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Barkham Newsletter

Issue 116 Summer 2016

from the Barkham Village Residents Association

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

Despite repeated requests for a volunteer, we still need a new **Social Secretary** – it would be a great shame if the social events, such as the Quiz, Carols in the Park and Easter Egg Hunt had to cease. Please help – see pages 2 and 10

Protect The Bull by making it an “Asset of Community Value” - see page 17

Holiday Bible Club – see page 16

Have you paid your 2016 BVRA subscription?
If not, please pay your distributor as soon as possible (it's only £2!) The autumn and winter issues of the Newsletter are delivered to paid up members only

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BVRA Social Secretary Vacancy

As mentioned previously, 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

We have lost an unusually large number of (mostly outstanding in their field) famous people in the entertainment world this year so far. Here is a selection to test your memory!

- 1 David Robert Jones died on 10 January. How was he better known?
 - 2 On 14 January, we lost Alan Rickman. He appeared in many plays and films but which character did he play in the Harry Potter films?
 - 3 Terry Wogan also died in January. Which quiz show did he present from 1979-83?
- The next 4 people all left us in March:
- 4 Ronnie Corbett was mainly famous for being (a small) half of the Two Ronnies. However, he first worked with Ronnie Barker (and John Cleese) in which mid 60's satirical programme?
 - 5 Keith Emerson was the keyboard player in prog-rock "Supergroup" Emerson, Lake and Palmer(ELP). Which band did he leave in 1970 to join ELP?
 - 6 Sir George Martin was often known as "the Fifth Beatle". Which record company was he employed by when he started working with the Beatles?
 - 7 On whose chat show was Debbie McGee asked "What first attracted you to the millionaire Paul Daniels?"
-and the final 3 in April.
- 8 Who was born in Minnesota and died there on 21 April, aged 57.
 - 9 The Two Ronnies had a famous "Four Candles" sketch but who wrote an equally funny (funnier?) "Two Soups" (and died in April) and who performed it?
 - 10 And finally...., Barry Howard died in April. In the 1980's he appeared in Hi-de-Hi! as a ballroom dancing instructor with his screen wife. What were the names of their characters?

Answers on Page 19

BVRA 2015/16 GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman: Stewart Richardson (acting)
chairman@barkham.org.uk
Secretary: Christine Leigh
977 4333
secretary@barkham.org.uk
Treasurer: Ian Overton
973 4806
treasurer@barkham.org.uk
Social: Judith Collins
977 1579
social@barkham.org.uk
Membership: Jim Butler
978 3572
membership@barkham.org.uk
Newsletter: Stewart Richardson
979 1914
newsletter@barkham.org.uk
Web Site: Dave Clements
989 2198
webmaster@barkham.org.uk
Development Watch: Lindsay Brown
07968 958151
development@barkham.org.uk

Advertising and Newsletter Contributions

Newsletter articles / contributions for the Autumn edition should be in by 9 September 2016. It helps if these can be submitted in electronic form by email to newsletter@barkham.org.uk. They may also 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 late September.



Editorial

Welcome to the summer edition of the Barkham Newsletter! Can I start by asking any residents who haven't paid their 2016 BVRA subscriptions to please pay your distributor the £2 per household fee as soon as possible. If you don't know the name of your distributor, please contact Jim Butler (details on left). The autumn and winter editions of the newsletter are distributed to paid up households only, of which there was a new record of 687 last year.

You will see we still haven't found a replacement for Judith Collins as our Social Secretary. Luckily she hasn't left yet but when she does we will not be able to run the social events unless we have someone to coordinate the work of the social committee. Please give serious consideration to taking on this role – don't wait for someone else to volunteer! Judith can explain the role if you want more details – her contact details are in in the adjoining column.

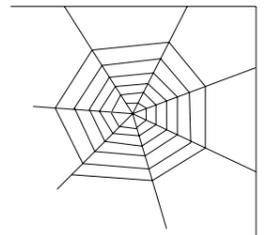
Also, we're still looking for a new Chairman (I've been "acting" for several years!) so don't be shy – if you feel it's a role you would be interested in taking on do contact me, or any member of the committee for more details.

This edition has a piece by Barkham resident Paul Steel who is seeking support for a petition on the Parliamentary Website. If other residents have any "burning issues" they wish to air, I will always be pleased hear about them.

As usual, we also feature news from Barkham Parish Council, our WBC councillor, St James's Church, gardening and various societies including forthcoming musical events. Laurence Heath provides one his regular development updates, this time focussing on the Neighbourhood Plan.

If you have any comments (good or bad, but hopefully constructive!) on the contents of the newsletter, please email me at newsletter@barkham.org.uk.

Stewart Richardson
Editor



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



News from Your Parish Council

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

Arborfield Garrison SDL development update

The first phase of development is taking shape along Biggs Lane and the first new residents are expected to move in before the end of the year. A recent exhibition was held to consult on the next phase of development, which is adjacent to the A327 and south of Tyler Drive. The proposals suggest that the site to be well laid out with greenways and allotments forming part of the overall scheme.

Bohunt School

The new Bohunt School secondary school is taking shape rapidly. Alterations to the former army gym and library block are nearly completed: these buildings will form temporary accommodation for the school in its first year. Meanwhile construction of the new building is well advanced. When the school opens in September, there will be at least 100 new pupils.

The next major issue facing the school is the question of how the pupils will travel to it. Clearly it is in everyone's interests if as many pupils as possible can get there without depending on car travel. In the first instance, the

Leopard bus will be key, and it is hoped that timings and routings will be adjusted to maximise the number of pupils using the bus. In addition, ways and means of providing a safe cycling route are being examined, with the most likely short term solution being to make adjustments to the footpath along Barkham Road and Langley Common Road as a shared use footpath and cycleway.

Parish Clean Up

Another successful litter pick took place on 20th March, 32 volunteers helped to collect approx. 40 black sacks of rubbish and 30 sacks of recycling, other items found were an army jerry can, a pouffe and numerous empty bottles of vodka. Unfortunately, the man from Quadron turned up really early to collect the rubbish before we were able to take some photos. Thank you to Marion Heath and Amanda Dexter for providing the tasty refreshments to the weary volunteers. It is disappointing that already Barkham Road is littered with cans and another bag of litter from Church Lane has already been collected by a resident. It would be much appreciated if residents could pick up any litter from outside their houses in order to keep Barkham clean and tidy.



Basketball Hoop in the Junipers

At last the weather has dried up and the contractors have been able to install the basketball hoop in The Junipers Park. We hope that with the warmer days and lighter evenings that you will all be able to enjoy this added facility in the park. Thank you to the girls who came to the Parish Council with a petition demonstrating a need for this facility. We apologise for the length of time it took to install the hoop but we hope you are now able to enjoy this addition to the park.

RE3 Recycling Open To Bracknell, Reading and Wokingham Residents Only from 1st July - Announcement from WBC Waste Services

RE3 recycling centres are introducing changes to how visitors access their sites following the decision by West Berkshire Council to end a joint recycling agreement.

From 1st July 2016, the RE3 recycling centres will only accept household waste from people living in the Bracknell Forest, Reading and Wokingham local authority areas. The change has been prompted by West Berkshire Council giving notice that



it intends to stop paying the RE3 councils for waste delivered to RE3 recycling centres by West Berkshire residents. The three RE3 Councils feel strongly that it is unfair to ask RE3 area council tax payers to pay for waste management services for residents living in other local authorities.

Bracknell Forest, Reading and Wokingham residents will still be able to leave their household waste for free at the Bracknell and Reading recycling centres.

Every household in the RE3 area will be sent a recycling centre permit in the post. Visitors should display the permit in their windscreen in order to access the recycling centres in Bracknell and Reading. Alternative forms of ID will be accepted, but checking these documents will slow down access so residents are being asked to please use their windscreen permit. RE3 aims to carry out the access checks as quickly and efficiently as possible. They are vital to ensure fairness and that RE3 residents do not pay for the processing of waste from residents in neighbouring local authorities.

Barkham Village Hall

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

From as little as £23/hr for both halls. £26.50/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

Residents can plan their visit to the Bracknell centre by checking the webcam on the RE3 website www.re3.org.uk, with a similar webcam due to be installed at the Reading recycling centre shortly. Both sites are generally less busy on week days and mid-morning or late afternoon. During the summer months (April – September) both recycling centres are open from 8am to 8pm.

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 REME 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.

Judith Neuhofer
Clerk to Barkham Parish Council



Arborfield and Barkham Neighbourhood Plan

An effort is currently being made to reinvigorate the work being done on the Neighbourhood Plan for the parishes of Barkham and Arborfield. There is pressure to get this work completed as soon as possible. It would therefore be timely to remind ourselves of some key questions about Neighbourhood Plans:

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

The coalition government, under the Localism Act 2011, introduced the concept of Neighbourhood Plans to allow local communities to have greater involvement in planning decisions and land use within their individual areas.

Why is a Neighbourhood Plan important?

If parishes have a Neighbourhood Plan, they can have greater influence in deciding the location of additional housing and in procuring the additional infrastructure improvements that are necessary to preserve their localities as desirable places to live.

What is the scope of a Neighbourhood Plan?

A Neighbourhood Plan is primarily about land use. Policies must take account of both national and local planning policies. The Neighbourhood Plan will add an additional layer of policy to deal with specific local issues.

Obviously in Barkham we are faced with a massive develop-

ment at Arborfield Green, as the Garrison is now named. It is important that this happens in a way that maximises community infrastructure such as shops, medical services, schools, nurseries, open spaces, allotments, sports and other community facilities. Hopefully these will be provided in a way that benefits the wider community, not just the new development.

Can a Neighbourhood Plan stop development?

It is not realistic for us to halt all development, but with a Neighbourhood Plan there is a greater chance that it will happen in a way that recognises the interests of local residents. A Neighbourhood Plan is perhaps the most effective way for the local community to have influence over development proposals. Unfortunately, it is a step too far to expect control.

What is the process for preparing a Neighbourhood Plan?

The Neighbourhood Plan will be prepared by local residents, not just parish councillors. Consequently, anyone living in the parishes who is willing to help, they would be welcome to join one of the focus groups. Help is needed with research, to formulate recommendations and policies and to critique the work as it progresses. More information on volunteering is shown below.

How is a Neighbourhood Plan approved?

Some alterations to the plan can be expected, in order to take account of comments received as a result of the formal consultation process that will be carried out. The plan will be then be submitted to Wokingham Borough who may make further comments, particularly to ensure consistency with borough and national policies. Next the plan will be

passed to a Planning Inspector for further review. When the plan has passed all these steps, it will go to a referendum at which all eligible voters in the two parishes may vote. A majority in favour of the plan would then make it a legal planning document that would have to be taken into account in any future planning decisions in Barkham and Arborfield.

What has happened so far?

You may recall a while back that a survey of residents was carried out in the two parishes. This was the first step in developing the Neighbourhood Plan. A lot of useful work has taken place since then, in particular a group of residents looked at transport issues which contributed to Wokingham Borough decisions on the Arborfield bypass. A greenways group has been examining rights of way around the two parishes and is preparing an improvement plan. A number of other topics are being looked at including community facilities, open spaces and flooding. Importantly we will also be looking at development, which of course is a very big issue for Barkham and Arborfield.

I have to admit, however, that progress bringing together all the threads to create the Neighbourhood Plan has been slow. Part of the problem has been a lack of focus, as the plans for Arborfield Green until recently were still in a state of flux. It is now essential that we push ahead and finalise the plan.

What new development proposals can we expect?

In the last Newsletter, I warned that we can expect large number of new development proposals around the parish. At the moment, I am not in a position to provide you with any firm news because Wokingham Borough extended the deadline of their "call

for sites" until the beginning of June. I fear we must brace ourselves for a lot of new proposals coming forward.

Can the Neighbourhood Plan help?

If we can at least get to the stage of preparing a draft Neighbourhood Plan in the next few months, I would hope we can maximise our influence on how the Local Plan Update unfolds. We ought to be aiming to complete the whole approval process, including the referendum stage, well before the Wokingham Borough Local Plan update is completed.

I would stress again that a Neighbourhood Plan is about influence, rather than control. The way that planning rules are framed nationally, there is very much a presumption in favour of development. The profits to be gained by turning a piece of unused or agricultural land into a development site are enormous. In this situation, communities have to stand together and exert as much influence as they possibly can. The alternative is just to let the tide of development wash over us, which personally I do not consider acceptable.

How can you help?

If you are interested in helping with the Neighbourhood Plan, please send an email to Judith Neuhofer, our Parish Clerk at clerk@barkham-parishcouncil.org.uk

There are a number of focus groups, in particular those covering community facilities, sports facilities and open spaces and business development which could usefully use some additional support.

Laurence Heath
Vice Chairman
Barkham Parish Council



Changing times

Wokingham Borough Council is currently updating its Local Plan which will set out where new homes need to be built in the borough in the next 20 years and residents are invited to help in two ways. As a key part of producing a new Local Plan, the borough council is working with other Berkshire councils to agree a way of assessing what land should be set aside for new homes, businesses and other uses. This is known as a Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) and it guides how the council decides which land put forward for development should be allocated for development in the Local Plan.

A draft HELAA methodology has been produced and local people can comment on it, between now and June 6. It sets out the way the council proposes to compare the suitability of land put forward for development, including its availability and if the development could realistically be built in the timescale expected. It also includes potential community benefits, and any adverse impacts on the environment. Land to be considered for development are those put forward in a 'Call for Sites' consultation. One was run in January and February this year and invited individuals and

organisations to submit sites to be considered for development. This call has been reopened – until June 6 - for further sites to be put forward.

The consultations on the HELAA methodology and the Call for Sites are on the council's website: <http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/consultations>

The council is also re-opening the Call for Sites to give everyone the opportunity to submit sites suitable for potential development. Only those sites deemed acceptable will be allocated for development. This part of the Local Plan process is about seeing what is available, and agreeing how we assess it. It is important to note that a site being submitted does not mean it will be accepted for development. Many such sites will be deemed unacceptable.

I cannot stress the importance of this local plan as it will, once inspected in public, set the scene for the future development around the borough up to 2035 on deciding on where new housing is built.

The numbers are such (likely to be in the region of 860 homes per year), that my view is new settlements will be required to take the bulk of the housing in locations with good transport connections and will have to have their own infrastructure and services such as schools, doctors, retail and Community Centres so no additional strain is placed upon existing services in and around the borough. Government policy supports this type of garden village or town approach and I will be pressing for this during the development and planning period of the local plan.

continued...

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Introduction of Land Drainage Byelaws for Wokingham

Wokingham Borough Council will soon be applying to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for the approval of land drainage byelaws made by the Council in order to help prevent flooding or to reduce any damage caused by flooding in the Borough.

As a Lead Local Flood Authority, WBC will be able to make byelaws to ensure the effective operation of our land drainage across the Borough. These byelaws create criminal offences which can be prosecuted in the Magistrates' Courts and as such bring welcome additional powers to be used by the council. They regulate matters such as changes to flows in watercourses, obstructions, vegetation, damage to river banks and others which will be of help to the Council in carrying out its duties as Highway Authority and Lead Local Flood Authority.

During the 6 week period from 16th May 2016, a copy of the land drainage byelaws will be kept at the Main Reception of the Council, Shute End, Wokingham, and Berkshire, RG40 1WH and will be open to public inspection, on any weekday during normal office hours. During the same period, printed copies of the byelaws will be supplied on demand to any person on application to the Council. The details can also be seen on the council's website

On a personal note I have decided to step back from the council's executive. Having served on the executive for 4 years holding various planning and highways

roles, I found more and more of my time was taken up with dealing with borough wide issues and decided with the major one in a lifetime changes going on in Barkham with the new school and the massive development on the garrison site, in addition to the infrastructure required to support it, that I needed to turn my attention 100% to these local matters to ensure the best possible outcome for the residents of Barkham during this time of change for us all.

Remember I am available to provide support for any issues you may have with regards to the borough council and I am always available on the phone or email to deal with any enquiries or questions you may have with regards to your borough council as it is there to provide services to all the residents of the borough.

Best regards

John Kaiser
Councillor for Barkham
Wokingham Borough Council

Email: john.kaiser@wokingham.gov.uk
Telephone: 0118 976 2116
Mobile 0771 419 2352

Wokingham Choral Society

Our Summer Concert which will be held at All Saints' Church, Wokingham on Saturday 18th June 2016 at 7.30pm.

This year's Summer Concert marks a departure from our more classical repertoire, having instead a dramatic 'Heroes and Villains' theme comprised of choruses from Opera and Musicals such as:

- George & Ira Gershwin – Porgy and Bess
- Stephen Sondheim – The Ballad of Sweeney Todd
- Kurt Weill – Mack the Knife
- Leonard Bernstein – Make Our Garden Grow
- Giuseppe Verdi – Witches' Chorus
- Piotr Tchaikovsky – Chorus of Peasant Girls
- Cy Coleman & Dorothy Fields – Rhythm of Life
- Frank Loesser – Sit Down You're Rockin' the Boat

This performance will be conducted by our Musical Director, Patrick Allies with Benedict Lewis-Smith as accompanist. Tickets cost £12.50 for adults or £5 for under 18s and students. They are available in advance from: tickets@wokingham-choral-society.org.uk; Information Centre, Wokingham Town Hall; Newbury Building Society; Wokingham Bookends, Wokingham; www.wegotickets.com, allsaintswokingham.yapsody.com (no booking fee) or on the door. For further details, please visit our website on www.wokingham-choral-society.org.uk.

Julia Primarolo

CROWTHORNE Symphony ORCHESTRA

For several years, the orchestra has held a workshop for string players, and in early May we had a wonderful afternoon playing music written specifically for String Orchestra. A group of 33 violins, violas, cellos and basses, including a welcome number of visiting players, enjoyed a programme of music by Scandinavian composers, offering people the chance to explore some of the less well known string repertoire. We started with Lars-Erik Larsson's *Little Serenade* which was new to everyone, before moving on to the Sibelius *Romance in C*. Later we worked through Dag Wirén's *Serenade for Strings* which is huge fun to play! Many people recognised the BBC *Monitor* theme. Our Director of Music, Robert Roscoe, gave us fascinating insights into the works we were playing and into the psychology of sight-reading music.

Our **Summer Concert** is on **July 2nd at The Old Gym, Wellington College at 7.30pm (doors open at 6.45)** and the programme includes some very popular pieces. We will be playing a selection of **Dvořák's 'Slavonic Dances'** which were written 1878 and 1886, originally as piano duets, but orchestrated by the composer soon afterwards. The dances are amongst his most memorable works.

The **Symphony in D minor** by **César Franck** completed in 1888 is his most famous orchestral work, and followed on the success of the equally popular *Symphonic Variations* which he composed a few years earlier. The symphony starts with a simple 4 bar theme which is expanded and reworked

throughout the first movement, sometimes in an elegiac mood and later in a much livelier and energetic form. The second movement is well known for its haunting melody with harp and pizzicato strings introducing the theme, with cor anglais and horns sharing the melody, and later the strings too in a delightful way. The uplifting and exciting finale is full of more wonderful melodies as well as earlier themes revisited and masterfully woven together. This symphony is as marvellous to play as it is for the audience to hear.

The concert also includes the very popular **2nd Piano Concerto** by **Shostakovich**, which is quite different from most of the Russian composer's other works being uncharacteristically joyful and exuberant, especially the first and third movements. The slow second movement is much more romantic and is probably the best known, and rather reminiscent of Rachmaninov. The concerto was written in 1957 for his son Maxim who premiered the work on his 19th birthday. The third movement includes several sections of scales and arpeggios which Shostakovich is said to have admitted were

quotes from some well known finger exercises, which he included because it was the only way he could force his son to practice them! For our concert, we are pleased to welcome back **Daniel King Smith** as our soloist – Daniel has wowed our audiences on a couple of previous occasions so we are looking forward to working with him again.

Tickets for the concert are available from **Traveltime in Crowthorne High Street** and **Bookends in Peach Street Wokingham** (£13 in advance or £15 on the door), or can be purchased on-line via our website. The ticket includes a drink in the interval. As usual **children 16 and under are free.**

The orchestra welcomes 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. Weekly rehearsals are on **Mondays in term time from 7.45-10pm at Oaklands Junior School, Butler Road, Crowthorne.** Check our website for up to date information on concerts, rehearsals, workshops and more: www.crowthorneorchestra.com

Chris Gadsby





Social Matters

It is now three months since the last newsletter and to date nobody has come forward to take on the position of social secretary. The job is not onerous – it just involves discussing future events with the committee and then booking the hall and arranging the food, drink and other items with them, for the actual occasion. It would be a shame if the social side of the village was to cease – no more quiz evenings and the children do enjoy the Easter Egg Hunt. Please do give this matter serious consideration – perhaps a couple of you could job-share?

Although I was unable to be present at the skittles evening, I gather that those who attended had a good time – the report is by someone who was there and they say “the skittles evening was popular and successful”. Keeping tickets numbers down to below 60 made sure that everyone had a chance to have plenty of turns, with time for the “Killer” round to run right through to the end. All of those knocked out were treated to an ice-cream, with Charlotte Whittington fighting through to the end with her accurate bowling. Andrew Franklin, Ruth Timson. Shannon Clarke and Charlotte Whittington won the overall competition with their team Four Candles? (Fork Handles?). A good ploughman’s supper kept everyone sustained, the bar was busy, and the raffle



made a profit to put towards the next event.

The children’s Easter Egg Hunt was attended by about 50 youngsters ranging from those that were just about walking to teenagers. They searched through the grass, undergrowth and everywhere else in search of tokens which they exchanged for small chocolate eggs – about 1100 in all. Although the weather had not been too kind over the previous few days it did brighten up and they all seemed to enjoy themselves. Luckily the council had cut the grass and trimmed back the overgrowing plants so finding the tokens was not as difficult as it has been in the past. Whilst the children were looking for them, the adults were able to buy raffle tickets for the giant egg and this was won by Gary Hammond and I hope that he and his family enjoyed eating it.

The next event will be the quiz evening in November and there will be more details in the autumn newsletter. If in the meantime you feel that you can help out then please give me a ring or email – 977 1579 or social@barkham.org.uk

Judith Collins
Social Secretary

Arborfield Local History Society

We have recently have had two very well attended meetings. In April, after a swiftly concluded AGM, we were entertained by Tony Eaton who spoke at length about the disappearance of Glenn Miller. He presented a very convincing case for a massive cover up by the US and other authorities and it seems highly likely that he was killed in Paris by German commandos who were targeting General Eisenhower. It was a conspiracy theory to end all such theories and we look forward to Tony coming back next year with another tale (Amy Johnson or Leslie Howard, who both disappeared with their aircraft during the war).

May saw Steve Bacon, until recently an Arborfield resident, who has now moved to Royal Wootton Bassett to pursue his hobby of canal restoration. He updated us on the progress with the restoration of the little known Berks and Wiltshire Canal which linked the Thames at Abingdon with the Kennet & Avon Canal near Melksham. Such is progress that possibly it will be complete in 10 years or so, including a section



through Swindon Town Centre.

We have now finalised our programme for the coming year. Our regular meetings are held on the first Monday of each month (unless as otherwise stated) in the Arborfield Village Hall commencing at 1945. Visitors and Guests are welcome when we make a nominal charge of £2-00 per person.

Our forthcoming programme is as follows:

- June 18th (Saturday)
Minibus trip to see
Berkshire and Wiltshire
Canal restoration work
- July 4th
Trevor Ottlewski:
Wokingham Walk Pt.1
(Meet at Methodist
Church, Rose St. 7.00p.m.)
- August 1st
Trip to Bath
- September 5th
John & Lindsay Mullaney
Henry I & Reading Abbey

We hope we have achieved the right mixture of local and more general topics together with a fair sprinkling of trips and social events.

We have a healthy membership of more than 50 and most of our meetings attract at least 35 members and guests. We are always pleased to see new members and more details of our activities can be found on our web site Arborfieldhistory.org.uk.

Ray Hill
rayhill@aol.com
0118 9760784

Arborfield Gardening Association

Hello Everyone!

Following our (short!) AGM, Lampa Mortimer, demonstrated simple techniques for carving fruit and vegetables to decorate our culinary delights on those special occasions - sure to impress family and friends! Lampa is a former student of the Reading College Catering Dept and is currently employed at the Hilton Hotel.

This event was followed in March by our very popular Gardeners' Question Time at Henry Street Garden Centre. The question time panel included: Colin Evans (BBC Radio Berkshire's Gardening Presenter), Alan Goold (Champion Rose Grower from Henry Street), John Negus (author of various books on gardening and a kind of "agony uncle" for gardening problems in some women's magazines) and Ray Norton (Landscape from Pudding Lane Nursery). This knowledgeable group was ably controlled by Chris Young, Chair of Shinfield Horticultural Association and provided an interesting and sometimes hilarious evening. The raffle raised £130 for Greenfingers - Henry Street's charity, which creates magical gardens for Children's Hospices.

In April we welcomed, Christine Leary, who gave a wonderful talk on Container Gardening, demonstrating not only what and how to plant them, but also showing some unusual containers and placements. Her husband, Derek, ably judged the Spring Show, Patsy Townsend winning the Best in Show cup (again!).

Our May meeting took us on a guided visit to Manor House gardens at Upton Grey. These amazing gardens were designed in 1908 by Gertrude Jekyll, when she was 65 yrs old, for Charles Holme, a leading figure in the Arts and Crafts movement at that time. They have been lovingly restored to their former glory by Rosamund and John Wallinger, who acquired the derelict property in 1984. Rosamund's first book, *Gertrude Jekyll's Lost Garden - The Restoration of an Edwardian Masterpiece*, gives an amusing



and well-illustrated account of the garden's history and its restoration (with, adds her husband, John, all its trials, tribulations and lessons). The garden is now believed to be the most authentic Jekyll garden in existence - a living museum of Jekyll design. Afterwards we enjoyed some



delicious refreshments, created by Rosamund herself.

July 14th brings an afternoon visit to Farley Hill Place, where the owner, Margaret Finch, who owned the flower shop in Wokingham, will be demonstrating flower arranging and providing us with tea.

August 14th will be our members' (and their guests) garden party, preceded by visits to two local gardens - goodness summer is almost over!! In September we are back in the Village Hall for a talk on "The Meaning of Flowers" by Colin Oakes, a popular RHS speaker.

All our events are advertised at various popular locations throughout the local area. So keep your eyes open and do come along if any appeal. We will be very happy to welcome you.

Happy gardening!

Catherine Breen, Chair
catherinebreen@ymail.com
0118 976 1848



Alan's Patch

I find Spring the most enjoyable season of all as the apparently dead landscape comes back to life again and bright daylight returns after the bleak and dark winter months. I enjoy the patches of sunshine and rain the same day, even though it is often a bit chilly. As so often nowadays we have had a cold March and April but May has seen quite a few unseasonably warm days. Whilst many flowers have been quite early it's really noticeable that apple blossom has been late this year, perhaps delayed by the cold snap in March. Another reason I like Spring so much is that not much has gone wrong yet during this growing season in my patch!

In March we had frequent visits from a pair of pheasants. It's takes a lot of effort for them to 'take off' and get over the fence so while they were here they would spend most of the day. There must have been plenty for them to eat but fortunately they showed no interest in my plants and young trees. We are fortunate to have lots of



birds in the area. The rooks own the territory and a few weeks ago collected material for nest building, sometimes yanking nice new whippy shoots from the trees, perfect for weaving into a nest. They sometimes gang up on the red kites and crows that often visit. At the smaller end I love to see a pair of colourful goldfinches in my patch.

On pest watch, a rabbit recently found a (known) weakness in my defences, so a bit more fortification is required! Then a few weeks ago a cabbage white butterfly was found in the greenhouse keen on my spring cabbage inside. We should be getting used to the unusual weather and its effects in the garden but Pam was surprised to find greenfly on the roses in early May. She's treated them twice already. In the field we occasionally see a pair of roe deer with their two fawns.

In the greenhouse I am already using the shading as we have had some really bright sunny days and it soon gets hot inside. This week I have planted the tomatoes and aubergine plants into their final positions in the greenhouse bed. I have some salads ready and some carrots are coming on nicely.

As I write this in mid-May, now is the time to decide when to plant out the tender crops that I have been nurturing so carefully in the greenhouse. The danger of course is of frost. I do recall a damaging frost on 2nd June one year but that was so long ago that I don't remember which year that was! So yesterday was the big day. I planted out the French and runner beans, sweet corn, butternut squash and courgettes. I'm delighted to report that they all survived their first night outside! I planted some of the butternut squash among the sweet corn

plus as an experiment I sowed a few extra climbing French beans. Both are good companions for sweet corn and the beans should climb up the sweet corn. I wonder how they will get on together; I'll report back next time.

The vegetables sown outside are generally progressing well outside. Potatoes are showing so that's another reason to be on 'frost watch' for the rest of the month. Peas, broad beans and shallots are growing very well. Parsnips have germinated well but I'm not so sure about the carrots, I might need to re-sow some of them. Yesterday I harvested the last of the spinach and dug it up. In its place will go the leeks in the next day or so.

It comes as no surprise to hear on the radio recently that we are likely to have a plague of slugs and snails. This is mainly a result of a wet and unusually warm winter. I have my traps in place (half oranges and grapefruit shells/peels) and deterrents (crushed egg shells) around the particularly sensitive plants.

Last Autumn we collected crab apples from a tree we planted nearly 30 years ago and Pam turned them into superb crab apple jelly. We will be collecting them more diligently this year to maximise the crop. The rhubarb which I transplanted eighteen months ago has been romping away in the recent warm and wet weather.

So on the menu at the moment are the last few potatoes (which are getting a bit manky now!), shallots, parsnips, cabbage, spinach plus some new salads in the greenhouse and of course a range of herbs including parsley, sage, rosemary and thyme.

Anonymity Until Proven Guilty

In the eyes of UK law, we are presumed innocent until proven guilty. However, the way our mass media works, people are all too often connected publicly with crimes that they may have had absolutely nothing to do with.

Consider this news report: Maeve Dunnett, a primary school teacher from Nottaton, was seen on Friday being led away from her home by police. A bystander, Andy Chapteneo, told us that he had heard the police say that it was in relation to a child abuse investigation they were conducting, but did not know any more than that. The police declined to comment.

The report was straightforward and factual. Nevertheless, because Maeve had been named, complete with where she lived, she became linked in many people's minds to child abuse. Imagine the idle conversations about what people thought she might have done, with no real evidence to go on.

Indeed, all the conjecture led a well-meaning Vince Dovvit to recall something innocent that Maeve had once done and reinterpret her action. He went on to report the incident as suspicious to the police.

In fact, Maeve had been collected because her daughter had complained about someone at the swimming bath and the police wanted a parent present when they talked to her about it. Now, to add insult to injury, Maeve was going to face police questioning about Mr Dovvit's false allegation.

Following her mention in the news, Maeve would live under

a cloud of suspicion and her teaching career would never be the same again.

To remove any doubt, this story is a work of pure fiction. But it is the type of scenario that seems to occur worryingly often. If there is a real Maeve Dunnett, especially if she is a teacher, an Andy Chapteneo, a Vince Dovvit or a place called Nottaton, I can only offer my sincerest apologies. As far as I know, all I have said about them is totally false.

It is usual not to name minors 'for legal reasons' in the media, so why do we continue to allow adults to be damaged in this way? Late last year I decided to try to do something about it.

My first move was to write to our MP, John Redwood, explaining why I would like it to become law for people not to be identified through mass media in relation to crimes, at least until guilt had been proven. I offered two exceptions: where the police could justify the publicity for operational reasons or where the affected person makes their own choice to go public. He took the matter up with Mike Penning, the Minister of State for Policing, Fire, Criminal Justice and Victims. Mr Penning wrote back explaining how the system works currently but showed no inclination to do anything about improving it.

It seemed unlikely that I would be able to persuade a Newspaper to support my campaign as it would restrict their freedom of reporting. Tittle tattle sells a lot of papers. Unfortunately, and unfairly, by far the biggest cost for this is borne by the named individuals.

My next thought was to raise the issue on BBC's Question Time. I managed to get a ticket for the edition from Ilford in April. On arrival, it was explained how they select their questions, after which it was no surprise that I did not get a look in. My shirt and chin appeared on national television, but nothing more. It was a fascinating evening all the same.

My attention then turned to a petition, for which the Government has an on-line facility. If they pick up 100,000 signatures in their six month life, petitions almost always get debated in Parliament. The one I submitted in May was rejected because it was too similar to one that had been running since March. I am now doing all I can think of to encourage as many people as possible to click on that one's 'sign' button in its remaining four months. It can be found at <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/123777>. Please sign it.

If you have any other ideas for furthering my campaign, I would really appreciate hearing from you.

Paul Steel
paul.steel@talktalk.net

Editor's Note

Paul is a Barkham resident and I encourage local people to air their views in the Newsletter and perhaps to spark off debate. Paul says above that he would like to hear from you and I also would welcome Barkham residents' comments on this or any other matter in future newsletters or via the Forum facility on the BVRA website www.barkham.org.uk



Our speaker in April gave a talk about homelessness in Berkshire. She explained some quirks in the statistics. Did you realise that to count as sleeping rough the person has to have their head on the ground when they do the count! Her organisation aims to provide a stepping stone from homelessness to independent living. In May we held a tea party to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday. The wonderful food was made by members and a lot of fun was had by all. We had a quiz, sang songs and held a raffle. We had a birthday cake with candles and Pat McCarthy blew them out on behalf of the Queen.

FARLEY HILL BOWLS CLUB NEWS

We had our Open Day and Plant Sale on Sunday 8th May, a glorious summer day, when we had 10 visitors who tried their hand at bowls for the first time.

Three of them joined our club immediately, Several are coming back for another go during one of our coaching sessions. These are run mainly for our new bowlers, by appointment, on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. If you would like to join them for a trial session please contact the undersigned. All you need to have a go is a pair of flat soled shoes to protect the green, trainers will do.

Otherwise, if anyone would like to inspect our club facilities, you will usually find some members there on Thursday mornings,



On May 10th we visited Wokingham Theatre to see "God of Carnage". This was a discussion between two couples and there was no blood on the stage!

Our two next meeting is on July 6th - "Queen Victoria's Colourful Cousins" by Colin Parrish

We meet at Barkham Village Hall on the first Wednesday evening of the month at 7.45pm. Visitors are welcome so if you are new to the area why not come along and meet us for an evening and then see if you would like to join.

Pam Edwards

weather permitting, between 10 and 12 am. Alternatively, if you look at our website to see when we are playing at home you can visit the club, maybe watch the match, have a cup of tea, and meet some members.

Our 2016 bowls season is now in full swing. We play around 50 friendly matches against other local clubs during the season, which finishes in late September.

We also usually run one Social event for our members during most months throughout the year.

We are at the Victory Hall, Church Road, Farley Hill, RG7 1TR. For further information please visit our website: www.farley-hillbowlsclub.org.uk or please contact the Club Secretary - Bill Dowling on 01344 772130, or e-mail: billdowling@talktalk.net



HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB 2016

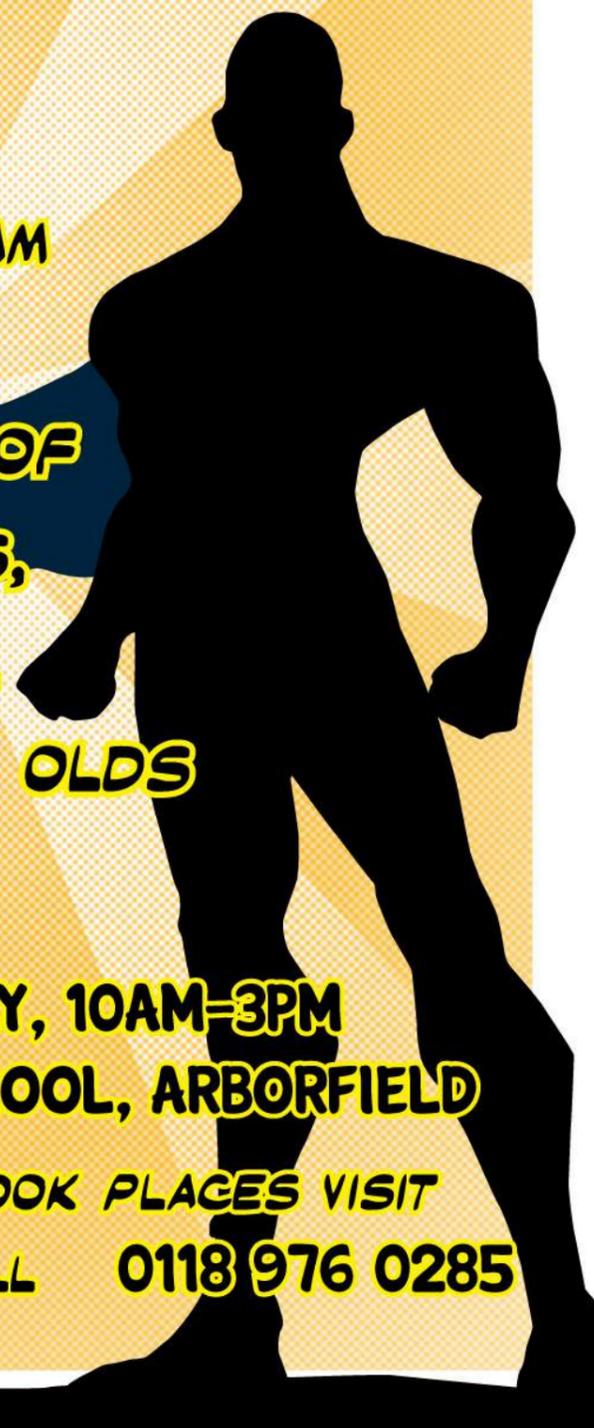
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'Truly Marvellous!'

Holiday Bible Club (HBC)

Where do superheroes come from? Where do they learn? Are there such things as superhero schools? There certainly will be at HBC this year, when our theme will be 'Truly Marvellous'. Geddit?!

For over 50 years, HBC has marked the start of the summer holiday for thousands of local children. Last year, around 300 youngsters aged 0-14 came along to enjoy the five-day club run by the churches of Arborfield, Barkham and Christ Church Wokingham, and we had a brilliant time!

They say one of the marks of getting old is time passing more quickly, and I guess that must be true, because it's hard to believe it's nearly upon us once again. Can't wait! Everything is gradually falling into place. All we need is you...

Might someone you know like to join us, for crafts, sports, music, games, drama, water sports, the sheer joy of watching leaders taking the walk of shame into the 'gunge tank,' the chance to make new friends and – of course – the opportunity to find out more about who Jesus is and why that even matters?

Then please sign them up! HBC this year will run from Monday 25-Friday 29 July, with a morning programme for under 5s and their parents/carers. Once again, we'll be based on the field at the Coombes School. We're hugely grateful for their support each year.

BOOKINGS ARE NOW OPEN! See www.abch.org.uk for more information and to book places. If you have any questions, please call the church office on 976 0285.

HELP PROTECT OUR ONLY VILLAGE PUB

Every week some 27 pubs in the UK are closed and lost forever, but with your support we can safeguard The Bull at Barkham by nominating it as an Asset of Community Value (ACV). This would allow residents to have the first say in its future, if ever it came under threat.

Luckily, The Bull is already a Grade II listed building, with a history spanning several centuries. The forge, preserved in the dining area, was still in use only thirty years ago. It is also a great visual reminder of Barkham's distinctive character.

The current landlord has put new life into The Bull as a traditional pub, a successful restaurant, and a focus for events and activities. It is a real social asset for the community, as evidenced by the sheer number of regular visitors.

We must do everything possible to retain The Bull but it can only be achieved with your support.

Please help support The Bull by email to clerk@barkham-parish-council.org.uk, or by signing the petitions at Barkham Post Office, or at The Bull itself. Don't forget to include your name and address. Why not do it now?

Data protection: Please note addresses will not be divulged to third parties. Your details will only be used by the Parish Council to keep you informed about the progress of the petition unless you have requested otherwise.

THANK YOU
BARKHAM PARISH COUNCIL



Loddon Valley Ramblers' Walks

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

Sunday 19th June: A foray through Chobham Common with a possible chance to spot a kingfisher. 5½ miles 10:00 am Staple Hill Car Park, Staple Hill Road, Chobham (GU24 8TU) [SU972647](#) Leader George S 01344 483508 or 0770 366 2747 (text preferred).

Thursday 23rd June: A walk around Arborfield, Great Copse and the Loddon, through tranquil, gently undulating farmland and woods. 6 miles 10:30 am Arborfield Royal British Legion, Eversley Road; permission obtained (RG2 9PR) [SU762666](#) Leader Nick J 0118 932 8758 or 07785 257992.

Thursday 30th June: Hollowhill, Hog, Widefield, Marlow Common and Davenport. 4.7 miles 10:30 am Careful edge-of-wood parking around the triangle between Hollowhill and Pullingshill Woods (SL7 2DS approx) [SU823861](#) Leader Dougal M 0118 924 1979 or 07719 450283.

Thursday 7th July: Explore the Hambleden valley with us: round the bottom of Ridge Wood, up through the valley to Great Wood, Luxters Farm, Jubilee Plantation, back down valley. 6 miles 10:30am Public CP behind Stag and Huntsman PH, Hambleden [SU785865](#) Leader Alan B 0118 961 6595.

Wednesday 13th July: Gentle summer evening walk around Finchampstead. 3½ miles 18:30 The Queen's Oak Pub car park (permission obtained) (RG40 4LS) [SU793639](#) Leader David T 0118 977 4184 or 07899 938397.

Thursday 21st July: A gentle morning amble through the permitted paths of Hurst, river Loddon and Dinton Pastures. 4½ miles 10:30am The Wheelwright Arms, Davis Way, Hurst (RG10 0TR). Park there if lunching, or on the road or at Dinton Pastures (payment) [SU786716](#) Leader Ellen 0118 934 1084 or 0771 555 3979.

Thursday 28th July: Follow the Thames at Basildon, and lanes, some road, one long gradual up, some stiles. 6 miles 10:30 Roadside parking in front of St Bartholomew's Church, Lower Basildon (RG8 9NH) [SU611793](#) Leader 07429 337369.

Thursday 4th August: Join us as we follow the quiet lanes and woods in Farley Hill, with open views in Chill Hill, and along three rivers. 5 miles 10:00 Park carefully at the roadside in Church Lane, Farley Hill (RG7 1UL) [SU752647](#) Leader 0118 976 1737 or 07846 434861.

Sunday 21st August: An early walk from Pack Horse PH via Caversham Heath Golf course to Mapledurham, returning via Trench Green. Some steepish slopes. If you wish to lunch at the pub afterwards it is advisable to book on 0118 972 2140 as it is popular at lunchtime on Sundays. 6 miles 09:30 Pack Horse Public House CP (permission obtained) Upper Woodcote Road, Chazey Heath, on right hand side of A4074 coming out of Reading (RG4 7UG) [SU692782](#) Leader Mary B 0118 926 7208 or 07557 432878.

Sunday 28th August: Follow the river Pang, then through Sulham Woods to Purley and Mapledurham lock, and back along the Thames to Pangbourne. 5½ miles 10:00am Station Road CP, Pangbourne (RG8 7AR) [SU634766](#) Leader Cathy O 07940 801261.



Increasingly, people seem to want to contact us by telephone. So, we have put some effort (and spent some money) into making our telephone service as good as we can.

We have a new, local rate, telephone number that is dedicated to residents of Wokingham Borough. This means that if you call us you will be talking to someone from the local area, who knows the local area. There is also a new voicemail facility so that if you are not answered (we might be busy, or closed) you can leave a message. The latest we will call you back is the next working day. The telephone number and operating hours are as shown below for our Wokingham office.

At the same time we launched our new website that is much easier to navigate and find things you are looking for. If you want to contact us you can now do so direct from the website. The new web address is shown below.

If you have a problem with paying bills, welfare benefits, housing or employment (or anything else!) we can help. We have a free, specialist debt advice service which can help you with debt solutions. If you need any help please contact us. The sooner the better!

For more information please see www.citizensadvicewokingham.org.uk. If you want to talk to us on the phone about anything you can call our Adviceline on 0300 330 1189.

You can also email us on public@citizensadvicewokingham.org.uk or drop in to one of our offices:

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

Barkham Diary

14-Jun-16	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
14-Jun-16	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
27-Jun-16	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	7.30pm
28-Jun-16	Parish Council Planning Review	BVH	7.30pm
06-Jul-16	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
12-Jul-16	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
12-Jul-16	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
13-Jul-16	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
25-Jul-16	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	7.30pm
26-Jul-16	Parish Council Planning Review	BVH	7.30pm
10-Aug-16	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
07-Sep-16	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
09-Sep-16	Copy deadline for Autumn Newsletter		
13-Sep-16	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
13-Sep-16	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
14-Sep-16	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
26-Sep-16	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	7.30pm
27-Sep-16	Parish Council Planning Review	BVH	7.30pm
10-Nov-16	BVRA AGM	BVH	8pm
19-Nov-16	BVRA Quiz Night	BVH	7.30pm
Weekly Events			
Mondays	Pilates Class	BVH	11.30am
Mondays	Dog Training	BVH	6.30pm
Tues-Fri	Barkham Pre-School	BVH	9.00am
Thursdays	Pilates Class	BVH	6.15pm

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

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8	Victoria Wood wrote it, Julie Walters performed it.
7	Prince
6	The Mrs Merton Show (Caroline Aherne)
5	EMI
4	The Frost Report
3	Blankety Blank
2	Severus Snape
1	David Bowie
	The Quiz - Answers

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