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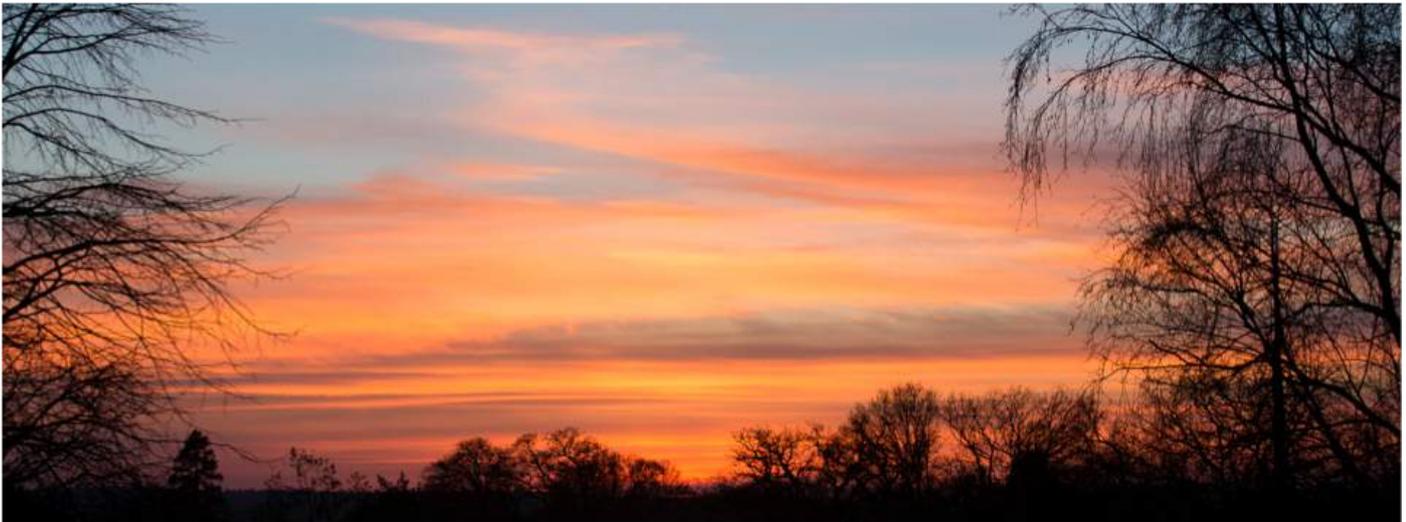
Barkham Newsletter

Issue 119 Spring 2017

from the Barkham Village Residents Association

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

A Barkham sunset



See page 17

Easter Egg Hunt
Easter Sunday 16 April 3pm
Junipers Play Area - see page 11



Barkham Clean Up – Sunday 2 April
See pages 4 and 7



2017 Subscriptions

2017 BVRA Membership Fees are now due and remain at £2 per household

If you have not already done so, please pay your distributor, who is:

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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.

The Quiz

The theme this time is "Musical Rivers" – for each question or answer there is reference to a river (or name of a river) and a piece of music or musician. Simple!

1. "Ol' Man River" is a song from which musical?
2. Who sang of "Fog on the Tyne" in a 1972 number 1 album?
3. Which song starts with the lines – "When I was a little girl I had a rag doll...?"
4. Who wrote "Ferry Cross the Mersey"?
5. Nile Rodgers is one of the most prolific record producers over many years but which disco/R&B band did he co-form and have many hits with including "Le Freak".
6. Who wrote "The Blue Danube Waltz"?
7. Who had a number 1 hit with "Runaway" in 1961?
8. In the English folk song, "There was a jolly miller once lived..." - where?
9. Which river is central to Wagner's "Ring Cycle" operas?
10. And finally....., what was the name of Doctor Who's wife?

Answers on page 18

BVRA 2017/18 GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Editorial

Welcome to the spring 2017 edition of the Barkham Newsletter! Can I start by reminding residents that the annual BVRA Membership Fee of £2 per household is due so please pay your distributor as soon as possible. If you don't have their details, please contact the Membership Secretary.

You will see from the Social report that we still do not have a new Social Secretary to replace Judith Collins who has stepped down and is moving out of Barkham after 7 years in the role (and in other roles previously). We will miss her greatly and as a small token of our appreciation we made a presentation to her at the quiz (see photo on page 10). The Social Committee has kindly agreed to share the duties, with a lead member for each social event. Gill Powell is the "point of contact" and the person to contact for tickets. Obviously not all our events are ticketed. The annual Carols in Park is free to all residents and we usually get 100+ attendees to join in singing carols to the live band. Similarly, no ticket is required for the Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday every year, although there is 50p per child entry fee to search for all the hidden tokens which can be converted into eggs.

We have our usual wide range of articles in this issue. Those

residents who responded to the Neighbourhood Plans survey (and probably those that didn't) will be interested to see a summary of the results on pages 5-6.

There is news from the parish council (including the annual Parish Clean-up 2 April) which includes a photo of the new Bournemouth School under construction. The parish council is also keen to promote local walks and details of these can be found on page 12.

We have our regular update from our WBC councillor, John Kaiser, who among other news, announces his plan for a new monthly councillor "surgery".

Joe Kinnagan always provide an unusual article for the spring edition of the newsletter and this time (page 14) he is making us aware of a referendum to sort out the thorny topic of local boundaries.

Thanks also to my regular contributors covering gardening, rambling, church, music and other local societies.

As always, we have a quiz, this time on the theme of "Musical Rivers" – not necessarily a topic you will have seen before (!) but hopefully one to exercise your grey matter.

Finally, 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

Advertising and Newsletter Contributions

Newsletter articles / contributions for the Summer edition should be in by 12 May 2017. 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 landscape 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 June.



News from Your Parish Council

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

Parish Clean Up

I am always amazed at the amount of litter that is thrown from cars and lays in the ditches in our lovely village spoiling the countryside. This year's Parish Clean Up will take place on Sunday 2nd April, between 9.30 a.m. and 12.30. We meet at Barkham Village Hall, all you need to bring is some gloves as we will provide you with sacks, litter pickers and jackets. If you have young children we will allocate you a safe area such as a park. All the weary volunteers will be rewarded with bacon rolls, homemade cakes, tea, coffee or squash. Please support this Clean Up and give one hour of your time, as it keeps Barkham a lovely litter free place to live and makes a huge difference.

Planning Application at Reading FC Training Ground

Some of you may be aware that a planning application that has been submitted to Wokingham Borough Council no.163547 for the development of 140 dwellings at this site. This is in addition to the development at Arborfield Green. The key issue is that it is outside the settlement area, and could be an extremely dangerous

precedent for development of other sites outside the settlement boundaries. The concept of the SDLs was to provide limited and contained areas of major development with the accompanying infrastructure. We urge residents to write in to Wokingham Borough Council to oppose this application. The access road (off Park Lane) will be entirely via existing roads that are already over stretched, including congestion hot spots such as the Barkham Street/Barkham Road junction, Barkham Road/Bearwood Road junction, Biggs Lane/Langley Common Road and California Crossroads. This is even before the full impact of the SDL has been absorbed.

Wokingham Borough Council are currently undergoing a review of their assets. The only asset which is owned by Wokingham is Elizabeth Park Open Space which comprises of a medium sized cut grass area with a small play area. It is early days but rest assured that the Parish Council will vigorously fight this to prevent any development of this land.

Bohunt Secondary School



Some members of the Parish Council were invited for a tour of the school which is currently under construction. We were all so impressed with the lovely modern building which will be equipped with every possible teaching facility available. The school was light and spacious with modern science labs, music and drama rooms and fantastic sports pitches. The facilities were truly second to none and we were all quite envious that we were not starting our education again. The children will move from the Legacy Building during the summer along with the new intake in September to the new school. We are proud to say that this is the first secondary school to be built in Wokingham for many years and it is in Barkham. We urge any Barkham parents with children of that age to take a look, you will be impressed.

The Sam Hosgood Sporting Endeavour Fund

The Parish Council were delighted to present a local young person with a grant towards her training. Ali Castle is only 12, she swims competitively for Bracknell and Wokingham Swimming Club and trains for 14 hours every week. Ali swims for the County and hopes to reach the regional finals. We wish her every success. Ali was presented with a cheque by Sam Hosgood, the previous Chairman of Barkham Parish Council and the current Chairman Pam Stubbs.



If you are under the age of 18, live in Barkham and represent your County at a sport, we would be delighted to hear from you.

History Book

We are delighted to inform you that the Parish Council still has a 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
clerk@barkham-parishcouncil.org.uk



Results of Residents' Survey

Firstly, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group would like to thank residents for responding to the Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire which was carried out at the end of 2016. In total there were 525 responses. Clearly this is a substantial number and confirms that there is a lot of interest in how the parishes evolve.

The Rural Location

The first major theme to emerge is that residents have a strong attachment to the rural and village character of the area. There was strong support for the proposition that the rural setting makes Arborfield and Barkham good places to live, with 98% of respondents agreeing. Meanwhile 91% strongly agreed and a further 8% agreed that the unique identity of the area is best preserved by retaining open spaces around the villages. This is about as near unanimity as it could be!

Other important reasons why Arborfield and Barkham are considered good places to live were access to motorways (63%) and good schools (35%). In the free format box, community spirit and village atmosphere were mentioned several times, which is nice to hear.

Challenges facing Arborfield and Barkham

Concern about development related issues is widespread. The most important challenges faced by Arborfield and Barkham are traffic congestion (49%), pro-

tecting open spaces (29%) and absorbing development (18%). Unsurprisingly all three of these of these challenges relate to the rapid increase in new housing in the area.

Traffic Congestion

The vast majority of journeys to work were by car (86%) and so it is hardly surprising that there is congestion on the limited road network available to serve the community. The percentage is probably an understatement as some residents using the train drive to the station and are not specifically identified.

The dependence on car transport is clearly explained by the complexity of commuting journeys with most destinations not being readily accessible by public transport. Excluding the "not applicable" group (basically retirees) the distribution between the 12 options was spread remarkably evenly. The largest group was home workers (11%) and the largest destinations were Hampshire and Surrey (11%) and London (10%). Central Wokingham and Reading towns are 7% each while other parts of the towns were higher (9% and 8% respectively). Just 9% of residents work locally in Arborfield and Barkham.

The free format box demonstrated the complexity of modern life, with cases of residents who worked in more than one place, work within a radius of home or who commute to overseas locations (presumably on a weekly or monthly basis).

No simple solution is apparent to enable people to work closer to home is apparent though there is considerable support (26%) for better broadband which would enable more home working.

Bus travel

Commuting by bus covers a very low proportion of residents (3%)

cont...

... but nearly a quarter of residents (23%) use buses at least monthly. The proportion is higher for Arborfield residents which reflects the more intense bus services available to Reading.

Different improvements are required in Arborfield and Barkham to encourage bus travel. For Barkham residents the priority is frequency (41%) while more direct routes (29%) and fares (24%) are more of a factor in Arborfield. In both parishes 20% of respondents said they would never use the bus.

Cycling

The proportion of residents cycling at least monthly is less than 20% though there is a hard core of commuters (2%). Cycling, whether for leisure or work, would be encouraged by dedicated cycle ways (72%) or road side cycle ways (38%).

Footpaths

There was a split verdict on whether or not connectivity of footpaths and pavements is adequate (51% / 49%).

Community Facilities

There is a strong sense that nursery provision is adequate (72%) and also play facilities for children up to 12 years (60%). However, a majority felt that there was a shortage of recreation facilities for teenagers (77%).

Satisfaction with local medical facilities is low (38%) but the result splits by parish. Arborfield residents have the benefit of small doctor's surgery facility which explains higher satisfaction at 45% compared with just 31% in Barkham.

Parks and recreational spaces are considered adequate (68%) and also community centres (62%).

Housing

The proposition that there should be a policy to provide housing for

first time buyers received strong support at 77% of responses. There was also strong support (91%) for life time homes (i.e. homes where people can continue to live independently when they become old or disabled). These two concepts clearly need to be addressed in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Data notes

Responses were split roughly half and half between Arborfield and Barkham (54% / 46%), which is to be expected as the two parishes are about the same size. About two thirds of respondents were working age (66%). A similar proportion (64%) of respondents have lived in the two parishes for more than ten years. Presumably longer term residents feel a stronger attachment to their locality. The number of students who responded was disappointingly small at just over 1%.

A more detailed analysis will be posted on the Arborfield and Barkham Neighbourhood Plan website www.arbarplan.com shortly.

Conclusions for the Neighbourhood Plan

There are some interesting conclusions emerging which will help with writing the Neighbourhood Plan. Hardly surprising are the concerns about traffic congestion. The results would have been even more extreme if the survey had been carried out this month, in view of the long-term road works suddenly sprung on the parishes. It is also interesting to see where there is or is not satisfaction with local facilities. The support for starter homes and lifetime homes will undoubtedly influence policy on what types of housing need to be provided.

Laurence Heath

New Parish Office

I am delighted to announce that, at long last, Barkham Parish Council have been allocated a new office in the Community Centre situated on the Development at Arborfield Green, on the former garrison site. We have been searching for a home for some considerable time but discovered that there was no office or conference space within Barkham.

The Department of Defence have very kindly made an office and small conference room available for our use and as soon as we can organise a telephone line into the office we will be moving in. Until that is completed any questions and problems for Barkham residents can be made in the new Office by making an appointment to meet at the Office by telephoning the Clerk, Judith Neuhofer.

We hope that this will enable the Parish Council to serve the Community more efficiently, as all our documentation, including local maps will be available to view.

We look forward to seeing our residents in the future. The new facilities on Arborfield Green are in place for all Barkham residents.

Pam Stubbs
Chairman
Barkham Parish Council



Barkham Clean Up Day 2017

Barkham Village Hall on Sunday April 2
from 9.30am until 12.30pm.

Please come along and lend a hand but remember to wear gloves, strong footwear and suitable clothing.

Refreshments, safety vests and litter pickers will be provided.

Just turn up on the day or for further details please contact Judith Neuhofer on (0118) 977 2857 or visit: www.wokingham.gov.uk/litterpick

LOVE your neighbourhood
Help keep it green!





Borough Councillor's Report

We are seeing traffic delays across the borough and this is due to the build out of the various development locations across the borough in addition to the new roads being constructed to upgrade the road and utilities network. Crest Nicholson continue to develop parcels of land at the Arborfield Garrison and this entails all sorts of highway works, meaning various roads in and around the area have temporary traffic lights, this is in addition to SGN main replacement work.

SGN are undertaking work across the borough including Barkham to replace the aging metal gas mains with new plastic mains that will last a minimum of 80 years. These works have been programmed for some time but have been delayed due to the presence of other works in the area, the resurfacing of Mole Road for example.

Unfortunately, the main is now required to be replaced to ensure that the risk of an unsafe situation does not arise. It is only possible to undertake the work via the use of portable traffic signals and the council are aware of the delays that these works cause and have worked closely with SGN to ensure that these are kept to a minimum.

The phasing of the scheme has been designed to ensure that each section is dealt within manageable sections, rather than having extended lengths of traffic signals. These lights are being manually controlled at peak times based upon 'tidal flows' i.e. traffic heading towards Wokingham in the morning and the opposite in the evening. I am pleased to say that SGN have made good progress to date.

The recent closure of the A327 Arborfield Road was to complete the final resurfacing of the new roundabout and the final resurfacing of the new road. This has unavoidably lengthened the time the two way signals have been required which have a knock on effect to the surrounding area including Barkham. However, where possible all signals have been off peak and only used during such times as work requires it. Due to the nature of construction work and health and safety requirements in construction it is not always possible for work to be take place during every minute of the lane closure so this creates situation which infuriates all of us whereby no work seems to be going on but the traffic control measures are in place. The reason for this can be where operating machinery requires frequent breaks or the need to obtain material or await the delivery of material. In such circumstances it is not feasible or in most cases safe to remove traffic management temporarily just to put it back hours later.

The council closely monitor the on-going use of all temporary signals and will take the appropriate action should they be erected unnecessarily. Contractors are expected to manage work effectively within operational constraints and where any contractors working on our network who are not following the rules,

the council will not be slow to act.

Work on the Bohunt School has progressed well despite wet winter conditions and the new building is on schedule to be finished for summer 2017. Road safety is the big issue and I will continue to campaign for improvements to safer walking/cycling routes to school. In addition the Council have agreed the infrastructure package with the Marino trust for the final 1500 houses which complete the garrison Strategic Development Location and will deliver the balance of infrastructure required to support the development, this includes schools and roads as well as the additional homes so we should be seeing submission of reserved matter (detailed plans) application coming forward to support the outline planning permission already granted after which the start of construction should follow shortly.

Wokingham Borough Council continues to work on the updating the Local Plan which will set out where new homes need to be built in the borough in the next 20 years. The Call for Sites has brought forward a large number of sites in and around Barkham and Arborfield for development and although many of these sites will be deemed unacceptable due to location, it still shows the appetite of developers to build in the area.

It just reinforces my view that a new settlement is required to take the bulk of the housing in a location with good transport connections and which will have its own infrastructure and services such as schools, doctors, retail and community centres to ensure no additional strain is placed upon existing services or infrastructure in and around the borough. Government policy supports this type of garden village or town

approach and I will continue to press for this during the development and planning period of the local plan.

On another note Barkham Parish Council have taken a room in the community center on the garrison which will act as a Parish office along the lines of the one Arborfield parish council has in the Arborfield village hall. As such it will serve as a central point for anybody who wishing to speak to members of the parish council about any matters in the parish. In addition to this they have kindly offered me the opportunity to use the office for a few hours each month to enable me to hold a surgery where residents can come along and voice any issues and ask any questions which relate to the borough.

My intentions are to hold these surgeries once a month on a Saturday morning between 10 and 12. I will be accompanied by one of your parish councilors who will be there to answer any questions which relates to parish issues.

Meetings will be appointment only. If you want to come along to discuss any matter just send me an email or call me on my number both of which are at the end of this article. Remember I am always available to provide support for any issues you may have with regards to the borough council, I am 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.

John Kaiser
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Our meeting in January was a card making workshop. We learned how to do "tea bag folding" and all managed to make a card. One evening we enjoyed a meal at the Bull at Arborfield.

Our February meeting was our AGM. I am pleased to report that we have a full committee for next year and a healthy bank balance. We played a game, and held a silent auction which raised some money for the club by selling unwanted items donated by members.

We have a visit to Wokingham Theatre booked in March.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 1st March and the talk is entitled "Poetry for all". The fol-



lowing meeting is on Wednesday April 5th with a talk "All about Namibia".

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

Trinity Concert Band

Trinity Concert Band is a community band, its members spanning a wide range of musical ability, from professional musicians to talented amateurs. Founded in July 2001 to bring together musicians who enjoy playing in a group of friendly, like-minded and mutually supportive people, the band now comprises over 40 playing members whose enthusiasm and dedication has resulted in presenting and performing concerts to a very high standard

Our Spring Concert will take place on Saturday 1st April 2017 at 7:30pm in All Saints Church, Wokingham.

We are returning to this beautiful church in Wokingham for our concert, where we will have a varied programme including music from "Harry Potter", Gustav Holst's "Mars", from the Planets Suite "Nessun Dorma" and a John Williams composition, "Schindlers List".

Ticket Prices: Tickets are £12 up to 24 hours before the concert and £13 on the door. Children under 16 years are free when accompanied by a paying member of the audience. www.trinityband.co.uk

Social Matters

As I write this we are well into 2017 and maybe Spring will not be too long away as snowdrops are already flowering in my garden. Judith Collins has sadly now resigned from being Social Secretary for the past 7 years and before that she was on the BVRA Social Committee. She has done such wonderful work for all this time and she will certainly be a very hard act indeed to follow and will be greatly missed. But rest assured the present Social Committee members are all working together to continue with all the usual yearly social events so things should be as before. We will welcome Judith's guidance from time to time I'm sure.

The Quiz Night last November was a successful and very enjoyable evening with the winning team 'Les Quizerables' consisting of Peter and Moira Burden, Val and Colin Bradley and Josephine and Colin Hearsay. The shield presented to them is now in Peter's safe keeping and might be displayed next to the others in the Village Hall as it has had a final engraving. A new shield will be ready for the next quiz. It was Steve, the quizmaster's last event as he moved away from Barkham several years ago but has kindly travelled back each year to present the excellent quiz and we will miss him and his wife Anita. We will have a new quizmaster in 2017. It was at this event that Judith was presented with a rose bush and chocolates in appreciation of all her hard work and dedication over the years (see photo).

The annual Carols in the Park on the 17th December was another successful event, and was well attended despite the cold weather



and unusually taking place on a Saturday evening (normally it's on a Friday evening) plus competition from the "Strictly" final! Music as always was provided by the excellent "Breakaway Brass" band. This was a free event but the bucket collection was gratefully received by the band who did a wonderful job. Many thanks go to all those who helped to serve the mulled wine, mince pies etc. and organising the carollers. This was Judith's last event, but a lovely start to the festive season!

The Family Skittles Evening on Saturday March 4th will have taken place by the time you receive this newsletter so more on that in the next edition. The annual Children's Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Easter Sunday, April 16th at 3pm in The Junipers field, where the entrance fee is 50p for the children. While the youngsters are frantically trying to find their tokens to exchange for little eggs the adults will be able to buy raffle tickets for the Giant Egg

Future events planned are a Barn Dance with a live band on Saturday 30th September, and another Quiz Evening on 25th November. Both events include a supper, and details of these events will occur in later Newsletters. Please contact Gill Powell by phone on 0118 978 3373 or email social@barkham.org for tickets.

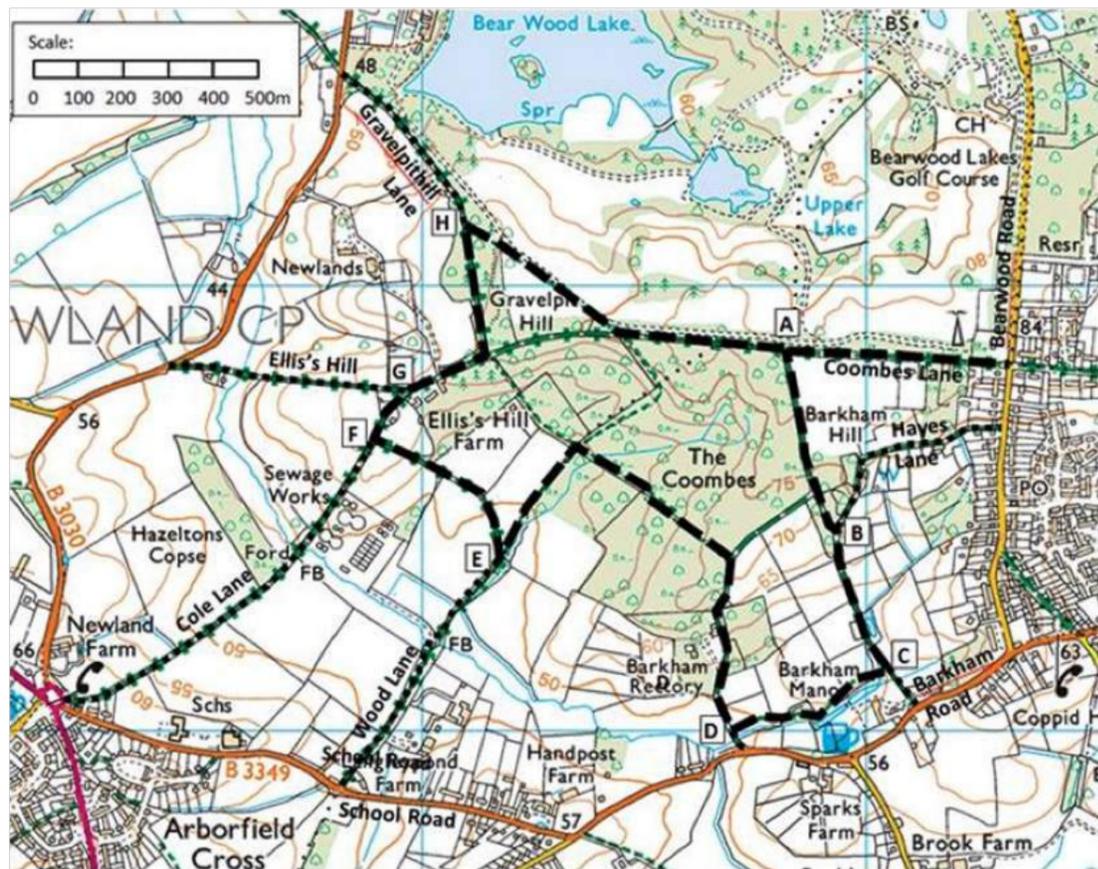
Please do continue to support the BVRA social functions. They are always great fun and your social committee will do their best to continue with Judith's great efforts and organise a varied programme for you.

Shirley Warner
Social Committee member



Walks in Barkham

The Coombes Circular Walk



The Barkham Way



Barkham Parish Council is working on a project to promote local walks. The first step, now completed, is to prepare some maps and user instructions. These are now available on the BPC website www.barkham-parishcouncil.org.uk in the Recreation and Leisure section and also via the Barkham website www.barkham.org.uk.

The next step, which is now being prepared, is to provide way markers and improved signposting. As many of you have experienced, it is not difficult to lose your sense of direction in The Coombes! It is hoped to complete this during the spring.

The Coombes is a well known walking area, but the other new path covers new territory for many people. Starting on Barkham Road, down the hill from Sandy Lane, the route runs towards Barkham Church and then onwards to the (fairly) new country park at Rook's Nest Wood, off Barkham Ride.

Many thanks to Derek Oxborough for his work on the signs and Paul Steel for his map making.

Maps courtesy of Ordnance Survey



What Is Love?

As I write, it's Valentine's Day. The shops are stocked with cards and roses, the restaurants are booked, and the special meal deals aimed at those who can't get out are flying off the shelves. What better time to think about love?!

According to Google, the most searched-for phrase in 2012 was 'What is love?' I'm not sure whether that's a good or a bad sign, but clearly we want to know.

Our world certainly has answers to that one. Love is ... waking up to the text your loved one sent. Love is ... having fun with friends but missing you. Love is ... thinking you're beautiful doing the simplest things. Love is ... growing old with you. And so on!

But what does God say? What is love?

Just two Saturdays ago I had the privilege of preaching at the wedding of some dear friends, who asked me to speak from a bit of the Bible that includes God's answer to that question:

'This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.' (1 John 4:10)

Where does God say people like you and I get the clearest possible sight of his love? Where we get to see right into his heart? John takes us back to a cross - on a dark, forsaken hill outside Jerusalem. We know from history that thousands of people were crucified in time of Roman Empire. But John takes us to one cross in particular. 'Do you want to see God's love?' - he says. 'What it's like? How great it is? Then look there - look at that cross - the one where Jesus died. This is love.'

Where do we see more than ever how utterly loving and self-giving God is? We see it in the fact that he was willing to send even his Son for people like us. We see it in the fact that he didn't wait for us to love him first, but that Jesus came, even when we still hated him.

And we see it in the fact that he didn't send Jesus his Son just to be example - but an 'atoning sacrifice.' In other words - exactly the thing we need when we've done something wrong and there's a whole load of right wrath and punishment poised to crash over

us - and someone else steps in and takes it all on himself instead.

'This is love' - says John. 'God gave his Son to do that for you. Jesus-God's Son-came willingly to do that for you.' So justice can be done. So our rebellion against him can be punished like it deserves. And yet people like us can live - and know this God as our Father too. What a God must be, if he pours himself out for people like us like that! And how loved you and I must be if those things are true!

It may be Valentine's Day as I write, but by the time this article drops through your letter box, it will be nearly Easter. What better time to start looking into these things some more? You would be very welcome to join us at Barkham Church as we stop and remember and rejoice in these things.

David Horrocks

Barkham Boundaries on the Move Again

Wokingham Borough is divided up in various ways. One provides an even more local form of council, ours being Barkham Parish Council alongside thirteen other parish councils and the three town councils of Earley, Wokingham and Woodley. Wokingham Borough is also divided into twenty five wards. Barkham Ward is entirely within Barkham Parish while the parish of Arborfield and Newland contains only the Arborfield Ward.

As you probably know, what used to be Arborfield Garrison, currently being transformed into Arborfield Green, straddles both Barkham and Arborfield.

Perversely, part of the area is in Barkham Parish but Arborfield Ward. So, not before time, it has been decided to do a little rationalising. The intention is to move the parish and ward boundaries so that they coincide with each other and also to bring all parts of Arborfield Green under the same jurisdiction. Since the development is well under way, this is to be done without delay.

But the powers that be cannot agree on which way to move Arborfield Green so they have decided to ask the people. Yes folks, we are having another referendum.

The electorate of both Barkham and Arborfield will be invited to vote for Arborfield Green to be:

- Included within Barkham Parish and Ward
- Included within Arborfield and Newland Parish and Ward
- A separate, independent Arborfield Green Parish and Ward

Will the people try to claim the new development for their own area or force it on their neighbouring parish? In the spirit of Brexit, I wouldn't be surprised if Arborfield Green gets its independence.

You won't have long to wait. Voting takes place on the first of April and the result will be published on the BVRA website the next day. Make your vote count.

Joe Kinnagan

Loddon Valley Ramblers' Walks

We are a very friendly, sociable group of walkers and always welcome new comers. We shall be having a stall at the Wokingham May Fayre on 1st March where we hope to sell Books of local walks and chat to those interested in finding out about what we do.

A selection of our upcoming walks are listed below. For more walks, including some longer ones, visit Loddon Valley Ramblers Website: www.lvra.org.uk

Roberta Ginty

Thursday 23rd March: A 4½ miles walk along lanes & byways of St. Nicholas Hurst. 10:30 CP of Wheelwright Arms (if planning to have lunch) or careful parking in nearby lanes RG10 OTR SU786716 Leader 07715 553979.

Thursday 30th March: A pleasant 5½ mile stile-free walk taking in Fleet Copse, Rectory Farm and California Country Park. 10:30 Finchampstead Memorial Hall (permission obtained). Please park at the rear of the hall. RG40 4JU SU793633 Leader 07761 251217 or 0118 969 2735.

Sunday 2nd April: A 4½ mile walk through Chapel Green into Garrick Plantation, returning to Wokingham via Greys Farm. 10:00 Library CP (£1 on Sundays all day) RG40 2BY SU811683 Leader 07913 403345.

Sunday 23rd April: 5½ mile walk Visit Lands End, then walk over Whistley Bridge, watch the River Loddon, near Dinton Pastures. Back through Hurst. 10:30 East Park Farm, Charvil Pavilion CP, just past school, not village hall SU775753 Leader 0118 934 5506.

CROWTHORNE Symphony ORCHESTRA

Our Spring Concert was a little earlier in the year than usual (in mid-February) and we had a marvellous programme with works by Brahms, Schumann and Dvorak. I hope many of you enjoyed the evening.

In May each year we run a Strings Workshop which is always a popular event and gives string players a rare chance to explore works written especially for string orchestra. This year it will be held on Saturday 13th May 2017 from 2-5pm at Oaklands Junior School, with our conductor, Robert Roscoe. All competent string players are welcome and you don't need to be a member of the orchestra to join us. The afternoon casts £10 and includes tea and cake. The programme has yet to be finalised at the time of writing but information will be

on our website.

We are looking forward to a rather special Summer Concert on Saturday 1st July 2017, 7.30pm at The Old Gym, Wellington College. The programme will include Mozart's beautiful Concerto for Flute and Harp and we are fortunate to have as flute soloist our own Sally Ewins, and playing the harp will be Jenny Hill, who not only has played with the orchestra on previous occasions but is also the wife of our regular trombone player – we are so fortunate to have such talented players. The concert will also include Mahler's 1st Symphony which is probably his most accessible symphony (and much shorter than his later ones!). It is a work with many changes of mood and plenty of tunes and is aptly described by

Classic FM as "one of the most thrilling symphonies".

Tickets, which include an interval drink, are available as usual from Traveltime in Crowthorne High Street, or on-line via the orchestra's website. As always, children of 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. Our regular membership is now over sixty players and we have a reputation as a friendly bunch with members of all ages. Weekly rehearsals are on Mondays in term time from 7.45-10pm at Oaklands Junior School, Butler Road, Crowthorne. Our website has up to date information on concerts, rehearsals, workshops and more: www.crowthorneorchestra.com

Chris Gadsby

Wokingham Choral Society

We made two charity cheque presentations on 2 February, following our Christmas Concert in December. The first cheque for £315.00 was presented to Gwynneth Hewetson, Mayor of Wokingham on behalf of 'Soulscape', the Mayor's chosen charity for 2016/2017. The second cheque for £315.00 was presented to Christine Knox on behalf of the Wokingham Volunteer Centre. Following this, Jane Turner from 'Soulscape' gave a talk on the work that the charity does for children in the area which is a new programme based on the mental wellbeing, enabling them to find the strength to live more happily in our ever changing

world. Christine Knox from the 'Wokingham Volunteer Centre' then spoke about how the Centre works to support a wide range of charitable groups and organisations across the community such as the 'Wokingham Transport Scheme', the 'Wokingham Town Mobility Scheme' and the 'Green 'n' Tidy Gardening Scheme' by placing volunteers and promoting the benefits of volunteering in the area.

Our Easter Concert will be at All Saints' Church on 2nd April 2017 at 4.30pm when we will be performing the St John Passion by J.S. Bach. This will be con-

ducted by our Musical Director, Patrick Allies and will include performances by a professional orchestra and soloists.

Tickets are £15.00 (£5.00 for under 18s and students) and are available from:- www.ticketsource.co.uk/Wokingham-choral-society; tickets@wokingham-choral-society.org.uk; Information Centre, Wokingham Town Hall; Newbury Building Society, Wokingham and from choir members.

Julia Primarolo
Publicity Manager,
Wokingham Choral Society



Alan's Patch

As I write in mid February we have had another mild innocuous winter with just one cold snap of a week or so. This has meant that I've been able to work on my patch pretty much when I've wanted to.

During this winter my main task has been to renew the paths between the vegetable beds and under the fruit trees by replacing the mixture of decayed remains of the old wood chippings, weeds and soil with new wood chippings. Conveniently these were sourced locally from a tree that we had to fell recently. The photograph shows the final result of the paths with the pristine cultivated beds before any vegetables go in and ruin it all! You may be able to spot the over-wintering broad beans at the far end of the bed with the posts and also the leeks at the far left edge trying to get in on the act.

Last year I built a leaf cage alongside the compost heaps and when I came to empty it there proved to be a fine batch of really good leaf mould much of which I have distributed on the vegetable beds to enrich the soil when I prepared them.

Last week I lifted the remaining carrots and sprouts and moved

them into one of the compost heaps full of ready-to-use compost. This will keep them in decent condition and frees up the bed to prepare for the potatoes.

Wherever possible I use the classic four-year rotation - potatoes, legumes (beans and peas), brassicas (cabbage and sprouts etc.), and finally carrots and onions. Actually I don't grow many brassicas because we don't like them that much, so I plant sweet corn and squashes instead. Neither do I grow onions because the plot suffers from the long-standing fungal disease called white rot so I grow shallots and leeks instead.

The October sowing of broad beans has done really well. They are in great condition. I will be planting some more any day now. The only plants in the patch at the moment are these and the



spinach which has over-wintered very well.

In the greenhouse the cucumber, tomato and aubergine seeds sown only a couple of weeks ago in the propagator germinated well and are growing nicely. My automatic lights artificially extend the daylight to prevent them

getting 'leggy' as they seek the light. Meanwhile the seed potatoes are chitting in the egg boxes in the good light of an insulated window in order to avoid last year's disaster of them freezing in the greenhouse.

I eat an apple most days and the crop is surviving well so far, wrapped in shredded paper in the old deep freeze in the garage. There is also plenty of fruit in the new deep freeze in the house - including plums, damsons, raspberries. Quite a lot of fruit was converted into jam in the Autumn - blackberry, blackcurrant, raspberry, damson, plum and a new one for us - crab apple jelly. This latter has become a firm favourite, often replacing redcurrant jelly alongside savoury dishes. Also on the menu at the moment are apples, potatoes, shallots, beetroot, carrots, parsnips, spinach,

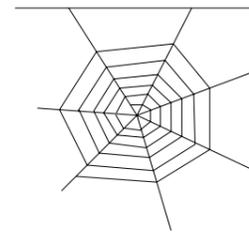
butternut squash, leeks and a reasonable range of herbs.

I can't stress enough the fantastic flavour of fresh home grown carrots, the same for leeks. Although I enjoy the exercise and being outside the main reason I do all this is for flavour and quality! In fact last week we had a tasting

session between the two varieties of carrot that I grew last year and we decided we couldn't tell the difference - they were equally good - however I know which I will grow this year because one of the varieties suffered rather more damage from slugs etc than the other!

We are lucky to live in a village in the countryside. During the winter we have had some exceptional sunsets so I've included one photograph [see cover page - Ed]. The days are getting a bit longer now and I'm looking forward to the Spring and the renewal of life in the natural world. That should have started by the time you read this.

Alan Edwards



Barkham web site

I hope you like our website www.barkham.org.uk

We are constantly looking for ways to improve it and would welcome your suggestions.

More photos please!

We are always in need of attractive images of the Barkham area for both the web site and newsletter, so if you have some interesting photos and would like to share them please get in touch.

Dave Clements

Arborfield Gardening Association

Hello Everyone !



It may be a little late , but Happy New Year to you all !!

After our last report in the winter newsletter, we had a wonderful talk on Hebes by Derek Leary, then it was suddenly Christmas and our annual Christmas meal in December this year was enjoyed at the Bull in Arborfield.

We laughed a lot at a really fun evening with Alan Goold from Henry Street Garden Centre in January and are now fully up-to-date with all the latest innovations to help us look after our gardens. On 9th February it was our AGM, which was followed by wine & cheese, etc., before our exciting 4-part challenging quiz (not all gardening questions either!) Prizes of cyclamens were awarded to the winning team & there was a raffle afterwards.

Most of the committee were re-elected. We had 36 registered Members last year and attendance had varied throughout the year (14 - 26, an average of 19 members per meeting), the "Spring Show and Container Gardening" meeting attracted most members (26). Members of the committee and others who happily move chairs and tables for the meetings and labour in the kitchen, were thanked in particular for their participation.

We had been contacted by many other associations during the year & invited to their events, including the Royal Horticultural Society, the British Red Cross, Hurst Horticultural Association, Twyford Horticultural Association and the Berkshire Group of The Hardy Plant Society. We were also asked to participate in the Reading Town Meal. In particular we are formally invited to attend the Shinfield / Swallowfield meetings, which are held on the second Thursday of the month and is the reason we all voted in September to change our own meetings this year to the FOURTH Thursday of the month. Hopefully some of them will join us in our Arborfield meetings also.

Our affiliation to the RHS gives us one free group-entry to any of the RHS gardens and reduced entry to Shows. It also ensures we are insured for any unfortunate events our members may suffer, while participating in AGA activities. Membership in AGA also allows us to take advantage of the lower prices for common garden requirements obtained by bulk purchases at both the Shinfield and Wokingham Trading Stores, just by producing out membership cards.

Our next meeting is "Back to the Fuchsia" - a talk by Christine Leary on Thursday 23rd March. 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

Barkham Diary

14/03/17	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
14/03/17	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
27/03/17	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	7.30pm
28/03/17	Parish Council Planning Review	BVH	7.30pm
05/04/17	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
11/04/17	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
11/04/17	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
12/04/17	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
16/04/17	BVRA Easter Egg Hunt	Junipers	3pm
24/04/17	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	7.30pm
25/04/17	Parish Council Planning Review	BVH	7.30pm
03/05/17	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
09/05/17	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
09/05/17	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
10/05/17	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
12/05/17	Copy deadline for Summer Newsletter		
22/05/17	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	7.30pm
23/05/17	Parish Council Planning Review	BVH	7.30pm
07/06/17	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
13/06/17	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
13/06/17	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
14/06/17	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm

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

10. <i>River Song (sorry!)</i>
9. <i>The Rhine</i>
8. <i>On the River Dee</i>
7. <i>Del Shannon</i>
6. <i>Johann Strauss (the Younger)</i>
5. <i>Chic</i>
4. <i>Gerry Marsden</i>
3. <i>River Deep - Mountain High</i>
2. <i>Lindisfarne</i>
1. <i>Showboat</i>

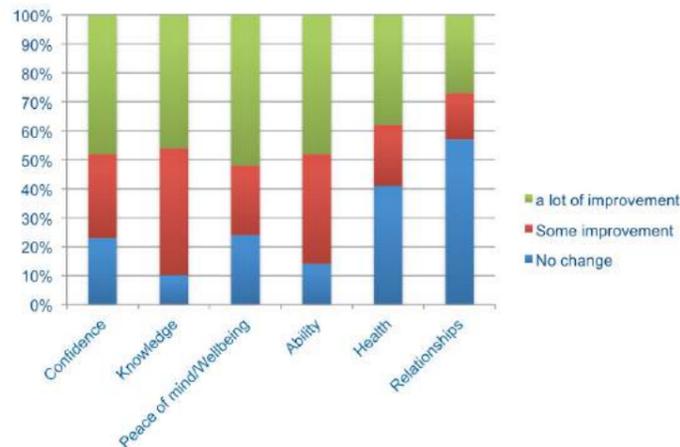
The Quiz - Answers



Most of them told us that, as a result of our advice, that they had experienced a significant improvement in their health and well-being. The chart below shows the changes in six key areas. For example – looking at the left bar - you can see that just under 50% of them (24 people) found that their confidence improved a lot, about 15 of them had some improvement and the remaining 11 experienced no change.

This time I thought that I would share something about the positive effect we have on the people that we help.

We spoke to 50 clients about 2 months after they came to us for help.



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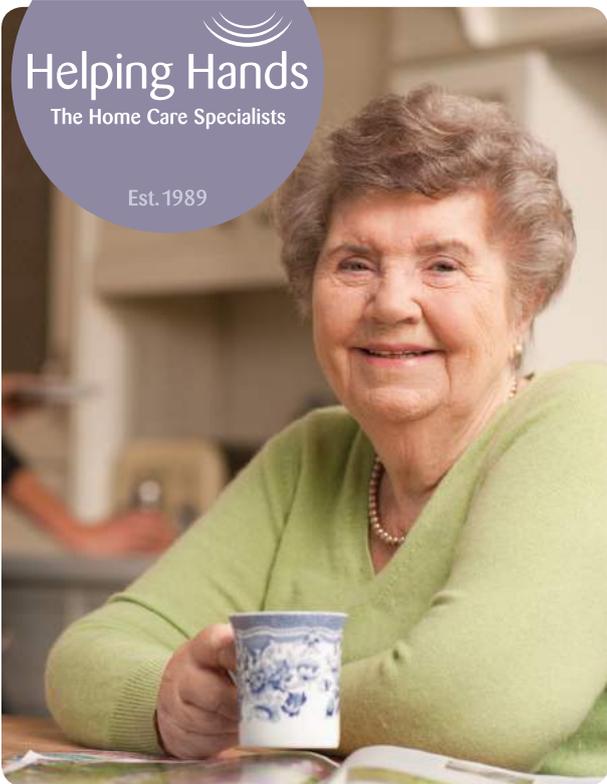
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