



Barkham Newsletter

£1, free to Members

Issue 117 Autumn 2016

from the Barkham Village Residents Association

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

Autumn colours!



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, 3 and 10

Quiz Night

Saturday 19th November - see page 10

29th BVRA AGM – 10th November 2016

In accordance with the constitution, the BVRA Annual General Meeting will take place at 8pm on Thursday 10th November at Barkham Village Hall. All residents of Barkham are welcome to attend. Nominations for any post should reach the Secretary by 20th October.

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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

This time, the theme is "Cop Shows" or more formally, British TV Police Dramas!

1. Which actress is a police sergeant in Happy Valley but has also spent 5 years in the 90s as a barmaid in Coronation Street?
2. Which 2 (related) series were named after David Bowie songs?
3. Barrington Pheloung wrote the haunting music for which series?
4. Which long running series was set in the fictional "Newtown"?
5. Which R.D. Wingfield novels were made into (another) long running series?
6. "Evening all" were the usual opening lines of which police series?
7. Which series featured PCs Tony Stamp and Reg Hollis?
8. Who created and wrote Prime Suspect?
9. Which (current) series concerns the work of AC-12, a police anti-corruption unit?
10. And finally, how did The Sweeney get its name?

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: vacant
development@barkham.org.uk

Advertising and Newsletter Contributions

Newsletter articles / contributions for the Autumn edition should be in by 11 November 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 early December.



Editorial

Welcome to the autumn edition of the Barkham Newsletter.

This edition is "members only". You may be aware that the Spring and Summer newsletters are distributed to every household in Barkham but the Autumn and Winter ones are just for paid up members. The large majority of residents are members. Thank you for your support!

Can I start by saying we have still not found a replacement for Judith Collins as our Social Secretary, despite repeated appeals. Luckily Judith gave us a long "notice period" that she was moving out of the parish. However, that time is approaching and the forthcoming quiz in November is likely to be her last event as Social Secretary. The BVRA is entirely run by volunteers – over 40 people including the newsletter distributors, social committee and main committee. We badly need "new blood" to spread the load and bring new ideas.

So...please do not wait for someone else to step forward! If you have an interest in promoting an active and informed local community and want to contribute to making this happen, please contact me or any member of the committee to discuss further.

The Social Secretary ad is shown on page 2.

Back to this edition of the newsletter! We have our regular features with updates from Barkham Parish Council and John Kaiser (our Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) councillor). Laurence Heath alerts us to the forthcoming WBC "call for sites" list and how we can comment to WBC. He also gives details on the Arborfield and Barkham Neighbourhood Plan and the "drop-in" events planned in October.

We have news of forthcoming local concerts and articles on gardening and history. Julian Bidgood reports on the annual Holiday Bible Club, which had another successful week with 350 children attending.

The Quiz topic this time is "Cop Shows" and the questions cover British police dramas from the 60s to the present day. If anyone fancies being a guest quiz setter for one (or more) editions please let me know. One job less for the editor!

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 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. The Parish Council will be providing a Welcome Pack to all our new residents and hope to host some social events with the aid of Crest Nicholson.

Community Forum

The next Community Forum will be held on Monday 10th October from 7.00 p.m. – 8.45 p.m. at Henry Street Garden Centre. Do take this opportunity to attend and ask the developers any questions or concerns that you may have. Wokingham Borough Council would like feedback on the forums and suggestions for how they could best inform and involve our residents as the Strategic Development Locations continue to be developed. An online survey has been set up for you to provide feedback www.wokingham.gov.uk/consultation.

Bohunt School

Work on the new Bohunt School has progressed well despite the

wet winter conditions and the new building at the former Arborfield Garrison site is on schedule to be finished for September 2017. More than 100 students will join the school when it opens in September this year. Initially they will use the well-established legacy buildings, adjacent to the new school building being constructed on the former Garrison site. Eventually the new school will cater for up to 1200 pupils. The school will have a customised STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) rooms, science labs, a drama theatre plus many other learning resource centres. This is a fantastic facility for our young people. The public access to the gym will not happen until sometime in 2018.

Speed limits

You may have noticed that speed limits have been changed in parts of Barkham Road and Bearwood Road, reducing permitted speed to 30mph. This has been implemented by WBC as a means of improving safety on roads that might be used to access the new secondary school.

BPC was disappointed that the consultation for this change was not carried out properly. We do feel that changes to speed limits are justified on some local roads, both on the grounds of safety and to improve the environment for residents who live in these roads. We also doubt how many pupils will actually walk these routes to school. That said, we feel that the speed limit changes have not been done correctly, for example the change of speed limit in Bearwood Road should be further up the hill, where the existing 40mph sign is located. Also residents in Langley Common Road and Barkham Street also feel that the

speed limit should be reviewed in both of these roads.

We are all happy to rush along roads that are essentially residential, but residents understandably are not so happy about the noise and disturbance they have to endure and the dangers encountered as they just emerge from their own drives!

Barkham Signs

You will all have noticed the two very impressive signs "Welcome to Barkham", that have now been erected, one on the Barkham Road and the other on the Bearwood Road. This clearly gives residents a sense of identity and a focus to our village. The Parish Council plan to purchase two further signs to be positioned on the roads coming from the other direction.

New Charges for some Non-Household Waste at re3 Recycling Centres

From 30th September, re3 recycling centres will be introducing charges for the disposal of some non-household waste as part of a programme to make essential savings and provide a more efficient and fair waste management service. Non-household waste includes items from the repair and alteration to homes and waste created from landscaping or garden remodelling. Councils are entitled to charge for the disposal of these types of waste and, in order to produce much-needed savings, re3 has taken the decision to do so. Residents can still dispose of all other household waste free of charge at the recycling centres.

By introducing charges for items like soil and rubble, plasterboard, asbestos and gas bottles, re3 can

cover the cost of managing those types of waste without having to subsidise it from already stretched budgets. The savings made may also help mitigate some of the cuts in council funding and may help protect other frontline services.

Working alongside the introduction of commercial and commercial-type vehicle permits, the new charges will also act as a deterrent to those firms who try to dump trade waste for free at the recycling centres. The new charging scheme is bringing re3 in line with what is happening at recycling centres elsewhere. A full list of charges is now available in re3's [Waste Acceptance Policy](http://www.re3.org.uk), available from www.re3.org.uk. Payments will be in multiples of whole bags, e.g. rubble, or sheets, e.g. plasterboard, whilst charges for loose materials will be based on the size and the proportion of a fully loaded vehicle e.g. 50% or 100%. Items such as toilet pans, sinks, toilet cisterns and sink pedestals will be charged as single items. Payments will be by credit, debit or pre-paid payment card only, and visitors to the sites will be asked to agree the charge and pay before depositing their waste.

Residents who wish to dispose of household waste in a commercial or a commercial-type vehicle, or with a trailer between 1.8 and 3m in length, will also need a permit to visit a re3 recycling centre. re3's recycling centres in Bracknell and Reading will continue to accept all other household waste free of charge including garden waste, white goods, large and small electrical items, wood, bric-a-brac and bulky household waste such as furniture, carpets and mattresses. Items that are brought in and are still in good condition are donated to Sue

Ryder to fundraise for hospice care. For more information on what is accepted at re3 recycling centres, please visit <http://www.fc-environment.co.uk/re3-household-recycling-centres.html>

Barkham Sporting Fund

The Parish Council is again offering a grant to any young person who participates in their chosen sport at County level. Over the last few years we have had a whole host of very talented young people for whom we have been delighted to help with a small financial grant towards their training expenses. We have all been truly inspired by Team GB in Rio, what an amazing array of medals they have brought home. Please contact the Clerk if you compete at County level and send us a brief summary of your achievements.

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.

On a final note, could we please ask all patrons of the shop and Post Office kindly not to drop litter, in the last few days there has been a notable increase in the amount of litter, this may well be due to the children going back to school and using the shop. If we could all be extra careful it

would make a big difference to our village.

Judith Neuhofer – Clerk to Barkham Parish Council

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

Proposed housing sites in Barkham about to be revealed Make sure you have your say



Search for the page entitled "Local Plan Update" which is where I expect it to be published.

Before we all become too depressed, I should make clear that just because a site is put forward, that does not mean that it will happen. However, as a broad brush estimate, I would expect up to a third of the land proposed for development across the Borough will eventually get the go ahead. That means we will have a lot of work to do, as a parish and as residents, to ensure that our locality is not overwhelmed by housing and all the associated problems.

At the moment, Wokingham Borough Council are not proposing a formal consultation process until they get to the stage of weeding out the no hopers. I think this is a serious mistake: once the planners have edited the list, development promoters will try to suggest that the remaining sites have been accepted as being "sustainable" (the buzz word in planning circles) and then the process starts to gather a momentum of its own. We have already endured bad experience of this sort in Barkham.

If the Planning Department do not confirm a consultation period, I would suggest that residents should write with their concerns directly to the Borough. I suggest comments should be addressed to Mark Ashwell who is the Executive Member for Planning and Regeneration Mark.Ashwell@wokingham.gov.uk. Remember that comments carry more weight if they are specifically on planning issues, e.g. transport and access, road safety, distance from key infrastructure such as doctor's

surgeries, shops, schools and nurseries, drainage and impact on the environment. Remind him also that Barkham already took well over its share in the Core Strategy which was the last round of the local plan adopted in 2010: the garrison development allocated over 1,500 homes in Barkham, which will more than double the size of the parish.

Another and important way in which residents can influence the Local Plan Update is through the Neighbourhood Plan. In the Summer issue of the Newsletter, I outlined how this process works and how everyone can get involved. The intention is to run the Neighbourhood Plan in parallel with the Local Plan Update. The Steering Group has been making good progress these last few months and it is timely that we have reached the point where we have organised two public events, one in Barkham and one in Arborfield, giving a choice of evening or weekend events (see the box below). The Steering Group are also preparing a residents' survey which will provide an up to date analysis of local opinions.

Planning Inspectors seem to be giving considerable weight to Neighbourhood Plans, so hopefully the project will become a valuable part of the planning process. This is a great encouragement to get the plan completed.

Laurence Heath
Vice Chairman
Barkham Parish Council

In the Spring issue of the Newsletter I outlined the work being done by Wokingham Borough Council on the Local Plan Update. It looks as though Wokingham Borough Council will have to commit to around 850 new homes a year until 2036. That is another 17,000 in total, equivalent to five new garrison developments. The justification for this large number is growing demand – children who were born in 1980's developments such as Lower Earley and Woosehill are now seeking homes of their own. Meanwhile there is continued inward migration with people wishing to move out of London to enjoy our attractive environment (as long as it survives), and job seekers from other parts of the UK and beyond. This is all the price of being in a prosperous and thriving part of the country.

Back in the spring, I outlined the "call for sites" process and expressed my concerns about what proposals might come forward. Wokingham Borough Council have let it be known that the full list will be made available on 21 September. This information will be on the Wokingham Borough Council website, presented in the form of an interactive map. I am not yet in a position to let you know what is proposed but I am sure that my concerns are well founded. Make sure you check the map when it is published.



Arborfield and Barkham Neighbourhood Plan

Drop in events will be held as follows:

Barkham Village Hall Saturday 15 October 2pm to 4.30pm

Arborfield Village Hall Thursday 20 October 7pm to 9.30pm

Come and find out how the Neighbourhood Plan is shaping up. Share your views on planning topics including the amount and types of housing required for parish needs and where it should go. Complete the residents' survey. Residents of the two parishes can attend either event.

Barkham Development Watch

Helping to protect Barkham's distinctive character

This email list is only used to send out periodic email alerts if we wish to bring any development plans to the notice of Barkham residents. Often the time allowed by Wokingham Borough Council for comments on a specific planning application or more general plan will expire before the next Barkham Newsletter is published so these alerts give residents a timely chance to comment on issues that may concern them. We currently have about 150 Barkham households on the list.

Please join the mailing list today by going to the BVRA website (www.barkham.org.uk) and follow the instructions to register for the alerts on the home page.

Also, if you have previously registered for these alerts but have changed your email address, please don't forget to resubscribe via the website. An alert was sent out on 17 September – if you didn't receive that, you're not registered!



will be looking to distil the list to provide suitable sites from those submitted sites going forward as the plan develop over the next 18 to 24 months.

There will be sites from all over the Borough including Barkham and its surrounding areas on the list. There will be an opportunity to submit comment on the sites once the public consultation gets under way.

My view is new settlements will be required to take any future housing in locations with good transport connections that 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 approach during the development and planning period of the local plan.

I cannot over 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 2036 deciding on where new housing is built.

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

I am working with Arborfield and Barkham Parish Councils who are currently developing a Neighbourhood Development Plan; it means they can play a

much greater role going forward in helping to shape any new development. The parish councils can have greater influence in obtaining the additional infrastructure improvements that are needed to allow Barkham and Arborfield to continue to be desirable places to live.

Both parishes will be looking for input from residents and will be holding a number of consultation events during the development phase of the plan; your views are important to help ensure our part of the borough remains a good place to live and work.

We are seeing traffic delays across the borough and this is due to the development of the various strategic development locations under way in the borough, in addition to the new roads being constructed to upgrade the road network

Unfortunately, this is unavoidable as these roads have been a long time coming, we have seen a massive increase in traffic on the borough's roads during the last 10 years without the development of the road infrastructure; this is a plan to ensure the road network copes as traffic continues to grow.

The important thing is a strategy which avoids repairs being carried out on the alternative routes at the same time as the new roads are developed across the borough.

There is good news on the education front, as for all the borough schools, students A-Level results were above the national average, achieved at least 98 per cent pass rate, and two schools achieved 100 per cent

The proportion of pupils achiev-

ing the highest (A* to A) grades (27.2%) was well above the national average of 25.8%. Some grades were marginally down on last year, with overall A* to C grades 79.1 per cent compared with 79.9 per cent in 2015. Despite this Wokingham Borough schools continue to perform at a very high level, and the results are well above the figures from 2014 and before.

In addition, GCSE students across the borough yet again achieved higher grades than last year's and therefore bucking the national trend of falling pass rates.

Work on the Bohunt School (the new Secondary school) on the garrison has progressed well and the new building is on schedule to be finished for September 2017. Road safety is important and I have been working with the officers of the council on suitable and safe routes to the school, including reduction in speed limits and will continue to campaign for further improvements.

A topping out ceremony to mark the highest point of construction has been held recently at the new Bohunt School Wokingham building, which is costing in excess of £32 million. More than 100 students will join the school when it opens in September and initially they will use the modern ex-army existing education buildings, adjacent to the new school building under construction.

The plan is for the new school to cater for up to 1200 pupils. The school will have a customised STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) rooms, science labs, a drama theatre, and large light and open plan areas which will house the school's impressive ICT, art and learning resource centres. All this coupled with the sports facilities

WHY NOT BECOME A DISTRIBUTOR?

Please come and join our team of distributors for the Barkham Newsletter. We currently require one for a round in Elizabeth Park. So for the opportunity for a little light exercise and a chance to meet your neighbours please call me (Jim) on 978 3572 or e-mail membership@barkham.org.uk Thank you.

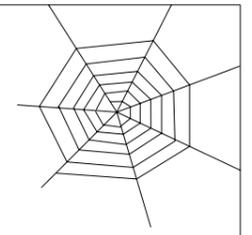
in the adjacent sports centre, 3G Astro-Turf and tennis and netball courts make the new school a fantastic facility for the borough's young people. One disappointment is the delay in public access to the Gym facilities which will not happen until sometime in 2018.

Unfortunately, not so good is one of our local schools, the Coombes School has gone into special measures which will mean it becomes an Academy. This is very disappointing. There has been an investigation into what occurred to see what lessons can be learnt from what went wrong.

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.

Best regards

John Kaiser
Councillor for Barkham
Wokingham Borough Council
Email: john.kaiser@wokingham.gov.uk
Telephone: 0118 976 2116
Mobile 0771 419 2352



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



SOCIAL MATTERS

Yet another summer has been and gone and the children have returned to their schools. Now is the time to plant the bulbs to cheer us up in the spring – my gosh, where does the time go?

We had a very pleasant time at the distributors' BBQ and I am sure that all that attended enjoyed the evening – please see the photos opposite. There was a special mention for Angela Hands (also pictured) who has recently had to “retire” as a distributor after many years of carrying out the role. If you would be interested in becoming a distributor I am sure that Jim Butler would like to hear from you – see advert on page 9 for details.

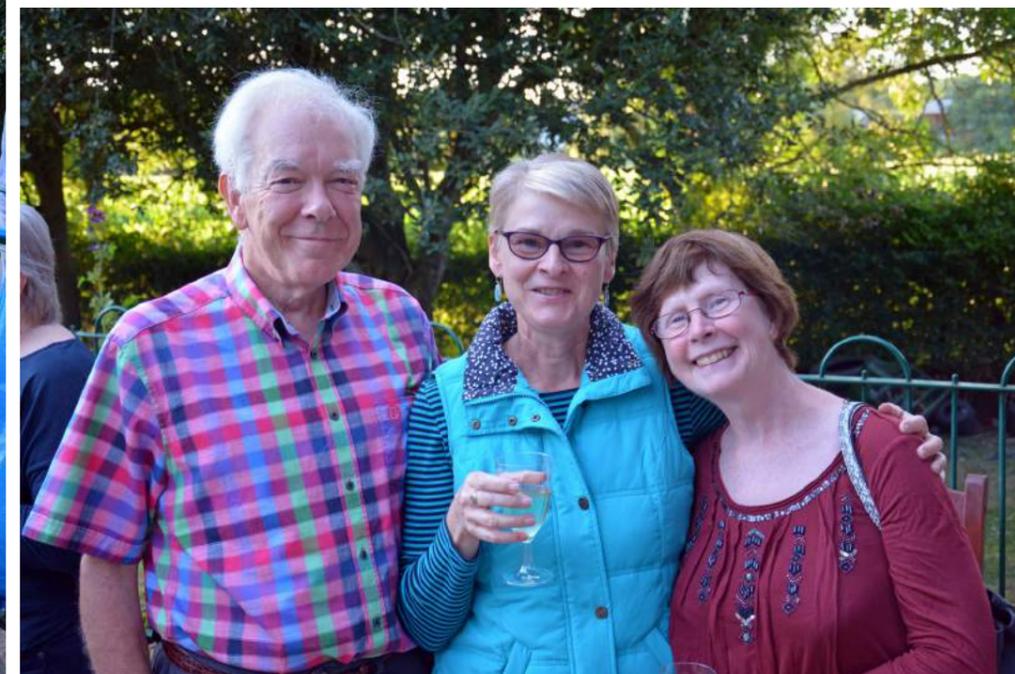
Nothing else has happened since the last newsletter – not even a replacement for my position! Perhaps you don't wish for any future events in the village? The quiz on 19th November will be the last one for Steve and Anita and I am very grateful that they have come from Portland, since they moved there, to be our quiz-master and score inputter. Tickets are now on sale at £9.50 each and tables should be for a maximum of 6 people. Timings are 7.00pm for a prompt 7.30pm start. This includes a fish and chip supper but please let me know when ordering if an alternative is required.....it's too late to change

on the day! We will have our usual bar service.

We have provisionally booked the village hall for an event in March 2017 so what would you like – another skittles evening or something different? Please contact a member of the committee with your ideas.

We are currently waiting to hear from the Breakaway Brass band about a date for the Carols in the Park 2016. This has been running for many years and is always popular so we hope to be able to hold it again this year. Details will be in the next edition and on the website www.barkham.org.uk.

Judith Collins





St James' Church

'Truly Marvellous' week at HBC!

Were any of your children amongst the 350 who joined us for Holiday Bible Club this year? If so, you'll know we had a fabulous week when we enjoyed dry weather and a packed programme full of activities, talks, music, crafts, sports and masses of fun.

Our theme this year was 'Truly Marvellous' as we plundered the theme of super heroes, enjoying all kinds of super-heroic antics and learning about the greatest superhero of them all – the real life Jesus Christ – and how he came to rescue us.

As ever, HBC was run by around 100 volunteers from the 3 churches of Arborfield, Barkham and Christ Church Wokingham and we want to express our thanks to The Coombes School for letting us use their facilities.

Looking for a local church?

We would love to welcome you at St James' Barkham. We are a 'family-friendly' church, serving the people of Barkham and the



wider area. We welcome anyone who wants to find out more about Christianity and those who want to know how to keep on following Jesus. We have lots of children and young people and they are very well catered for, with a crèche provided for little ones and Sunday Club groups for every age.

We meet at 10am and 7pm every Sunday - Do come and join us! There is lots more information on our website www.abch.org.uk

Julian Bidgood
Minister of Barkham

Arborfield Local History Society

Our forthcoming programme is quite varied and details can be found in the Diary on page 19.

Our regular meetings are held on the first Monday of each month (unless as otherwise stated) in the Arborfield Village Hall commencing at 7.45pm. Visitors and Guests are welcome, when we make a nominal charge of £2-00 per person. Just turn up on the night.

Our June meeting saw Katherine Samson give a fascinating presentation on 'Churches of Berkshire and Beyond'. This focused on the out of the way and unusual churches of Berkshire and South Oxfordshire. She certainly knew her subject and it was a very enjoyable evening. This was followed by two outdoor events – our minibus trip to the Berkshire and Wiltshire Canal restoration project together with a visit to the Kennet & Avon Caen Hill Locks.

In July, we had a walkabout in Wokingham with Trevor Otlewski – over two hours exploring Rose Street and the Town Hall, I had no idea that there was so much interesting history on our doorstep. This was only Part 1 and we hope to include another walk in the near future. Both of these events were very well supported.

August 1st saw us undertake a well supported coach trip to Bath which had something for everybody. Then in September, we were back in the Village Hall when John & Lindsay Mullaney presented "Henry I & Reading Abbey". This was a fascinating talk, given the recent search of the ruins.

The recent focus on canals and Steve Bacon's particular interest in this area, it is perhaps appropriate to remind readers that the River Loddon was once a navigable waterway. You may have seen Steve's articles in the Wokingham Paper including one on this topic but for those who missed them, I will add the following extract.

"The River Loddon meets the rivers Blackwater and Whitewater at Swallowfield. Nearby is 'Barge Lane'. Did this mean that sailing barges from the Thames ventured up the River Loddon as far as Swallowfield? Berkshire Record Office has an Enclosure Map of Swallowfield from 1817 that clearly shows the canal.. Old maps of Arborfield also show that there was a 'Lock Pool' near the paper mill, and this suggests that the river was used as a waterway. Further downstream, there was a similar Lock Pool at Sindlesham Mill. There is evidence that Locks were used on river navigations in central Berkshire way back in the 1400s.

The Arborfield Hall Estate had two boat-houses, and the Simonds family of Newlands had a boathouse on the River Loddon, as shown on the 1881 Ordnance Survey 6" map. The boathouse near the site of the old Hall still exists, as shown on the right. However, the boathouse that was let by Carter's Hill Farm to John Simonds in 1919 is gone - it was near where the M4 crosses the Loddon.

At Sindlesham there was another boat-house near to Mill Lane, just downstream of the cluster of cottages by the motorway. The area was marked as 'Brick Bridge' on the O.S. map, though the crossing itself has long since been replaced by a metal Bailey Bridge. At Winnersh, rowing boats used to be available for hire at the George P.H., as shown on old post-cards. A little further down-

stream, another boat-house is shown off Colemansmoor Lane in Woodley."

Ray Hill
0118 9760784
rayfhill@aol.com

FARLEY HILL BOWLS CLUB

By the time you read this our 2016 Bowls season will be over and our Green will be closed after a successful programme of bowls and social events.

We are a unique bowls club because we only play friendly matches against many different local clubs and do not get involved with the hectic world of county leagues. More importantly we do not have a selection committee, so if you put your name down in good time you will be playing in that particular game.

All bookings for matches and social events, as well as the displaying of the teams, are done online through our comprehensive website: www.farleyhillbowlsclub.org.uk.

We always welcome new members, whether you are a bowler or would just like to join the social side of the club. There is a programme of social events during the winter months, which this year will include a Victorian Christmas Games evening and an exciting Race Evening.

Social membership is only £10 a year; whereas Bowling membership is currently £60 a year, plus match fees.

To find out more about the Club please do not hesitate to contact Bill Dowling (01344 772130, billdowling@talktalk.net).



problem and warned me about their similar experience and that badgers have an insatiable appetite have for sweet corn. As a consequence of this advice I thought I had sufficient defences but alas no, it managed to force apart some wire netting to make a gap.

Another major incursion was by moles, for whom there is no real defence. They appear to have set up camp under the compost heaps where it is nice and warm!

In the previous edition I reported about a rabbit getting into the garden but my reinforcements seem to have done the trick. They can't force a hole in the fencing like badgers can.

Finally, the squirrels have just taken a liking to the raspberries and made a bit of a mess of the whole plants. The bird netting provided totally inadequate protection. Enough of the pests let me tell you about the crops!

It's been a great growing season. Plenty of sun and rain in May and June, although the cold winds meant a very slow start for the squashes. July and August were warm and dry good for ripening crops.

Potatoes, broad beans, runner beans, French beans, shallots and carrots have cropped heavily and tastily. Among the vegetables one highlight was the peas, where a succession of sowings has ensured peas on the menu for most of July and August, and we are still eating them occasionally as I write in early September. The other highlight was the magnificent sweet corn, that is before the badgers found them (see photo)!

A mini quiz - children (or adults for that matter!) may wish to try to identify all the 11 types of vegetables and fruit in the basket (below). Answers on the website - www.barkham.org.uk.

Alan's Patch

Breaking News! Last weekend I was away and when I returned I discovered that a badger had invaded my patch and had demolished and devoured the sweet corn, nothing else, just the sweet corn. In return, as a goodwill gesture, it left a deposit behind! Fortunately we had already eaten the best of them and there were few left and they were starting to get past their best. Nonetheless it is very annoying. I remember our tenants having had the same



Arborfield Gardening Association

Hello Everyone !

I hope you have had a good summer, as it definitely feels as though autumn is upon us now

We at AGA have enjoyed some interesting summer visits this year, although the nightingales were rather shy on our evening visit to the Conservation Lakes at Theale in June. Apparently they only sing when trying to attract females, so no doubt there were many satisfied males lurking in the trees and bushes!

July took us on an afternoon visit to the beautiful Farley Hill Place Gardens (also open for the National Gardens Scheme for charities). The owner, Margaret Finch, who owned the flower shop in Wokingham, also gave us a flower arranging demonstration with flowers from her garden and provided us with a delicious tea.

Talking about food our garden party in August, set in one of our own member's garden, was very well attended, therefore the food was plentiful and varied! We also had the opportunity to visit another member's garden close by and returned home that evening replete with wonderful food and memories of beautiful gardens.

In September we were back in the Village Hall in Arborfield for a talk on "The Meaning of Flowers" by Colin Oakes, a popular RHS speaker. You are probably aware that red roses mean love, but there are many other meanings that have been attached to flowers - so do take care! apparently babies' breath mean death!

Also in September, all the local garden societies gathered at Henry Street Garden Centre in Arborfield, to flex their botanical muscles in the Inter-Societies Quiz. A challenging, but most enjoyable annual event.

October brings another very special event for us, as it is our turn to host the Three Societies Social, an event where Arborfield, Shinfield and Heckfield & Swallowfield garden clubs come together to partake of an evening of good food and entertainment, along with some exacting quizzes and the nerve-racking table competition, where the societies compete for the best vegetables, pot plant, garden flowers, fruit, floral art, craft item, bottle of cherry vodka (!), sponge cake and the tastiest cheese straws. An event to which we all greatly look forward.

In November we look forward to a talk on Hebes by Derek Leary then - my goodness - it is Christmas and our annual Christmas meal in December!

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@gmail.com

The lowlight? Well I guess that has to go to the tomatoes which, although they have grown and cropped well, are not up to the standard I expect from Gardeners' Delight. I wonder if there has been a mix up with the seeds.

The squashes and courgettes got off to a slow start with the cold winds earlier in the summer and have not cropped as well as usual but there is still time for the squashes to come to fruition.

My old reliable Discovery apple, despite heavy pruning, has produced a great crop of delicious fruit. Unfortunately, as a free standing tree the birds get more than their fair share, that's one reason why I now tend to grow fruits as cordons along walls and fences, where it is practical to protect them. The two new fruit trees that I mentioned last time did not recover but their replacements are doing fine. Raspberries and blackcurrants have been good and there have been plenty of blackberries in the field.

We have a nearly two-acre field behind us and I have found it difficult to find someone reliable to mow it so this year I hired a tractor and mower and cut it myself. I was brought up on a farm so it reminded me of my youth. The grass has grown so much this year that I needed to cut it twice, once in early June and again mid August. It's nice to be able to see the deer again. That should last until next year now.

After another successful concert in July, the orchestra is looking forward to the Autumn Concert which is on Saturday 19th November, 7.30pm at The Old Gym, Wellington College.

The programme has a theme of childhood without being a children's concert (although we will be inviting children to a rehearsal of course), and includes the Dohnanyi: 'Variations on a Nursery Song' for Piano and Orchestra when we will welcome our soloist Andy Spiceley.

There's a range of well known and not so well known music in the programme which we're looking forward to exploring. Chabrier's "Marche Joyeuse" and "Night on a Bare Mountain", by Mussorgsky are popular pieces and I'm sure many of the tunes in Bizet's 'Jeux d'Enfants' will be instantly recognised, but the programme also includes some less familiar pieces that will bring back memories of childhood including "Childrens' Overture" by the English composer Roger Quilter, best known for his songs and light music, and who was incidentally a prep school pupil in Farnborough. Malcolm Arnold's 'A Grand, Grand Overture' brought a lot of smiles to the audience's faces when it was played at the Last Night of the Proms a few years ago. We hope it will be just as much fun in our concert – with vacuum cleaners

and floor polisher to add the lively orchestral music! It promises to be another entertaining evening.

Tickets for the concert are available from Bookends in Wokingham, Traveltime in Crowthorne or online via the orchestra's website.

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. Our regular membership is now over sixty players and we have a reputation as a friendly bunch with members of all ages.

For our concerts, the orchestra is augmented by 'extras' such as harp, percussion and brass players and these are often folk who enjoy playing with us and return time and again as 'guests'! 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

Wokingham Choral Society

Wokingham Choral Society's Autumn Concert will be performed on Saturday 12 November 2016 at 7.30pm in the Great Hall, University of Reading, RG1 5AQ and will include Mozart – Mass in C Minor, Haydn – Te Deum, Mozart - Ave Verum Corpus and Haydn – Insanae et Venae Curae. The concert will be conducted by our Musical Director, Patrick Allies and accompanied by the Hampstead Chamber Orchestra. Tickets prices will be £15.00 for adults and £10.00 for under 18s and students. Tickets for both events and will be available in advance from: tickets@wokingham-choral-society.org.uk; Information Centre, Wokingham Town Hall; Newbury Building Society; Wokingham Bookends, Wokingham; www.wegotickets.com or on the door.

For further details, please visit our website on www.wokingham-choral-society.org.uk.

Details of our Christmas Carol Concert will be in the Winter edition of this newsletter and on our website.

Julia Primarolo
WCS Publicity Manager



Barkham Ladies Social Club meets in the Village Hall on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.45pm and we would love to meet you if you are new to the area, or not.

In July we had a very interesting talk on Queen Victoria's Colourful Cousins and what a lot of them there were.

August was our annual BBQ and we all enjoyed that evening when we are very lucky in having two of the husbands as the chefs.

The speaker in September was a local funeral director who gave us the history of funerals which was very interesting and in October we are going to hear about 'accordions'. November will be 'Odd Odes and True Stories' so you can see the programme is very varied.

We look forward to seeing any ladies who might be interested in joining us. If you would prefer to chat to somebody they why not give our Chairperson, Pauline Vestey, a call on 979 1714

Judith Collins



Many of us go on holiday in the summer. The weather is generally good and we are in the school holidays. One common problem that we see with package holidays is the hotel being miles away from where you booked and there was no one to contact about changing hotels. This can lead to added cost for travel to and from the hotel to the resort where you wanted to be.

Under these circumstances it is reasonable to ask for compensation when you haven't got the holiday you paid for. Your accommodation should be as agreed. If not, it's usually considered a breach of contract. You can't claim the total cost of the holiday, but you can ask to be reimbursed for the extra travel costs, plus a fair sum for the change to your holiday.

Start by writing an email or letter to the tour operator's customer services department. Give your booking reference number, explain your grievance and specify the amount of compensation you'd like. As evidence for your claim, include the details of when you tried to contact your tour operator while you were away, and copies of any taxi or car hire receipts.

The firm may come back with an initial offer that is lower than what you are asking for, so be prepared to negotiate. If you're not offered any compensation, check your tour operator's website to see if they belong to a UK trade body, like ABTA. If they do, you can

lodge a new complaint through the trade body's website. The tour operator is obliged to respond to the complaint.

Should you still not receive a satisfactory response, contact the Citizens Advice consumer service on 03454 040506 or visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer for guidance on your next steps.

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

Loddon Valley Ramblers' Walks

For more walks, including some longer ones on Tuesdays and Sundays, visit **Loddon Valley Ramblers Website: www.lvra.org.uk**

Thursday 13th October: Stretch your legs with this 6 mile walk from Knowl Hill then taking in Cayton Park and Ashley Hill. A mixture of woods and open fields 10.30 from Knowl Hill Village Hall CP (permission granted) SU822794 RG10 9UR Leader 07979 595043.

Sunday 16th October: 5 mile riverside walk along the Thames then past the Olympic rowing lakes and returning to Dorney 10.30 from the free CP at Boveney (provided by Eton college) SU939777 SL4 6QQ Leader 0118 977 4184 or 07899 938397.

Thursday 20th October: 6 mile stroll along Finchampstead Ridges then down to the Blackwater Lakes for bird watching from NT CP at Simon's Wood SU813636 RG45 6AE Leaders Ricardo & Silvia S 0118 976 1737 or 07816 095144.

Thursday 27th October: 5½ mile walk mainly among pine trees; Crowthorne, Broadmoor, returning via Wildmoor Heath 10.00 from Morgan Centre CP, Lower Broadmoor Road, Crowthorne SU841637 RG45 7LA Leader 07899 734799.

Sunday 6th November: 6 mile walk with views across the Thames to Bisham and Marlow, a wander over Winter Hill, through Quarry Wood and into Cookham Dean 10.30 from Winter Hill CP SU871861 Approximate post code SL6 9TN Leader David B 0118 934 1084 or 07927 694134.

Sunday 13th November: 6½ mile walk along the Blackwater and the Finchampstead Ridges area. 10.30 from Horseshoe Lake CP (Moor Green Lakes) SU820620 GU47 8JW Leader 0118 978 8540 or 07917 002202.

Thursday 17th November: 5½ mile walk in this part of wildest Berkshire with possible sightings of alpacas, guinea fowl, etc. 10.30 from Rotherfield Peppard cricket club, Stoke Row Road. Alternatively, careful parking at the cross-roads almost opposite Peppard Stores. SU702815 RG9 5LX (nearest) Leader 0118 947 1524.

Sunday 27th November: 6 mile walk around Wargrave to Bowsey Hill then through Hennerton Golf Club 10.00 from public CP behind Greyhound PH Wargrave (currently free on Sunday) SU786785 RG10 8AA Leader Peter D 0118 377 4820.

Thursday 8th December: 6 mile walk with splendid views over the Thames Valley on this walk south west from Henley towards Harpsden & Mays Green 10.00 from Mill Lane free CP SU771817 RG9 4HB Leader Judith C 07765 064650.

Barkham Diary

- rhyming slang for Flying Squad*
10. "Sweeney Todd" is cockney
 9. Line of Duty
 8. Lynda La Plante
 7. The Bill
 6. Dixon of Dock Green
 5. Frost (A Touch of Frost)
 4. Z Cars
 3. Inspector Morse (plus Lewis and Endeavour)
 2. Life on Mars and Ashes to Ashes
 1. Sarah Lancashire

Quiz answers

05-Oct-16	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
11-Oct-16	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
11-Oct-16	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
12-Oct-16	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
24-Oct-16	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	7.30pm
25-Oct-16	Parish Council Planning Review	BVH	7.30pm
02-Nov-16	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
07-Nov-16	Arborfield Local History Society - The Siege of Reading (English Civil War)	AVH	7.45pm
08-Nov-16	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
08-Nov-16	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
09-Nov-16	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
10-Nov-16	Arborfield Gardening Association - "Hebes"	AVH	7.45pm
10-Nov-16	BVRA AGM	BVH	8pm
11-Nov-16	Copy deadline for Winter Barkham Newsletter		
19-Nov-16	BVRA Quiz Night	BVH	7.30pm
22-Nov-16	Parish Council Planning Review	BVH	7.30pm
28-Nov-16	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	7.30pm
05-Dec-16	Arborfield Local History Soc - Christmas Dinner	TBC	
07-Dec-16	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
13-Dec-16	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
13-Dec-16	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
Weekly Events			
Mondays	Pilates Class	BVH	11.30am
Mondays	Dog Training	BVH	6.30pm
Tues-Fri	Barkham Pre-School	BVH	9.00am
Thursdays	Pilates Class	BVH	6.15pm

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

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