



Barkham Newsletter

£1, free to Members

Issue 120 Summer 2017

from the Barkham Village Residents Association

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



They're off! See page 10

Next Social Event
Barn Dance 30 September
 From 7.00 - 10.00 pm in
 Barkham Village Hall with a
 live band and caller and
 includes a supper. £10 for
 adults and £5 for 16's and
 under. See page 10 for ticket
 info.



New Barkham Way markers – see page 6

**In
 this
 issue...**

Have you paid your 2017 BVRA subscription?

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

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Why not become a distributor?

Please come and join our team of distributors for the Barkham Newsletter

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.

The Quiz

As I write the general election canvassing is in full swing and by the time you read this election day will probably be over. So, what better topical subject for this edition's quiz than – Elections!

1. What sang (loudly) "I wanna be elected" in 1972?
2. In which UK elections is the Single Transferable Vote system used?
3. Which party won the first UK elections after the Second World War (1945)?
4. Who won the French presidential election in May and whom did they beat in the run-off?
5. In UK politics, where might you stand to become an "AM".
6. What is psephology?
7. In which decade did women get the same voting rights as men in the UK?
8. What was the change to the voting age resulting from the Representation of the People Act in 1969?
9. Which Prime Minister won the largest parliamentary majority since the Second World War (and a bonus point for the year)
10. And finally, the current electoral hopefuls (or winners/losers by the time you read this) have a range of mind-numbing soundbites and slogans but who coined the phrase "you've never had it so good" or more accurately "most of our people have never had it so good"?

Answers on page 18

BVRA 2017/18 GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Editorial

Welcome to the summer edition of the Barkham Newsletter! Can I start by asking any residents who haven't paid their 2017 BVRA subscriptions to please pay your distributor the £2 per household fee as soon as possible. If you don't know the name of your distributor, please contact Jim Butler (details on left). Most residents are members of the BVRA but the autumn and winter editions of the newsletter are distributed to paid up households only.

As usual, we also feature news from Barkham Parish Council, our WBC councillor John Kaiser, St James's Church, gardening and various societies. Laurence Heath provides one his regular updates, including news of Arborfield Green (the new development on the Garrison site), the Neighbourhood Plan and Barkham walks. We are starting to receive input about activities at Arborfield Green and despite its (misleading) name, much of the site is in Barkham parish!

The Social section (p10-11) this time includes reports on the successful Skittles evening and the annual Easter Egg Hunt, plus news of the next events.

The quiz is mildly topical as I understand there is/has been (depending on when you read

this) an election taking place. No mention of Brexit in this publication though!

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

Farley Hill Bowls Club

By the time you get to see this our club will be well into a busy season with over 50 friendly inter-club matches and be playing in our club competitions. I am very pleased to say that we signed up 8 new bowlers and 1 more social member at our recent Open Days - Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th May.

This year we are offering individuals and community organisations in small groups the chance to have a go at bowls at any time, by prior arrangement. All you need is a pair of flat shoes to protect the green. Trainers will do. There will be a short coaching session, then a friendly game of bowls followed by a cup of tea. Drinks will be on sale from our bar during evening sessions.

If you are interested in joining the club, or would merely like to learn the basics of bowls, and perhaps bring some members of your organisation along with you, please contact Bill Dowling, Club Secretary, on 01344 772130 or e-mail billdowling@farleyhill-bowlsclub.org.uk

Farley Hill Bowls Club is at the Victory Hall, Church Road, Farley Hill RG7 1TR www.farleyhillbowlsclub.org.uk



News from Your Parish Council

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

We are pleased to inform you that the Parish Council will shortly have a Parish Office at the Community Centre at Arborfield Green and we will soon be taking up residence. The Parish Council has been extremely busy over the last few months with the Neighbourhood Plan making progress in leaps and bounds. See report from Laurence Heath.

Parish Clean Up



A huge thank you to the 34 volunteers who supported the annual Parish Clean Up on Sunday 2nd April. We were fortunate to have a bright and sunny morning which made our task more enjoyable. Between us we collected 80+ bags of rubbish, 32 bags of recycling (cans and bottles) and 43 sacks of general waste, 4 tyres, 1 wheel, 1 electric fire and numerous hub caps. The returning volunteers were rewarded with tasty bacon rolls, teas, coffees etc. It was

rather disheartening to see rubbish dropped within days of the litter pick and numerous piles of fly tipping have already been cleared by WBC. Please be vigilant and if you see any dubious looking vans piled with builder's material or garden waste it may be worth noting the registration number. Likewise if you are having any work done it is your responsibility to ensure that all rubbish is properly disposed of. It costs Wokingham Borough Council a huge amount of your money to remove fly tipping.

Annual Parish Assembly

The annual Parish Assembly was held on 9th April where we heard reports from the local organisations about their activities throughout the year and their plans for the future. This was a very interesting evening but sadly no residents supported the event.

Defibrillator

Many of you will have seen the defibrillator which has now been installed on the outside wall of Barkham Post Office. Thank you to the owners of the Post Office for giving their permission for the

defibrillator to be mounted on the wall. It is extremely easy to use, simply dial 911 and the operator will give you the code to open the box and from there a voice will talk you through the procedure. It may save someone's life.

Allotments

Allotments are now available to rent from Wokingham Town Council. Barkham does not have any allotments as yet, it may be that some are provided at Arborfield Green in the future. So for all you keen gardeners who like to grow your own veg do contact the Town Council who inform me that the waiting list is now very short and they are taking names of residents from surrounding Parishes.

Grants

Barkham Parish Council is glad to be able to give local charities and organisations a grant. A requirement is that Barkham residents must use the service. This year we will be supporting WADE, Keep Mobile, The Link Visiting Scheme, Berkshire Blind Society, Relate, Citizens Advice Bureau, The Royal British Le-

gion plus others. We also give a grant to St James Church towards the upkeep of the churchyard, which always looks tidy and well maintained. Also to the Barkham Village Residents Association towards the publication costs of this newsletter. Finally, to the Village Hall which covers the cost of the outside maintenance. The Village Hall is well used by residents for all manner of activities and the outside area is a big attraction.

Sports Awards

The Sam Hosgood Sporting Endeavour Fund is generally awarded in September to young people who are resident in Barkham. We are looking for young people under the age of 18 who participate in sport at County level and above. Could this be you? Over the last few years we have helped a number of talented young people who took part in trampolining, tumbling, swimming and sailing. If so please contact the Clerk who would be delighted to supply you with further information as to how to apply for a grant from this fund.

History Book

We are pleased 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

Keeping Wokingham Borough Clean

Adopt A Street Scheme

Wokingham Borough Council runs an Adopt-A-Street scheme whereby local residents volunteer to litter pick their chosen street/area. They can do this on their own or within a group and the time spent on it is up to the individual.

Volunteers are provided with litter pickers, green Adopt-A-Street bags and hi vis tabards. For convenience the bags can be put out alongside your normal household waste to be picked up on your scheduled collection day. Volunteering has many benefits – helping to keep the borough clean and tidy, residents can take a pride in their area and encourage others to do the same - reinforcing the message that litter is not acceptable and giving a sense of community spirit.

Annual Borough Litter Pick

The annual Borough-wide litter pick took place the first weekend of April and saw over 900 volun-

teers picking up litter and clearing rubbish in their local areas.

Around ten tonnes of rubbish was collected with the recyclable material such as cardboard, paper and cans being sent to a recycling centre. Interesting items found during the litter pick included: a stolen purse, an intravenous drip, mini motorbike, metal handcuffs, a satellite dish, furniture and enough car parts to build our own.

The annual litter pick is organised by Wokingham Borough Council in partnership with town and parish councils, neighbourhood action groups, resident and environmental groups. Through the annual litter pick and Adopt A Street Scheme we hope to make the borough a cleaner and brighter place to live, as well as give the community a sense of civic pride.

If you are interested in Adopt-A-Street/green space please contact customerservice@wokingham.gov.uk or call 01189 746000.

Wokingham Choral Society

'Our summer concert entitled 'Sure on this Shining Night' will be held at All Saints' Church, Wokingham RG40 1UE on Saturday 17th June 2017 at 7.30pm when we will be performing a selection of short works by well-known composers including Holst, Elgar, Rachmaninov, Whitacre and Lauridsen. This will be conducted by our Musical Director, Patrick Allies and accompanied by Benedict Lewis-Smith.

Tickets are £12.50 (£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



Photo courtesy of Phil Creighton



Walking in Barkham

In the spring edition of the BVRA Newsletter, I reported on two local walks that are being promoted by Barkham Parish Council; The Coombes Circular Walk and The Barkham Way. I am pleased to report that new signs and way marks have now been delivered (see cover page) and at the time of writing they are being put in place by a team of willing volunteers. The Barkham Way, which runs from Barkham Road to Rooks Nest Wood is being made ready first and then attention will turn to The Coombes Circular Walk.

Making this happen is greatly assisted by the cooperation of local landowners and tenants. Wokingham Borough Council, through their Rights of Way team, have also provided encouragement, practical assistance and financial support. Maps of both walks (just in case you have mislaid the Spring edition of the Newsletter [The very idea – Ed!!]) can be viewed on both the parish and BVRA websites.

Arborfield Green

There are also some new walks to explore at Arborfield Green. As part of the planning permission, Crest Nicholson were required to create a new "SANG", acronym for Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace. This is an additional amenity area required because the development site is within

5km of the Thames Basin Heath Special Protection Area and is intended to avoid disturbance of ground nesting birds. The open space named Hazebrook Meadows includes two sections, the smaller one is at the corner of Biggs Lane and Commonfield Lane, the larger site continues southwards adjacent to Park Lane. The latter provides an attractive footpath crossing open land and through woodlands. It is well worth exploring.

Building at the former Garrison site is continuing apace with several parcels at the planning stage or under construction. The first phase, Waterman's View, has already welcomed about fifty households. As the name suggests, it is situated next to the lake. This used to be "behind the wire", but now a new lakeside walk is taking shape. Eventually it will be possible to walk all the way round the lake.

Elsewhere on the former garrison site, the new building for the Bohunt School is nearing completion, ready for occupation later this year. It is accessed via the newly constructed Nine Mile Ride extension. It will be some time before this road actually extends to Nine Mile Ride and the roundabout linking it to the A327 is still under construction: for the time being the new road remains just a giant cul-de-sac.

Neighbourhood Plan

Work on the Arborfield and Barkham Neighbourhood Plan continues. In the Spring edition of the Newsletter, I wrote a summary of the results. A more detailed analysis is available on the Neighbourhood Plan website www.arbarplan.com. Some interesting background papers are

also being posted on the website, including an extensive Biodiversity Report which will interest the bird watchers and naturalists amongst you.

Since then a number of Focus Groups have been reviewing key topics including sustainability, the natural environment, heritage assets, open spaces and community assets. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group would like to thank all the volunteers who have assisted with the Focus Groups: it is important that as many people as possible have been able to participate in the process as the plan is intended to reflect the views of the whole community.

The Steering Group has commissioned some professional assistance to consider housing issues and a housing needs analysis is also being prepared. As ever, there is enormous development pressure in the area: the objective of the Neighbourhood Plan is to ensure that only a sensible number of the right kinds of houses are built in the right places.

A draft plan is now beginning to take shape. Once this is complete and following discussions with Wokingham Borough, it will be made available for consultation. All being well, this should happen later in the summer and will involve some public events in addition to publication of the Neighbourhood Plan itself. The consultation will be advertised once the timetable is finalised.

Laurence Heath
Vice Chairman
Barkham Parish Council



Borough Councillor's Report

Barkham is a good place to live and the unique identity of the area is best preserved by retaining the open spaces around our villages. I see my number one task as your borough councillor is to continue to defend Barkham from unsuitable and unsustainable development to protect this aspect of our environment. I will also continue to look to the council to enforce against those who disregard the planning rules and look to protect our countryside with Tree Preservation Orders and all the legal remedies available to discourage and stop the abuse of the planning system to the detriment of residents. The expression "sustainability" is widely used in planning; indeed it is treated as a keystone of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). In spite of this, it is nowhere clearly defined and consequently is used extremely loosely.

Some planners like to think in terms of sustainable communities as being ones which are self-sufficient in terms of employment, education, and retail and leisure facilities. This is a laudable vision, but in reality it is a throwback to the mill towns of the nineteenth century and company towns of the early twentieth century. Modern society has become much more complex, where it is

unlikely that two or more breadwinners in a household can both work locally, and where choice leads to more complex decisions about education, retail and leisure that probably will not be satisfied locally.

Clearly sustainability is in large part about reducing the requirement for transport, with its costs in terms of pollution and congestion. Often a developer has attempted to justify the sustainability of a proposal on the basis that there is a bus stop nearby, while being fully aware that a limited bus service is not going to be used by the purchasers of "executive" type houses.

More realistically, sustainability has to be considered in a wider context. In simple terms:

Sustainability should be defined as creating a community that is fit for the future. This will encompass a number of different elements, including the impact of growth, minimising energy consumption, waste disposal, health, recreation, employment, education and minimising crime.

This leads me on to the subject of traffic. The vast majority of journeys taken by residents are by car and so it is hardly surprising that there is congestion on the road network which makes it important that during these times of reducing income the council continues to be committed to the delivery of our capital road programme.

I have said it many times before Wokingham borough has among the highest ratio of car ownership in the country and as such the borough's road network has the unique problem of serving this

high level of car ownership. This means it's trickier to maintain and upgrade without causing problems and congestion. Highway infrastructure delivery remain vital and as such included in the investments planned to 2020 and beyond are six new roads including Arborfield relief road, North Wokingham distributor road, South Wokingham distributor road, Shinfield Eastern relief road, Nine Mile Ride extension and the Winnersh relief road, many of which are the process of being built. In addition to junction upgrades and new junctions and road improvements where required.

At the same time investment in future and current cycle networks as part of the development of greenways (a network of quiet community and leisure routes for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders) remains an important aspect of the council's plans.

The council have delivered 2 new park and rides, and will be looking at ways they can extend the number of destinations served by these and existing park and rides. The council will also be investing in measures to keep traffic moving to negate as much as possible the effects of development on all road users. So far, we have secured over £40m in government grants to enable to deliver the highway infrastructure the borough needs and the residents deserve, this is in addition to the tens of millions of pounds from developers building new homes in the borough and where possible the council's policy is always to deliver this infrastructure before development

Barkham, much like other areas in Wokingham and the rest of the southeast suffers from traffic congestion and this is not helped

by the amount of utilities work which requires roadworks, In a year, thousands of notifiable pieces of work are carried out on Wokingham's roads by utility companies and the council. In order to try to co-ordinate these works a system exists whereby works promoters have to inform the council what they are going to do and when. This is done within a relatively strict set of rules and there are penalties for not adhering to these rules.

The council is receiving more and more request for updating worn out utilities and because of the age of these services more emergency work is necessary which is not covered by the council's licensing system, it does lead to a lack of coordination due to the nature of the work required to ensure vital services such as gas and water are maintained to residents.

Bohunt secondary school in Barkham remains on target for delivery and the new school building should be occupied at the end of the summer break. This is a great asset to the not only Barkham but to the Borough in general and I wish students and the teaching staff the best of luck for the future.

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

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



HBC is coming!

Looking for a fun-packed week for your children at the start of the holidays? We have been running 'Holiday Bible Club' for over 50 years and are delighted that once again we can offer a week of sports, crafts, music and

teaching from the Bible. This year HBC runs from Monday 31st July – Friday 4th August and we will once again be based on the sports field at The Coombes School. Our theme this year is H.B.Seaside and we can promise 5 days of summer fun for everyone who joins us. The main programme is for children from age 5-14, but there is also there is also a fantastic morning programme for under 5s and their parents/carers.

For more information or to book into HBC, visit our website www.abch.org.uk or you can call the church office on 0118 976 0285.

Lunch-time Music at St Eligius Church Arborfield Green



Bringing music to you!

A New Series of Concerts in 2017!

All Concerts start at 12.30 pm

Wednesday, 12 July	Thomas Fletcher, Alto Saxophone
Wednesday, 27 September	The Blackwater Valley Quintet

Future Concert dates for your diary:

Wednesday, 30 August at 12.30 pm
Wednesday, 18 October at 12.30 pm
Wednesday, 8 November at 12.30 pm
Wednesday, 6 December at 12.30 pm

Admission free, to include Buffet Lunch

Retiring Plate Donations in support of
St Eligius Church, Arborfield Green

To book your Lunch, please, contact Rita Le Var
(Tel. 01252 372320, E-mail: rita_le_var@ntlworld.com)

St Eligius Church, Tope Road, Arborfield Green, Reading,
Berkshire RG2 9NB

From the north

On the A327 go through Arborfield village to a roundabout. Take the first turn left into Langley Common Road, then first turn right into Biggs Lane. At the next roundabout turn right into Princess Marina Drive. Take the first turn right into Baird Road. The Church Car park is on the left. The Church is across the road.

From the south

From the A327 turn right into Sheerlands Road. Follow the road to a T-junction. Turn right into Baird Road. The Church Car Park is on the right. The Church is across the road.

A week of games, crafts, sports, songs and a chance to find out about Jesus.

Under 5s & parent/carer (10am - 12 noon)
5-10s Main tent (10am - 3pm)
11-14s Youth tent (10am - 3pm)

Mon 31st July to Fri 4th August at Coombes CE Primary School, Arborfield.

For more info and to book places visit www.abch.org.uk or call 0118 976 0285

Arborfield and Barkham
Family of churches

HBC
Holiday Bible Club

H.B. Seaside

Holiday Bible Club

2017



Social Matters

Since my last report, Spring has really arrived with wonderful displays of blossoms, and the weather has warmed up. However, we have experienced a few chilly nights recently so I have resisted planting out my Summer bedding. By the time you read this we should be well into Summer with the thoughts of BBQs and garden parties.

Now back to our Social Events past and present. Our Family Skittles Evening was held on March 4th in the Village Hall,



and a very enjoyable time was had by all. 60 people on 10 tables flanked the 2 skittle lanes set up by Martin and the competition was keenly contested, with the winning team being 'The Cruks'. Patricia Howard and Bob Bishop both had individual scores of 28, but in the 'play off' Patricia clinched the Individual Title. The winner of the 'Killer' game

was Richard Rouse, who very kindly donated all his winning to the BVRA.- thank you Richard. The ploughman's supper halfway through the evening was excellent with many lovely comments, and as individuals were knocked out in the Killer game they were treated to chocices as consolation!

The Annual Easter Egg Hunt was held on Easter Sunday, 16th April at the usual venue at the Junipers Field. 52 children, ranging from tiny tots to teenagers, set off excitedly to find as many of the hidden tokens as possible to then exchange for mini chocolate eggs - over 1100 in total. The weather was very kind to us with some sunshine - we were so lucky



as showers had been forecast. The event seemed to be over 'in a flash' - after about an hour - by which time parents, grandparents and other adults had purchased raffle tickets for the Giant Lindt Egg, and other prizes of Lindt bunnies. The lucky winner of the Giant Egg was a delighted Karen Bourke.

The next event planned is the Barn Dance on Saturday 30th September from 7.00-10.00pm in the Village Hall. This will have a live band and caller and includes a supper. The cost is £10 for adults and £5 for 16's and under.



Please contact Gill Powell by phone on 978 3373 or email social@barkham.org for tickets.

Other events planned are a Quiz Evening on November 25th, with supper, and the Carols in the Park in December. More details for these will appear in the Autumn Newsletter, but please make a note of the dates in your diaries.

I hope to see many of you at the social events, they are always great fun. In the meanwhile - enjoy the Summer.

Shirley Warner
Social Committee Member



At our meeting in April we learned about Namibia. May was our annual games evening with a fish and chips supper. We played a beetle drive and SOME of our members were particularly good at throwing a 6 on the dice!

We went to see "Little Voice" at the Wokingham Theatre. The actors are so talented. We are going again in June to see "Enron".

One of our members organises walks with lunch at a pub. The last one was by the Thames near Henley.

Our June 7th meeting is a talk on feet/foot issues and suitable shoes. Our July 5th meeting is "Funky Flowers" including a floral demonstration.

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

For more information please contact our Chairperson Pauline Vestey on 0118 979 1714.



Arborfield Gardening Association



Hello Everyone!

Our meetings are now held on the FOURTH Thursday in the month.

33 people have so far enrolled as members of AGA, including 2 new people – welcome Andy and Val!! So we are holding our own, despite the increased competition on people's time these days.

Good Housekeeping are running an excellent piece on how gardening is good for your health – but hopefully our members will not forget the warm-up and cool-down exercises SHINE showed us after last year's AGM!

Our March meeting proved very popular, with 27 people attending, including 2 members from Shinfield/Swallowfield. Margaret Finch invited everyone to come to their Spring Show at their next meeting at Shinfield Parish Hall on Thursday 13th April, where Jim Butress spoke on "Britain in Bloom".

Christine Leary who last spoke to us on Container Gardening and introduced us to some most unusual containers for the garden, this time gave us a very informative and amusing talk on "Fuchsias". I really should take better notes, then I could accurately give you all some useful information!!

Our May meeting was a talk on Floriade by Gwen Barton. Floriade is an international exhibition and [garden festival](#), held every 10 years in the [Netherlands](#). All have been World Horticultural Expositions, but unfortunately

Gwen found this year's occasion rather disappointing, however, she did fill the evening with lots of wonderful slides of other floral extravaganza.

You will have missed our village plant sale, held outside of Arborfield Village Hall on Saturday 13th May, by the time you are able to read this. We had masses of good quality plants, produced by professional plant growers, but at amazingly competitive prices. So do keep an eye open next year for posters around the village advertising this annual event – it is not to be missed!!

On May 25th we had a trip to Sulhampstead, part of the National Garden Scheme (NGS) for charities. In June on Thursday 22nd at our usual time of 7:30pm in Arborfield Village Hall, Alan Gould will judge our Summer Show and entertain us with some choice gardening observations. July 27th sends us off on another NGS visit, this time to a garden near Maidenhead (look out for the posters around the village). It will be another afternoon event at 2pm. A joint venture with the History Society on 7th August will be a day-time visit to Loseley Park House and Gardens – contact the History Society, or Margaret Edwards for further details.

Whenever we hold meetings at Henry Street, or when Alan Gould comes to talk to us, we donate the proceeds of our raffle or what we would give to speakers, to the Henry Street charity, Greenfingers. This is a charity supported by many garden centres, to provide pleasant gardens for children's hospices. They are

now celebrating the creation of its 50th garden! Three new gardens are also underway in Luton, Sunderland and Oxford – so well done everyone for supporting this very worthwhile venture with something that we all love.

Thanks – to all attendees for coming to our meetings and especial thanks to the kitchen helpers, furniture movers and the Committee.....!

Other News

The Wisley Library has moved to its new location near the garden entrance. Entry is FREE during May.

The RHS is looking for volunteers to grow from seed and monitor the flowers of Dahlia Mignon Series to determine whether the range of colours vary in terms of their attractiveness to bees. This is a joint project with Gardening Organic, the Bumblebee Conservation Trust and Coventry University. For more information and to take part, register at: www.bloomsforbees.co.uk.

Happy gardening!

Catherine Breen



Alan's Patch

The headlines this time are about a sudden cold snap towards the end of April. There were warnings in the weather forecast about a possible frost so I earthed up my potatoes making sure all was hidden from view. Despite these precautions, in the morning I found that a few of the potatoes had grown some more during the late afternoon and had been singed by the frost! Fortunately not too much damage but it will have set them back a bit. I boosted the protection by netting them for the rest of the week to avoid any further damage. Nothing else seems to have been affected. I was a bit concerned about the apple and pear blossom but they seem to have set well and I'm hopeful of a decent crop in the autumn.

It's been so dry this winter and spring and there are already threats of water usage restrictions. Everything is so early but this is becoming very familiar as our climate changes. This year we even had a red rose bloom in April. Yet although spring is getting earlier there are still a lot of cold northerly winds even into mid June. Last year I planted out my tender crops and despite there being no frost they struggled for a while to establish themselves so this year I'm going to delay planting them out for a couple of weeks until the end of May rather than the middle.

In the greenhouse the artificial lighting has gone now there is plenty of daylight. The tomatoes and aubergine plants have settled into their final positions in the greenhouse bed. I have some salads ready and carrots are coming on nicely. Beans, squashes, courgettes and sweet corn seeds have germinated quickly and seem happy enough and will be ready to be planted out later in May. Outside parsnips, carrots, peas, broad beans (pictured), spinach and shallots are progressing well.



During the winter we had to remove our weeping willow tree because it had died. This disappointed the rooks nearby because they used to come to take bits of twigs, sometimes pulling off the nice tender fresh new shoots, perfect for their 'basket weaving'. They arrived en masse and were most confused. I would say there were well over 20 in the garden at times wondering what to do! Instead they have had to concentrate on our neighbour's willow and other trees in our garden. One beneficiary is the adjacent maple tree which has hitherto had to compete with the willow. Its glorious leaves are a dramatic scarlet colour especially so when the sun shines through them.

Last time I reported that I had dug up the remaining parsnips and carrots from last season and

stored them in a cool compost heap! A few weeks later I converted some of them into soup, much of it frozen, and stored the rest in the fridge along with the last few leeks. Yesterday I ate the last of the apples from my cold store in the garage, just as well, as they were getting a bit soft and past their best.

We've had an excellent early crop of rhubarb some of which Pam has converted into rhubarb and ginger jam. One surprise this year

is the abundance and speed with which it has grown however it has recently gone to seed. Normally a few of them will produce seed heads later in the summer but never this early and never so many. I presume the weather has caused this.

I note that the grass in the field behind us is growing rapidly so I'll be hiring a tractor and mower in a couple of weeks to trim it before the grass goes to seed. It's important to keep the pollen down to reduce Pam's hay fever.

I'm so looking forward to new potatoes from the garden. I've grown a couple of roots in a bucket in the greenhouse and these should be ready to by the time you read this.

Alan Edwards



**Fun ♦ Friendship ♦
CALLING ON ALL LADIES IN THE PARISH!**

A new Evening WI (Women's Institute)

at the Community Centre, Arborfield Green, Barkham

The Berkshire Federation of the WI (BFWI) has been invited to open a new **evening WI** for the benefit of all women over the age of 18 living in or near the parish. There would be monthly meetings with speakers, time for socialising and light refreshments and other activities organised by a small committee of members.

For all those who would be interested in joining or just finding out more :

Please contact. Valerie Hudson at bfwi@clara.net

Also do visit our NFWI website at www.theWI.org.uk or the Berkshire Federation website at www.theWI.org.uk/Berkshire for more information about the WI

The WI is all that you would like it to be.

BVRA Chairman

Can you help please?



The Barkham Village Residents Association's role is "to preserve and enhance the character of the Parish of Barkham as a community". The chairman facilitates this role and specific duties include:

- To chair the Association, Committee meetings (4 per year) and the AGM.
- Co-ordinate actions across the Association's fields of activities.
- Represent the BVRA with outside bodies (e.g. Parish Council, media, the public).
- Recruit new Committee members when necessary.
- Write the Chairman's introduction to each Newsletter.
- Time commitment could be a maximum of half a day per month.

If you feel you may be able to take on this important role in the local community or would like more information, please contact any member of the committee (details on page 3).

CROWTHORNE Symphony ORCHESTRA

Our Summer Concert is 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 which was written in 1778 when the idea of the harp as an orchestral instrument would have been thought very odd so at the time this concerto was unusual. Nevertheless it has become very popular, with many recordings by soloists such as James Galway and Marisa Robles. The concerto is often performed by orchestras wishing to show off the talents of their own flautists and harpists. We are certainly 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. You can find out more about these talented musicians on our web page.

The concert will also include Mahler's 1st Symphony, written just over a century after the Mozart concerto and often known as 'The Titan'. This is a mammoth undertaking for an amateur orchestra, not least because it was scored for a very large orchestra of about 100 instruments. It also calls for an extensive woodwind and brass section, including 7 horns, so this piece is certainly a challenge. It is quite unusual in terms of symphonic writing and is more akin to a tone poem than a traditional symphony. It has a marvellous variety of moods, melodies and textures, from the ethereal opening of the symphony to the dramatic start to the final movement. The 3rd movement is notable for the variation on 'Frère Jacques' introduced at the start of the movement by a double bass solo. So if this work is unfamiliar to you there are many treats in store.

Tickets, which include an interval drink, are available as usual from Traveltime in Crowthorne High Street, and also from The Information Centre, Wokingham Town Hall, or on-line via the orchestra's website. They cost £13 in advance, £15 on the door and 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

Picnic on the Green

Arborfield Green, Wokingham Borough Council and Army Welfare Service would like to invite you to:

**The Picnic on the Green
on
Saturday 22nd July 12-3pm
at
The Cricket Green, Arborfield Green**

Come and join us for a community picnic and games.

Refreshments available and competitive spirit essential!

Rebecca Eyle Community Mobiliser **PREIM Limited**

Barkham Diary

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
26/06/17	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	7.30pm
27/06/17	Parish Council Planning Review	BVH	7.30pm
05/07/17	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
11/07/17	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
11/07/17	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
12/07/17	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
24/07/17	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	7.30pm
25/07/17	Parish Council Planning Review	BVH	7.30pm
08/08/17	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
09/08/17	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
06/09/17	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
08/09/17	Copy deadline for Autumn Newsletter		
12/09/17	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
12/09/17	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
13/09/17	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
25/09/17	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	7.30pm
26/09/17	Parish Council Planning Review	BVH	7.30pm
30/09/17	BVRA Barn Dance	BVH	7.00pm
04/10/17	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
10/10/17	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
10/10/17	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
11/10/17	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
09/11/17	BVRA AGM	BVH	8.00pm
25/11/17	BVRA Quiz Night	BVH	7.30pm
Weekly Events			
Mondays	Pilates Class	BVH	11.30am
Mondays	Dog Training	BVH	6.30pm
Tues-Fri	Barkham Pre-School	BVH	9.00am
Thursdays	Pilates Class	BVH	6.15pm

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



have been decreases in employment, housing, legal, consumer, health, financial, tax and discrimination.

From Barkham we saw 69 people (1.95% of those that came to us from Wokingham Borough) and they contacted us 173 times. They had 162 issues that they asked us for help with. 8 of the 69 people were over 70 years old, 6 of them had no home (mainly staying with relatives and friends), 2 were permanently sick or disabled and 9 were unemployed.

It cost us £3,364 to support these people, with £2,475 of that being paid for by WBC and fundraising efforts. Barkham Parish Council gave us a grant of £724, for which we are very grateful.

Another year gone by and a new set of statistics have appeared. I find them fascinating as they show just how much people in the community use our services.

The latest figures show a 4.4% increase in our clients (to 4,124) and a 5.9% increase in advice issues (to 8,320). Welfare benefit issues have increased by 20% (to 2,566) and debt issues have increased by 19% to 1,427.

However, although there have been small increases in relationship, immigration, travel, utilities, education and other, there

10.	Harold Macmillan (1957 speech and at the 1959 election)
9.	Tony Blair (1997)
8.	Reduced from 21 to 18 years old
7.	1920s (1928)
6.	trends. BBC regularly to talk about polling known expert who appears on the Professor John Curric is a well- and trends in voting. For example, The statistical study of elections
5.	Wales - Welsh Assembly
4.	Le Pen Emmanuel Macron beat Marine
3.	Labour
2.	Scottish local government elections (also Northern Ireland Assembly)
1.	Alice Cooper

The Quiz - Answers

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 from our website or on public@citizensadvicewokingham.org.uk or drop in to one of our offices:

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

Hours:
Mon - Thu: 9.00am - 3.00pm
Fri: 9.00am - 1.00pm
Telephone: 0300 330 1189

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

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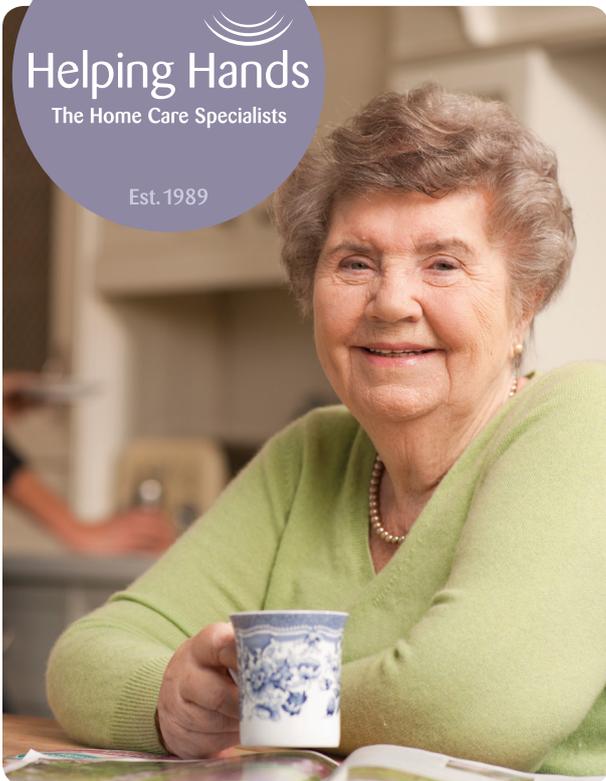
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