those years ago produced an excellent and tasty crop. My newly planted raspberries were a revelation, the Autumn variety cropping well in its first

year. Even the rhubarb did well, despite being moved over the winter.

In the greenhouse, as with most gardeners, my main crop is tomatoes. They were fairly successful but not quite as prolific as I was expecting. I prefer to grow from seed but this year I had to buy small plants but suspect that is not the main reason, more likely inadequate irrigation. I aim to add an automatic watering system during the winter. I had an excellent crop of really early carrots and a regular supply of salads and herbs - the basil is still in good shape. Sweet pepper and chilli were good and I even had a few aubergines.

Main crop potatoes were good but as I mentioned last time the earlies boiled in the water for a reason I've yet to explain. Carrots and parsnips have been really excellent with a crop to last through much of the winter. I have had

a succession of peas since early July, there are still a few trying to swell but I doubt they will mature. French and runner beans have generally been good after a slow start. Although we had a frost-free Spring that aided fruit pollination there was often a cold northerly breeze during the early part of the summer until towards the end of June so when I planted out the seedlings towards the end of May they really struggled to establish themselves. Cropping was therefore much later than normal but thereafter they were both prolific and of a high quality. Sweet corn also suffered from the cold winds but established themselves well and cropped superbly. There is little to beat freshly picked sweet corn. Just pick them and put them straight on the barbecue for twenty minutes and remove the 'packaging' when it's cooked.

Courgettes are always good but a village local has tipped my wife off about yellow ones, so I might try them next year. Butternut squashes have done pretty well but could have been a bit larger, again suffering from the late start with the wind. Perhaps a bit more protection is needed next year. Spinach has been in season since July and is still cropping well.

The new fence has kept out the deer and rabbits but then again I haven't seen any sign of either for a month or two. I wonder if something has happened to the rabbits. It's good to see that the rooks are still here, over in Warfield it's crows that are king.

So turning to the future I'm starting to think about what more fruit trees to plant during the winter. Apparently there are varieties of lemon one can grow in UK!

Arborfield Gardening Association



Hello Everyone !

What a wonderful mild autumn we are having, but perhaps a bit too wet to do much in the garden.....

Our meetings returned to Arborfield Village Hall on 10th September, when Dr Pat Morris gave a most interesting and informative talk on all aspects of the life of Hedgehogs. Most enlightening was the fact that hedgehogs, contrary to popular belief, have their OWN fleas which cannot be passed on to other species! Dr Morris gave tips on how to help hedgehogs build their nests in our own gardens, how to feed them (with dog food), especially in winter, as they may wake up from time to time during their hibernation period, when food is not so easily available. In particular Dr Morris recommended NOT to give them bread and milk. (National Hedgehog week was the 26th October - 1st November - see the RHS "Wild About Gardens" www.wildaboutgardensweek.org.uk).

The Inter-Societies Quiz on Monday 21st September, at Henry Street, was a well-attended, fun evening - for the supporters - but I hope the teams enjoyed it too!.... Arborfield, Ascot, Shinfield and Wokingham competed, plus a "Hybrid" team of volunteers from the supporters. The event was won by Ascot, with Arborfield a very respectable second - well done team (Margaret Edwards, Patsy Townsend and June Lucy)!!

In October we enjoyed a talk by Derek Leary on photography in the garden. Not only did he show some excellent photographs, but also taught us how to make the most of them.....

In the main he recommended taking close-ups, but framing broader pictures in some way - through a gateway; or across some interesting plant or with overhanging blossom in the foreground - can be very attractive. He will also use filters to alter the lighting and a great tip he gave was to make a hole in a stocking - shooting with the hole in the centre of the lens gives a lovely faded effect around the edges of the photo. Of course various computer applications, such as Picasa will allow you to change the original photo in some way - improving the contrast; blurring a messy background; or giving various effects, like the appearance of speed.

Often Derek takes a photo of some attractive plant he has not come across before and puts it on Facebook to ask other gardeners or botanists to identify it for him. He usually gets the right answer, but checks it out just to make sure! The same scene taken at various times of day can be dramatically different and of course more so in the changing seasons. Derek showed us the beautiful effects of water and hoar frost too. He also showed some adorable photos of animals - foxes, squirrels - in the garden. His accompanying talk was very amusing and what an interesting and busy life he has!

Our winner for the **Best Autumn Foliage** this month was Margaret Edwards - a very attractive mix of some stunning coloured foliage.



Dinner, spot the veg: potato, parsnip, carrot, pea, beetroot, courgette, spinach, red pepper, French and runner bean

...continued

Arborfield Local History Society

The *Three Societies Social* in October, where we join with Shinfield and Swallowfield garden clubs, was a great success! The theme this year was "Mrs Beeton" and an excellent historian came and told us some little-known secrets about her – mainly that her recipes were sent to her by other people and she had tried out very few of them herself! She was in fact better-known in her day for her gardening book – which is huge!

We came a healthy second in the table competition – separated from the winners by only one point! And we were joint winners for the table quiz! Next year it will be our turn to host the evening.

On November 12th John Negus joined us to discuss 12 Months of Colour in the garden and we had our Best Berry mini-competition. More about these in the next report.

Of course December brings our Christmas Party, which we will be enjoying at the Bull Inn in Arborfield. So I guess it is time to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Catherine Breen, Chair

For further information, e-mail catherinebreen@ymail.com, or telephone 0118 976 1848

The Society is now in its eleventh year and continues to thrive. That is not to say that we would not welcome new members!

Our regular meetings, usually held on the first Monday of each month are well attended and we have a variety of speakers, with topics ranging from local interest to more national subjects. We also have a very active social side, with our annual Christmas Dinner, lately at the Bearwood Lakes Golf Club and a summer event – a garden party or wine tasting or similar. We also try to organise one or two trips each year. We also have a very active research activity, the results of much of which is reflected in our website.

Our schedule for the coming year is being finalised and more on this in the next issue.

The first meetings of the New Year are:-

- January 4th – Jameson Wooders: English Calendar Customs
- February 1st – Ray Norton Setting Up Pudding Lane Nursery
- March 7th – Richard Poad: Doctor at the Dean

Meetings start at 7:45 pm in the Arborfield Village Hall, admission a mere £2-00 for guests.

Many residents will be unaware of how close our two communities are allied – we share a vicar but a large slice of the Garrison is in Barkham. Similarly, Bearwood College is essentially in Arborfield.

Steve Bacon, our webmaster comments:

"As you may have read, the current debate on tax credits could result in a constitutional crisis if the House of Lords refers-back the Bill to the Commons. While this is a national story, if you've read a little deeper, you may have found that the new Nobel Laureate for Economics, Angus Deaton, had written a book on 'The Analysis of Household Surveys' in 1997, and mentioned the Rev. David Davies of Barkham as an early exponent of such surveys.

The Rev. David Davies was Rector of Barkham when he wrote 'The Case of Labourers in Husbandry' in 1795. This book achieved national fame and is now available as a free download. Although the ALHS web-site doesn't refer directly to David Davies, there is an indirect reference. The Rev. Peter Ditchfield, who was a famous historian, wrote a book on 'Byways in Berkshire and the Cotswolds' in 1920 and specifically mentioned David Davi(e)s in Chapter 8:

<http://bit.ly/1MSvjYI>

It was decided that it would be worthwhile to make the free download of David Davies' book available on this web-page, and also to provide a scholarly summary of the book in the main text (<http://bit.ly/1WTU862>). No other changes have been made to the main text in this web-page. It is expected that we'll get a few extra hits over the coming weeks once people start reading around the subject."

Ray Hill
Rayfhill@aol.com



We joined the Citizens Advice national telephone Adviceline on 5th October. This means that Wokingham Borough residents have a far greater chance of getting through to us first time. Not only are there more people available to take calls, but also the time is extended to 4pm from 3pm and includes Fridays.

We had a very successful charity theatre evening at The Wokingham Theatre on 20 October. It is events like this that can make the difference between us ending the year in the 'red' and in the 'black'.

Citizens Advice have a new campaign running at the moment. 'Talk about abuse' is a campaign to encourage everyone to look for signs of domestic abuse among their friends and family, and to talk about it. Last year one in every fifteen women, and one in every 33 men experienced domestic abuse at the hands of their partner or former partner. Around a third of those who are victimised experienced 'severe force', and for some this is an almost continuous feature of their lives: three per cent of victims experienced abuse in the previous year "more than 50 times or too many times to count".

Specialists - in the form of refuges, legal professionals and police, and helplines or support services - play a critical role for

many victims. However, many victims don't engage with these groups, and this is the problem we are trying to address.

Here is a quiz by Citizens Advice to find out, and discover more about this campaign: <http://bit.ly/1PBLGZO>

John Ferguson, CEO Wokingham CAB.

To contact us for help:

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
Telephone assessments: 0844 499 4126

Loddon Valley Ramblers' Walks



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

Sunday 20th December: Our traditional Chairman's Mince Pie & Mulled Wine Walk through Maidenhead Thicket & Pinkney's Green 5½ miles 09.45 Wokingham Borough Council Offices CP, Shute End Wokingham for car share RG40 1BD or NT CP off Cannon Lane, Maidenhead; East on A4 Bath Road from J9B on A404(M), then 1st right into Cannon Lane, under motorway then immediately sharp right SL6 4QQ. Please call leader if meeting at the start of the walk. Leader Graham S 07966 002016

Sunday 3rd January: Recover with this walk after the Christmas period & New year Festivities, through Chapel Green and Luckley Path to Gorrick Plantation 4½ miles 10.30 from Wokingham Library CP (free on Sunday) RG40 2BQ Leader Peter D 0118 3774820.

Thursday 7th January: Visit a Saxon hilltop church and enjoy a variety of scenery, woodland & lakes 5½ miles 10.00 from Simon's Wood NT car park, half way along Wellingtonia Avenue RG45 6AE Leader Jane T 0118 9784319 or 07899734799.

Sunday 24th January: Pleasant walk along Basingstoke Canal and through Dogmersfield Park 5 miles 10.00 from Barley Mow CP (off Sprats Hatch Lane) RG27 8DE Leader David R 01344 777890.

Sunday 21st February: A stroll across the Pang and back through Bucklebury (ford permitting) 5 miles 10.30 from Bucklebury Common, north side CP (on the right when travelling from Chapel Row to Upper Bucklebury) RG7 6RP Leader Graham C 0118 9782866 or 07719 993787

Thursday 25th February: Stroll around the fields & lanes of Swallowfield & Finchampstead parishes 5 miles 10.30 after careful roadside parking alongside King George's Field Cricket Pitch, Farley Hill RG7 1UL Leaders Ian & Marianne M 07429337369.

Thursday 3rd March: Stroll from Caversham Heights to Mapledurham House then back via Park and Chazey woods 5 miles 10.30 from Mapledurham playing fields, Caversham Heights, Woodcote Road A4074 RG4 7EZ Leader Barbara D 0118 9345506 or 07895 635001 (on day of walk only).

Sunday 6th March: A pleasant walk through woods & fields near Pamber forest 5½ miles 10.00 after parking ¼ mile along Impstone Road (off Silchester Road) – on left hand side RG26 3EQ may be muddy Leader Mary Walker 0118 9770746 or 07833 582902 (day of walk only).

CROWTHORNE Symphony ORCHESTRA

It's almost that festive time once more and our **Christmas Concert at St John the Baptist Church in Waterloo Road, Crowthorne** on **Saturday 12th December** will again be an afternoon family event with **free entry for children** of 16 and under. The concert will start at **4.30pm** and will include a selection of seasonal music with some old favourites and some new pieces too. And of course carols – we expect the usual audience participation in the latter! Perhaps there will also be another chance for children to conduct the orchestra when they play Leroy Anderson's 'Sleigh Ride' – who knows? There will be refreshments and a raffle in the interval. Make sure you put the date in your diary and bring the whole family, old and young!

musical competence under the inspirational direction of Robert Roscoe and each concert has seen a new challenge for the players. We welcome new members, subject to vacancies - if you are interested and are a competent player, even if you have taken a break from playing, please get in touch. We have a reputation as a friendly bunch and have members of all ages. **Rehearsals** are on **Monday evenings 7.45-10pm** in term time and are held at **Oaklands Junior School in Butler Road, Crowthorne**.

Future events include a **Chamber Music Workshop** on **Sunday January 17th 2016** and a **Strings only Workshop** on **Saturday May 7th**. Our **Spring Concert** at the **Old Gym Wellington College** will be on **Saturday 16th April 2016** and



Tickets are available from **Traveltime Travel Agents** in **Crowthorne High Street** as well as **Bookends Bookshop** in **Wokingham** (£10 in advance or £12 on the door). They can also be purchased on-line via our website with small booking fee.

The past few years have been an exciting time for the orchestra, which has grown in numbers and

the programme will include music by Sibelius (The Swan of Tuonela) and Copland (Billy the Kid). Please check our website for up to date information on concerts, rehearsals, workshops and more: www.crowthorneorchestra.com

Season's Greetings and Best Wishes for the New Year to all.

Chris Gadsby

The 2015 singhealthychoirs Christmas Concert The Snowman

This year **singhealthychoirs** featuring Thames Valley Community Choir (TVCC) and Berkshire Youth Symphony Orchestra (BYSO) as well as the **singhealthychoirs** from Wokingham and Bracknell, are performing a special Christmas Concert at The Great Hall Reading University on Sunday 20th December.

'The Snowman – A Concert for Christmas', will feature not only the choirs and orchestra, but also the children from The Coombes School in Arborfield, all of whom will be bringing a truly seasonal mixture of wonderful carols and Christmas songs.

Songs by John Rutter, Bob Chilcott, Benjamin Britten, Michael Smith and others will be featured in the concert, as well as the opportunity for the audience to join in some seasonal favourites. As well as accompanying the choir, the BYSO will be playing the complete work 'The Snowman' by British composer Howard Blake and the Coombes Choir will sing 'Walking In the Air'.

We are very lucky to have TV and radio personality Paul Ross as host and he is very much looking forward to presenting the event having taken a great interest in all that **singhealthychoirs** do. He wants everyone to get into the Christmas spirit and take part in what promises to be a truly interactive time, singing and enjoying the great music.

This year's concert is in aid of The Berkshire Young Musicians Trust. This charity operates as Berkshire Maestros and is committed to bringing the best in music education to young people across the county. If you came along to 'The Armed Man' concert at the Hexagon in 2014, then you will appreciate what a truly outstanding orchestra the BYSO is. The standard is high, the motivation equally so and the enthusiasm of all the players is infectious.

In 2016 the orchestra and the Berkshire Youth Choir are travelling to China on a music tour; ambassadors of the best of British youth music. Your support for this concert will help the Maestros to develop the talents of the musicians of the future. Their aim is to bring music education to all children, regardless of family income, status or circumstance. They have no sponsorship so with all proceeds from this concert going to the Trust you will be playing a part in helping them to continue this very important work.

We hope many of you will take this opportunity to start Christmas week with a rousing concert and join us at either 3pm or 7pm on 20th December. Tickets are available now, please visit www.singhealthy.co.uk priced at £15 for Adults and £10 for under 16 and students for the 3pm matinee, and £15 per ticket for the evening performance. There will be a 10% booking fee.

Thank you for your support.

Dorian Edwards
Musical Director
singhealthychoirs

Wokingham Choral Society

will be delighted to welcome you all to a **Christmas Carol Concert at All Saints' Church in Wokingham** starting at 6:30 p.m. on **Saturday, 19th December 2015**.

Carols and Christmas music will be sung by the choir, conducted by our Musical Director Patrick Allies, with plenty of opportunity for the audience to join in as well for this celebration of Christmas. Entrance £10 (£5 under 18s & students – Under 5s FREE) by programme (instead of a ticket). Programmes will be available from 23 November 2015 from:

tickets@wokingham-choral-society.org.uk
Information Centre, Wokingham Town Hall
Newbury Building Society, Wokingham
Bookends, Wokingham
www.wegotickets.com
and choir members.

A collection will be made at the exits to raise money for the choir's chosen charity this year, **Headway Thames Valley** and the Mayor's charity, **Macmillan Cancer Support**.

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Farley Hill Bowls Club End of Season Report

Our bowling season ended on 20th September, Not one of our best years for winning matches I am afraid, well down on our usual around 50% success rate. We really could do with some younger and fitter members, let alone a few more accomplished bowlers! A strong recruitment drive is indicated for our Open Day in May next year. Watch this space. On a brighter note, our green-keeping members have done a great job in maintaining our bowling green. We have been complimented on its condition and performance by many clubs visiting us this year.

The winners of our Club Competitions this year were:
Reg Britton Novices: John Knowles, runner up Sharon Henry
John Butler Pairs: Andrew Marks & Nick Long-Field, runners up Pam Boswell & Alan Ward
Ladies Cup: Lyn Taylor, runner up Eileen Dowling
George Bye Club Championship: Andrew marks, runner-up Geoff Mottram
Presidents Cup: Douglas Buchanan, runner-up Eileen Dowling
Bob Waterer Cup: Eileen Dowling, runner-up John Knowles

We will be starting our popular monthly Winter Socials, with our Annual Dinner and prize giving ceremony in January, until the new season starts at the end of April. If anyone would like to inspect our club facilities during the winter, you will usually find some members there on Thursday mornings, weather permitting, between 10 and 12 am working on the green. We are at the Victory Hall, Church Road, Farley Hill, RG7 1TR.

Bill Dowling
Club Secretary
01344 772130
billdowling@tinyworld.co.uk

Barkham Diary

8-Dec-15	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
8-Dec-15	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
9-Dec-15	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
18-Dec-15	BVRA Carols in the Park	Junipers	7pm
6-Jan-16	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
12-Jan-16	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
12-Jan-16	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
13-Jan-16	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
14-Jan-16	Arborfield Gardening Association	AVH	9-11am
25-Jan-16	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	7.30pm
26-Jan-16	Parish Council Planning Review	BVH	7.30pm
3-Feb-16	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
9-Feb-16	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
9-Feb-16	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
10-Feb-16	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
11-Feb-16	Arborfield Gardening Association	AVH	7pm
19-Feb-16	Newsletter copy date		
22-Feb-16	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	7.30pm
23-Feb-16	Parish Council Planning Review	BVH	7.30pm
2-Mar-16	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
5-Mar-16	BVRA Skittles Evening	BVH	7.30pm
8-Mar-16	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
8-Mar-16	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
9-Mar-16	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
27-Mar-16	BVRA Easter Egg Hunt	Junipers	3.00pm
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 BVH is Barkham Village Hall
CRH is California Ratepayers Hall

The Quiz

A "Famous Firsts" theme this time. Some may be more famous than others!

1. Jeffrey Archer
2. (John) Rambo, played by Sylvester Stallone
3. Roberta Flack. It was written by Ewan McCall in 1957, apparently for Peggy Seeger.
4. (Sir) Roger Bannister in 1954
5. It was the site of the first moon landing in 1969
6. Matthew Webb
7. The Sea Symphony
8. Wayne Rooney
9. Dr Christiaan Barnard in 1967
10. On the First Day of Christmas (David Cassidy was in the TV musical sitcom "The Partridge Family" and Conference is a type of pear)

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