



£1, free to Members

Barkham Newsletter

Issue 121 Autumn 2017

from the Barkham Village Residents Association

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

**Could you be our new Secretary?
Please help – see page 2 for details**

Quiz Night

Saturday 25 November 7.00 for 7.30pm

Fish & Chip Supper Licensed Bar

Tickets £10.00 per person

More details on page 10

**Another record year for membership!
682 Barkham households are now members of
the BVRA.
Thank you!**

30th BVRA AGM – 9th November 2017

In accordance with the constitution, the BVRA Annual General Meeting will take place at 8pm on Thursday 9th November at Barkham Village Hall. All residents of Barkham are welcome to attend. Nominations for any post should reach the Chairman by 19th October.

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BVRA Secretary – could you help please?

We have a vacancy on the BVRA Committee for the role of Secretary. The main responsibilities are:

- Attend and participate in the quarterly committee meetings and Annual General Meeting (AGM)
- Take, agree & distribute minutes arising
- Solicit & collate officer AGM reports in advance of the public meeting

This is a key role to oil the wheels of the BVRA machine and to contribute your ideas in the development of the residents' association!

Please contact Stewart Richardson (details on page 3) or any committee member for further details.

The Quiz

We've roamed the world on previous quizzes so this time we're closer to home to test your local knowledge. The first 8 questions are about Barkham and the final 2 Wokingham.

1. There is an entry for Barkham in the Domesday Book (survey). In what year was the survey completed?
2. The Bull Alehouse (now The Bull inn) was initially also the location where which trade was practised?
3. In which decade (or the year if you're really clever!) did the trade (in question 2) cease and the premises converted into a restaurant?
4. Which is oldest – St James' Church or the nearby Church Cottages?
5. In which decade was Elizabeth Park built?
6. Most streets in Elizabeth Park are named after trees or shrubs/bushes. Which 3 are not?
7. What is the name of the stream which runs through Barkham and which river is it a tributary of?
8. There are a number of listed buildings in Barkham but only two "mansion houses". Which are they?
9. Which Wokingham school did Princes William and Harry attend?
10. Which Wokingham-born actor initially found fame in the film "About a Boy" and went to make many TV and film appearances, including "Beast" in the X-Men films?

Answers on page 19

BVRA 2017/18 GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman: Stewart Richardson (acting)
chairman@barkham.org.uk

Secretary: vacant
secretary@barkham.org.uk

Treasurer: Ian Overton
973 4806
treasurer@barkham.org.uk

Social: (contact) Gill Powell
978 3373
social@barkham.org.uk

Membership: Jim Butler
978 3572
membership@barkham.org.uk

Newsletter: Stewart Richardson
979 1914
newsletter@barkham.org.uk

Web Site: Dave Clements
989 2198
webmaster@barkham.org.uk

Development Watch: vacant
development@barkham.org.uk



Editorial

Welcome to the autumn edition of the Barkham Newsletter.

This edition is "members only". You may be aware that the Spring and Summer newsletters are distributed to every household in Barkham but the Autumn and Winter ones are just for paid up members. The large majority of residents are members – a new record this year (see front page). Thank you for your support and for the work of our network of distributors!

Christine Leigh, our Secretary for the past 4 years has had to step down. We presented her with a bouquet to thank for her work during this time (see photo on page 11). Please consider whether you could help the residents' association by taking on this role (details opposite). The BVRA is run entirely by volunteers – over 40 people including the newsletter distributors, social committee and main committee. We badly need "new blood" to spread the load and bring new ideas.

So...please do not wait for someone else to step forward! If you have an interest in promoting an active and informed local community and want to contribute to making this happen, please

contact me or any member of the committee to discuss further.

Back to this edition of the newsletter! We have our regular features with updates from Barkham Parish Council and John Kaiser (our Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) councillor). Laurence Heath gives details on the Arborfield and Barkham Neighbourhood Plan and asks for your comments. He also explains why the 5 year rolling land supply does not work (except for developers!) and includes a letter BPC has written to the government on this issue.

We have news of forthcoming local concerts and articles on gardening and other topics.

The Quiz topic is close to home this time - "Local Knowledge" (mostly Barkham with a couple of Wokingham questions). As I've said before, If anyone fancies being a guest quiz setter for one (or more) editions please let me know. One job less for the editor!

Stewart Richardson

Editor

P.S. The previous (summer) edition of the newsletter featured on the cover a photo of the newly erected "Barkham Way" sign showing the start of the walk on Barkham Road towards the church. Sadly this was removed (stolen) shortly afterwards by persons unknown. Interpol has been alerted and an arrest is expected soon! The public footpath sign remains however so residents can see the track (adjacent to 356 Barkham Road).

Advertising and Newsletter Contributions

Newsletter articles / contributions for the Autumn edition should be in by 10 November 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 December.



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. We are currently fitting the office out and as soon as the MOD have signed the building over to Crest we will be able to use this Centre. Several events will soon be organised in order that residents become familiar with this new facility. Saturday 30th September the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan will be on display, your feedback and comments will be most welcome. This will be combined with a MacMillan Coffee Morning, so do come along and enjoy a coffee and a slice of cake and find out what the Neighbourhood Plan is all about.

August used to be a quiet month for the Parish Council but with recent planning applications being submitted we have been very busy keeping residents informed with what is going on. We would like to assure you that leaflets delivered by developers do not mean that a planning application has been submitted to Wokingham Borough Council. A planning application can only

come from Wokingham but we will endeavour to keep residents informed, we can do this through the BVRA Development Watch Scheme where email alerts will be sent out and we urge you to sign up for this. To receive emails alerting you of potential developments in the local area please register on the [home page](#) of the website barkham.org.uk

Bohunt School has in the last year been operating from the Legacy Building, from September it will be ready to open its doors for the existing children and the new Year 7 intake. It will eventually cater for 1200 pupils with modern science labs, a drama theatre, ICT, art and learning resource centres. Additionally, sports facilities, tennis and netball courts, 3G astro turf make the new school a fantastic facility for our young people. Exciting times to have such a prestigious new school with state of the art facilities in Barkham.

Welcome To Barkham Map

Residents will shortly receive a map of Barkham which will be delivered to all households. This map has been designed by our very talented local resident Emma Holland, and shows the areas of Barkham and Arborfield Green with notable landmarks and useful information. On the reverse you will see the two walks, The Barkham Way and The Coombes Circular Walk plus accompanying maps. Do take some time to read the information, it has been designed to be kept in a pocket with a protective sleeve if you are out walking in the Coombes.

Allotments

Some time ago The Parish Council asked residents if they were interested in having an allotment. There will be several sites in the new Arborfield Green development, at this stage we are trying to gauge interest and create an accurate list of residents interested in having an allotment. If this is you, kindly contact the Parish Clerk and your name will be added to the list for the future clerk@barkham-parishcouncil.org.uk

Vacancy for a Councillor

The Parish Council are now looking for a new councillor as we sadly say goodbye to Roger Loader who has been a councillor for 10 years having served on many committees. If you feel you would like to become more involved with what goes on in your community, please contact the Clerk who will be able to give you more information.

Community Forum

The date of the next Community Forum will be Tuesday 31st October at Henry Street Garden Centre, do come along and find out about the new development and all the latest news, plus there will be plenty of opportunity to ask any questions. The forums will have a marketplace drop-in session format, so stop by between 7pm and 9pm to find out what's happening on the major development. Topics covered at each session will be announced closer to the date. This is your chance to have your say, ask any questions and find out what is happening in your area. More information will be available on the web site nearer the time.

History Books

The "Barkham A History" book have been such a success that we have sold out. More are now on order, if you have not yet purchased your copy they can be obtained from the Clerk at £8.50 each or from Henry Street Garden Centre.

Farley Hill Bowls Club News

By the time you read this our club will have ended our season of over 50 friendly inter-club matches and have finished all our club competitions.

I am very pleased that nearly all the 8 new bowlers that joined our club this year have been playing in our friendly matches as well the club competitions.

Our green closed on 18th September. However, If you would like to pop in to have a look at the clubhouse and our green, with a view to possibly taking up bowls next year, and maybe coming along to one of our monthly winter social activities, 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

For more information please see our website: www.farleyhill-bowlsclub.org.uk



Vacancy for Parish Clerk

Part time vacancy (currently 14 hours per week)
Competitive salary subject to skill level and experience
Based at The Community Centre, Arborfield Green
To start any time between now and January



Community Centre, Arborfield Green

Barkham Parish Council are looking for a self-motivated and highly organised individual with basic IT skills and a flexible approach to work. The job allows you to be involved with the community and its development.

Duties will include preparation for two meetings a month with the Council, which includes agendas, supporting papers, minutes and actions. The Clerk is also involved in managing the Council's finances and accountancy, and will have responsibility for the new Parish Office at the Community Centre with opening hours to be agreed.

A detailed job description and salary information is available on application.

For further information please contact the Clerk at
clerk@barkham-parishcouncil.org.uk



At our meeting in July we were entertained with a flower arranging demonstration. August was our annual BBQ which was enjoyed by all. In September the talk was about Jack the Ripper.

We also visited Wokingham theatre in September to see "Things we do for love" by Alan Ayckbourn.

One of our members organises walks with lunch at a pub. Unfortunately, the last walk had to

be cancelled because she broke her shoulder!

Our October 4th meeting is a talk about the Alexander Devine Children's Hospice and the November 1st meeting is "The emergence of England".

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 Mrs Pauline Vestey on 0118 979 1714.



Neighbourhood Plan

Exhibition boards from the latest drop in event 'Shaping our Future' (30 September at the Arborfield Green Community Centre) can now be viewed on the Neighbourhood Plan website www.arbarplan.com. The Steering group is seeking feedback on the ideas presented. Comment forms in the form of a flyer have been distributed to households and businesses and there is an online version on the website. The final date for comments is 5 November but it would be helpful to receive comments as soon as possible so that we can press on with writing the draft plan.

We would particularly like comments on the Vision and Objectives (see below). These reflect the prime issues which have surfaced from the Residents Survey. It would be desirable to ensure that we are heading in the right direction before developing specific policies that will flow from the objectives.

The exhibition poses a number of questions and alternatives concerning a range of key issues that are being addressed as part of the Neighbourhood Plan. The Steering Group would be interested to hear comments on any of these items.

The expectation is that the full draft Neighbourhood Plan in-

cluding all the proposed policies will be available for public consultation before the end of the year – so look forward to some Christmas reading!

Vision and Objectives

Vision

A sustainable future for Arborfield and Barkham as a thriving and accessible community, managing development to be inclusive for all age groups and enhancing the identity and rural setting of the villages.

Objectives

Protecting identity and rural setting of the villages

- Protect and enhance the countryside - new development should blend into the landscape, not dominate it.
- Retain separation of settlements to preserve their individual identities.
- Enhance heritage and natural environment and extend conservation designations where possible.
- Enhance the natural and historic setting of Arborfield Cross village centre and Barkham Street.

Thriving community (includes community facilities and recreation)

- Provide full range of facilities - schools, leisure amenities, retail, medical.
- Promote a strong rural economy

Accessibility (transport and greenways)

- Contain congestion on residential roads

- Expand opportunities for sustainable transport

Managing development (housing, design and parking).

- Match housing to local needs – starter homes, key workers homes, lifetime homes and care of the elderly.
- Require high quality design incorporating efficient use of resources.

Laurence Heath
Vice Chairman
Barkham Parish Council

Finchampstead Flower Club

We meet at the California Ratepayers Hall on the fourth Monday of every month at 7.45 pm (except December).

The evening consists of time for a coffee and chat and to look at exhibits entered in the monthly competition. Then a brief update of future events before a NAFAS demonstrator displays her skill in creating flower arrangements linked to the title she has chosen and is published in our calendar.

Current dates scheduled are:

- Oct. 23rd. Wedding Wonders by Carole Stables
- Competition - Something Old, Something New! Open staging
- Nov. 17th (Friday). Open evening
- A Jolly Holly Christmas by Sue Flight at Finchampstead Memorial Hall. Tickets from committee members.
- Dec 11th. Seasonal Workshop
- Jan 29th 2018. AGM and social evening

Visitors are always welcome (£5 on the door). For further information please contact Jeanne Deakin (Secretary) on 973 5052.

Five Year Housing Supply

This topic sounds boring but it is at the heart of a lot of the planning problems we are facing in Barkham, with Planning Inspectors allowing appeals because the Borough allegedly does not have an adequate supply of land for housing. Barkham Parish Council has sent the following letter to Sajid Javid, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, outlining why we believe this to be a flawed process which needs to be scrapped:

"Dear Mr Javid

There is justifiable pressure from the Government to increase the number of houses being built and to build them more quickly. However, use of the current methodology to assess land supply is counter-productive and arguably results in fewer, not more, houses being delivered.

The Government's own figures demonstrate that at the national level, planning applications are being granted well in excess of the rate of building. This is shown in the following table from the Government White Paper of Feb 20 (Figure 4 on page 14).

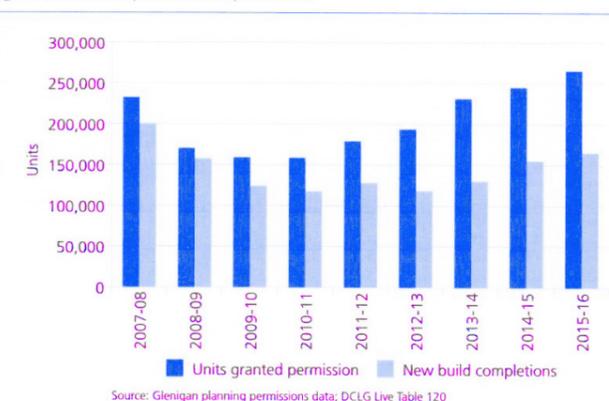
In our opinion there are a number of reasons why this happens. The massive uplift in value of land with

planning permission means that it is treated as an investment opportunity, with developers slowing pre-build rates if the market shows signs of weakening. Additionally, there is a shortage of skilled workers which makes it difficult to increase the build rate even when demand is strong. We do not believe that the planning system is the main impediment, and this is certainly not the case in Wokingham, which is our Local Planning Authority.

In spite of the huge amount of building taking place around Wokingham, a number of planning appeals have been lost on the grounds that the Borough does not have an adequate 5 year land supply. This has resulted in additional dwellings on unsuitable sites. This is because a flawed system is used to assess land supply which is based on developers advising what they expect to build. If the Borough does not meet its housing target (over which it has no control), then the developers are rewarded with yet more allocations. This is in spite of Wokingham having granted over 10,000 applications - enough for a 12 year land supply, based on the current target of 866 dwellings per annum.

At the parish level, Barkham is being expected to absorb an enormous amount of development. Wokingham's adopted local plan identified four Strategic Development Location (SDLs) to deliver much of this required housing and one of these is

Figure 4: Annual completions versus permissions



largely within the parish of Barkham. This will superimpose an additional 1,800 homes on to a parish that previously had only 1,300, more than doubling the size of the parish. This has been accepted by our residents and Barkham Parish Council is working closely with the planners and the developer to bring the SDL to fruition in a positive way.

Barkham Parish Council, however, finds that it is unacceptable that we are under pressure to accept even more houses over and above the existing local plan. A particular concern is the number of planning applications being submitted ahead of Wokingham Borough Council completing its Local Plan Update. This concern is increased by the fact that Planning Inspectors, at appeal, appear to be giving undue weight to the 5 year land supply which, as explained above, is a flawed methodology.

We would recommend that attention should be devoted to incentivise developers and/or to penalise them to encourage timely build out of planning applications. Tampering with the planning system is only a small part of the problem and the current flawed system of assessing land supply should be scrapped as soon as possible.

In the interim, the Government must urgently put in place measures to ensure that the current exploitation ceases. Guidance to Planning Inspectors should allow responsible authorities such as Wokingham to continue with their strategy of delivering housing according to its sustainable plan, without the additional burden of fighting unreasonable planning appeals.

Yours Sincerely

Pam Stubbs
Laurence Heath
Chairman
Planning Chairman"



Borough Councillor's Report

Wokingham Borough Council continues to develop a "new local plan" to replace the existing local plan, which will set out where new homes need to be built in the borough over the next 20 years,

As a key part of producing a new local plan the government insists the borough council must work with other Berkshire councils to agree a way of assessing what land should be set aside for new homes, businesses and other from now through to 2036.

The numbers are based on, an objectively assessed need (OAN) for the whole of Berkshire and the Council's recently published Strategic Housing Market Assessment. Unfortunately, we have been challenged at appeals and the number is considered to be lower than the inspectors standing in judgement have considered to be adequate and as such this and the 5 years land supply (the amount of suitable land available for development) has come under pressure. We have appealed to the high court against one of the successful appeals and the court has ruled in our favour and overturned the appeal decision.

That said due to the intense pressure from opportunist developers and to protect the borough from

unsuitable and unsustainable development the council has been forced to release a number of reserved sites.

My view is still that new settlements will be required to take the bulk of any additional housing should it be needed and I am yet to be convinced what that housing number should be.

In the event a new town/village is needed it must be delivered in locations with good transport connections and own infrastructure and services such as schools, doctors, retail and community centres so no additional strain is placed upon existing services and infrastructure especially roads around the borough.

I cannot overstate the importance of this local plan update as it will set the scene for the future development in the borough up to 2035 deciding on where new housing is built and it is the number one issue facing the residents of the borough.

Suitability and sustainability is open to individual interpretation and in an effort to clarify what is sustainable and suitable in Barkham and Arborfield we must make sure we as a community give clear guidance as to how this relates to our villages.

One way to do this is to make sure we all have an input to the neighbourhood plan, currently being created by a team of residents and parish councillors. This is a joint plan covering both Arborfield and Barkham and once it has been through the various stages and consultations will be adopted as one of the planning documents which makes up the local plan and will have an impact on where,

the quantity and the quality of development in our part of the borough. I will continue to fight the case to ensure we get development which is sustainable and appropriate for Barkham.

We are seeing more traffic delays and this is due to the implantation of the various developments across the borough in addition to the new roads being constructed to upgrade the road network

The important thing is a strategy which avoids repairs being carried out on the alternative routes as the new roads are developed across the borough; something which working with my fellow councillors I will ensure officers adopt this approach with suppliers and utilities.

Work on the Bohunt School (the new secondary school) on the garrison has finished and it has been handed over to the education provider the Bohunt Academy. The new school will cater for up to 1200 pupils. The school will have a customised STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) rooms, science labs, a drama theatre, and large light and open plan areas which will house the school's impressive, ICT, art and learning resource centres. All this coupled with the sports facilities in the adjacent sports centre, 3G Astro-Turf and tennis and netball courts make the new school a fantastic facility for the borough's young people.

One disappointment is the delay in public access to the Gym facilities on the garrison which will not happen until late 2018.

Road safety is critical and I have been working with the officers of the council to provide suitable

and safe routes to the school with some success and will continue to campaign for further improvements which include safe cycle ways and reduced speed limits on roads.

Even during these times of reducing income the council continues to be committed to the delivery of our capital road programme,

Wokingham borough has the highest ratio of car ownership in the country; in addition the Borough is also one of the highest areas nationally for households having two or more cars.

The borough's road network has the unique problem of serving this high level of car ownership, which means it's trickier to maintain and upgrade without causing problems and congestion.

Wokingham remains the lowest funded authority in the country with regards to the government support grant and the council will continue the work to find savings and extra income. We are also lobbying the 3 MPs who serve the borough which includes the Prime Minister for more funds especially for education and adult care the cost of which increases year on year due to increased demand

I continue to be actively involved in enforcement issues in the ward which have resulted in the serving of enforcement notices, injunctions and tree protection orders (TPOs) to stop unauthorised development and destruction of much valued countryside.

All reported breaches of planning control are investigated by the council and all reports are treated in strictest confidence. Where

possible; the council will look for voluntary compliance through removal of the breach, if this is not possible the council will look to enforce using all legal powers at its disposal including prosecutions via the courts at the same time looking to recover the cost incurred in pursuing such cases. The council will provide updates to interested parties although due to the time it can take to resolve some issues in the courts it may appear nothing is happening for some time as we have to follow the guidelines and the procedure as laid down by government guidance and legislation which means we must give reasonable time for offenders to comply.

I recognise the importance of proactively monitoring development that occurs within the Borough. However, the Council issues approximately 3000 planning permissions every year and these range from small-scale residential extensions to major housing and commercial developments. As such it is impossible for the council to monitor all permissions and relies on the local knowledge of local people and the town and parish council to be its eyes and ears so if something is happening in your area and you are not sure if it is unauthorised please contact either the council or me.

On another note, In May this year I became the Deputy Mayor of Wokingham borough. I have with my wife lived in the borough for over 30 years and during that time my wife and I have brought up 3 children and now have our first grandchild who also lives in the borough; I have been a Parish councillor for over 10 years and served on the Borough council for 7 years.

My Mother lives in the borough as does my sister, having moved from London many years ago, we all enjoy the benefits that come from living in Wokingham.

Over the years Wokingham has provided my family a place where my children have received an excellent standard of state education and benefited from the services and amenities available throughout the borough.

I am proud to represent the people of Wokingham and all it has to offer and I have taken on this role so I can promote all that is good about the Borough and shine a light on the dedicated people who supply and support the services we all take for granted such as health, education and the police, as well as supporting those who work for and with charities giving up their free time to help others.

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.

John Kaiser

Borough Councillor
For Barkham Ward and
Deputy Mayor for Wokingham

Email: john.kaiser@wokingham.gov.uk

Telephone: 0118 9762116
Mobile 0771 419 2352



Social Matters

Well, Summer has come and gone since the last Newsletter, and, according to the weatherman, September 1st is officially the first day of Autumn, so when you read this you probably will have planted your Spring bulbs !

The Barn Dance will have taken place on Saturday September 30th, so the report on this will appear in the next Newsletter.

There has only been one event to report on this time and this is the Distributors' BBQ which was held at the village hall on August 5th. This is held to thank the distributors and other BVRA helpers for their work throughout the year. 47 attended and despite the heavy showers during the day the evening turned out to be fine and even sunny. A good time was had by all with tables set out on the terrace area, and Bernie, Jim and Simon doing a wonderful job of cooking all the sausages, beef burgers and chicken drumsticks - no mean feat feeding 47 hungry newsletter distributors and partners!

The photos opposite are all from the BBQ except the bottom left which shows our retiring Secretary Christine being presented with a bouquet in thanks for her work over the past four years.

Our next planned event is the Quiz Evening on **Saturday November 25th** at the Village Hall - 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start. Tickets are £10.00 and can be obtained by contacting Gill Powell on 0118 978 3373, or email social@barkham.org.uk. Tables will be for a maximum of 6 people so arrange your teams now, or just join a team when you arrive. A fish and chip supper is included and there will be the usual bar.

We hope to hold the annual family 'Carols in the Park' a week or so before Christmas as usual but this is subject to arranging a date with the band who have supported us for many years. We meet at the junction of the Woodlands and The Junipers. This is always a popular free event with 100 or so residents turning out to sing the carols, and mulled wine and mince pies (and non-alcoholic squash) will be provided. Carol sheets are provided and there will be a bucket collection for the band. So wrap up warm, bring your torches and enjoy the Festive spirit. A confirmation of the date will be in the winter Newsletter.

Dates for 2018 have already been booked for the Village Hall on March 10th, September 29th and November 24th, and the events for these will be announced at a later date. The annual children's 'Easter Egg Hunt' will again take place on Easter Sunday, April 1st in the afternoon at the Junipers Field. So as you can see Social Events are continuing in the Community and I hope to see as many of you as possible supporting some or all of them. Enjoy the Autumn and hopefully an Indian Summer before the dark nights are upon us!

Shirley Warner





Alan's Patch

This summer must be one of the most productive ever in our gardens. We've had sunshine and we've had rain both in good measure. Fruit, vegetables and even flowers have benefitted.

You may remember last time I mentioned that some of the potatoes had been caught by a sharp frost in April. Well they all survived but the affected ones grew less vigorously and produced a correspondingly smaller crop. I will need to be more careful in future but keeping it all in perspective this is the first time I've suffered this problem in many years, these things happen. Pretty much everything else has prospered.

At the end of May I returned from a four-day trip to find that sawfly had attacked the gooseberries and stripped a good proportion of their leaves. Sawflies lay their eggs on gooseberries and the resulting caterpillars eat the foliage leaving saw-like mark. This is a familiar pest but it just shows how you need to keep on top of these things - four days was all it took. I don't use chemical treatments anymore so I shake the bushes vigorously hoping for them to fall off and, yes, it really does work! I then dealt with the residue on the soil underneath.

There have been a lot of ants this year; flying ants even affected Wimbledon briefly this year. They established a colony in my buckets of new potatoes and my plastic bag of seed compost in the greenhouse. With the long dry patch earlier in the summer I've had much less trouble with slugs than normal.

Last year badgers broke into my patch and wrecked the tail end of my crop of sweet corn. During the summer I reinforced some aspects of the fencing to keep them out and was quietly confident that I was prepared. Also during the winter we installed CCTV around the house and gardens, not purely to monitor the badgers, you understand, it's not that great an obsession, well not quite! I can report that badgers still found a way into the garden but a detailed search of the perimeter revealed a weakness and I was able to boost the fencing to keep them out, well, so far, as we still enjoying a fantastic crop of gourmet delights. Let's not get too cocky yet!

My photo this month shows the sweet corn towering over me at 2.4m high. They've never grown this tall before, not even close. 'Didn't they do well?' You might just spot some French beans that I planted as a companion climbing through to the top of the sweet corn. Below on the left is spinach and to the right butternut squash.

In the greenhouse the tomatoes have been excellent and I have had my greatest success yet in growing

aubergine. There have been seven good sized ones so far on my two plants.

Cucumbers have done well too.

Apples have been rather disappointing. They have grown beautifully in this good season but unfortunately many have been attacked by insects boring into them and by birds pecking them. This is much worse damage than at my previous home and despite have set up traps to catch the insects. Clearly I need to do more or do it better!

Now crab apples are a different story. Pam picked enough this afternoon for a batch of crab apple jelly to last us for the next year.

A few days ago I mowed the field again, that should be fine now until next summer. It wasn't long before I was accompanied by a red kite circling in search of a tasty morsel. We can see the deer and rabbits again now.

Alan Edwards



Arborfield Gardening Association



Hello Everyone!

Many of us enjoyed a superb Garden Party in Margaret and David Edwards wonderful garden. Our thanks go to Margaret and David and all who contributed ... especially the clearing-uppers!

Some of you who may be interested in having allotments, will no doubt be interested, that while eventually there will be several sites for allotments in the Arborfield Green development, until they are available, Wokingham Town Council (contact <https://www.wokingham-tc.gov.uk/services/allotments> or ring 0118 974 0886) and Swallowfield Parish Council (ring 0118 988 6946) are offering plots for residents.

Margaret and Tony Finch (Margaret owned and ran a very successful florist shop in Wokingham) are now offering gardening and flower arranging days at their Farley Hill Place Gardens, Church Lane, Farley Hill, Nr Reading, Berkshire RG7 1TZ. The cost is £40 for half day tuition, including welcome drink and biscuits, light lunches are available. The tutors are David Hurrion and Margaret Finch. To book a place, call Margaret on 0118 976 2544 or e-mail: tony:finch7@btinternet.com. Dates of next few sessions are included in the diary below.

Hedgehog Street has just launched a [national census of hedgehog houses](#) to try and find out more about them. This survey is in partnership with the University of Reading and Warwickshire

Wildlife Trust, and closes on the 31st October 2017. This survey is specifically about structures designed for hedgehogs to nest in at any time of year, as opposed to feeding stations that are designed to shelter hedgehogs while they eat and/or drink.

The RHS are concerned that some potential "Highways England" plans could cause irreversible damage to Wisley in the future. Plans are now being finalised to improve the M25 Junction 10 interchange and widen the A3, which is something we all support in principle. However, one of the possibilities being considered by Highways England, in terms of widening the A3 only, could see over 10,000 sq. metres of RHS Garden Wisley grabbed and over 500 trees destroyed. If Highways England decide that widening the west side of the A3 is the preferred option then irreplaceable historic trees that are over 100 years old could be eliminated for a short-sighted road improvement scheme, which could increase air pollution and noise pollution and destroy the habitats of a wide range of wildlife and the beauty of the garden. Five trees that would potentially be lost are identified as threatened and endangered in cultivation by Plant Heritage's Threatened Plants Project. Excellent specimens of giant redwood (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) would also be at risk. If you are also worried about the potential destruction of these 500 trees and the impact this could have on RHS Garden Wisley you can sign their petition at <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/engb/takeaction/372/679/924/>. You could also write to the Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP, Secretary of State for Transport, Department for Transport, Great Minster House, 33 Horseferry

Road, London, SW1P 4DR and voice your concerns. The RHS have drafted a template letter for you, in case that is helpful. You can also find more information about the scheme, with images of the area that is under threat on the website: <https://www.rhs.org.uk/Wisley-under-threat-from-A3-plans>

There was an encouraging article in the Telegraph the day of our Garden Party: "When did gardening get so cool?" An excerpt follows for your interest, as we won't be having a meeting in the hall this month!

While flowers have always enjoyed a love affair with fashion, growing them has rarely been considered a cool pursuit. The associations with grubby fingernails, foam kneelers and, let's face it, retirement, have long seen gardening relegated to being one of life's less chic hobbies.

Gardening enjoyed its last (sort of) glamorous moment in the 1970s, when Percy Thrower rose to fame as the first celebrity gardener and The Good Life's Felicity Kendal lent her youth and sex appeal to growing-your-own. But it's our new appreciation for mid-century design that has given houseplants a huge resurgence - and taken them out of granny's conservatory and into the spotlight.

So, in recent years being green-fingered has quietly become not only acceptable but aspirational. Kate Moss and fashion photographer Nick Knight have come out as keen growers, while Elizabeth Hurley and Cindy Crawford water lawns and pick flowers on their Instagram accounts. A green revolution has even taken over the high street as well as our homes and research published in April showed that millennials are spending more money on cont...

...than their parents.

Gardening's revival goes hand in hand with the wider shift towards wholesome activities, such as clean eating and strength training. For everyone who needs an escape from the pace of modern life, gardening offers a kind of screen-free downtime that can swallow whole afternoons. For me, and everyone else who needs an escape from the pace of modern life, gardening offers a kind of screen-free downtime that can swallow whole afternoons.

Growing things can prove surprisingly addictive; it lays down roots and encourages humble but persistent ambitions. This may be gardening's greatest asset as trends shift and change. Because, as those who have experienced the simple joy of coming home to a flower unexpectedly in bloom will know, it isn't easy to give up.

Enjoy what's left of summer!

Catherine

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 11th October- Farley Hill Place Gardens workshop

Morning session – Your gardening month – get your garden in shape with reminders of seasonal tasks and how to do them. PLUS inspiring gardening ideas that will give you garden more interest this month

Afternoon session - Autumn pruning workshop – discover how to prune at the right time, make all the right cuts and get the most from your garden plants.

Saturday 21st October–the Three Societies' Social (AGA, Shinfield and Swallowfield). This year's

topic is "Royal Connection". There will be Competition Tables, based on the topic, quizzes, a delicious supper and great entertainment

Tuesday 7th November – Farley Hill Place Gardens workshop

Morning session – Plants for free: division – make more of the plants in your garden with our expert advice on dividing a whole host of garden plants.

Afternoon session – How to plant for a successful garden – basic design, hints and tips for gardens, how to choose the right plant for the right place PLUS giving your plants the best start in life

Thursday 30th November — 7.30pm Arborfield Village Hall. This was going to be a talk by John Negus entitled "Caribbean Calypso", however John has recently undergone heart by-pass surgery and is taking a well-earned rest. John is always in great demand to speak throughout the South and on the Radio Sussex "Dig It" programme. However, he has taken care to arrange for a colleague, Paul Patton, to take his place. Paul describes himself as a Plant Pathologist, Writer and Broadcaster. He can also be heard on 'Dig It'. Paul gives talks on a wide variety of gardening topics. On this occasion he will give us an illustrated talk on "Wildlife in the Garden"



Arborfield Green WI

After the inaugural meeting held at the Community Centre on the Old Garrison Site, the new Arborfield Green Women's Institute was formed. The new group will meet at the Community Centre on the first Tuesday of each month, starting at 7.30p.m. and finishing at 9.30p.m. The first President is Charlotte Wild, the Secretary is Beth Peat, (07712531170) who can also be contacted for more details of the new group at beth@peat.me.uk. The Treasurer is Louise Rudman. They are supported by a very enthusiastic Committee. The new members are looking forward to the first meeting on 3rd October and then on 7th November, when they hope to be joined by a host of other new members, all looking to make friends, learn new skills and have fun. If you would like to join the Group, contact Beth or just turn up at a meeting, you will be sure of a very warm welcome.

Pam Stubbs

Data Protection Act

Members are reminded that membership records are maintained on a personal computer. Details recorded are names, addresses, telephone numbers and payment records. The information is used solely for BVRA purposes, and any member is free to see his/her details by contacting the Membership Secretary.



Our Summer Concert in July (pictured) was a very exciting evening when we took on the challenge of Mahler's 1st Symphony. As it turned out, it was a bigger challenge than anticipated, as our conductor Robert Roscoe became indisposed a couple of weeks before the concert and had to pass the baton to Andrew Taylor. Andrew is normally our 1st Oboe player, but also conducts the Aldworth Symphony Orchestra in Reading so had the right experience, fortunately for us. Under Robert's guidance we had been rehearsing for this concert since February but Andrew inevitably had his own interpretation of the symphony; however we all rose to the challenge and it was interesting to discover new ideas about the work and the performance was truly special. Earlier in the concert the audience was treated to a beautiful and emotional rendering by Sally Ewins and Jenny Hill of Mozart's Flute and Harp Concerto. Altogether it was a very memorable evening for orchestra and audience alike.

Our next concert is on Saturday 18th November 7.30pm at The Old Gym, Wellington College, when the programme will include Khachaturian's 'Adagio from Spartacus' (well known as the theme tune for 'The Onedin Line'), Chausson's Symphony in B flat major (less well-known but considered by many as a masterpiece) and the wonderful Brahms' Violin Concerto with soloist Elizaveta Tyun who wowed our audience last year in Britten's violin concerto.

Tickets for the Autumn Concert which include an interval drink will be available from Decor Interiors in Crowthorne High Street, and also from The Information Centre, Wokingham Town Hall,

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



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.

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

The orchestra welcomes new members subject to vacancies - if you are interested and are a competent player, even if you

Chris Gadsby



Thomas Fletcher and Refiye Mehmet

St Eligius Church Arborfield Green



We have a busy autumn of special events at St Eligius to which all are welcome.

Sunday 1st October is our Harvest Festival with a special Family Harvest Festival Service at 9:30am followed by a Harvest Festival Holy Communion and Baptism at 11am.

The following week on Sunday 8th October at 11am we have an Ecumenical Service of Dedication for our new Organ. The service will include organ voluntaries, a Wind Quintet, and our church choir singing with soloist Louise McGahon.

As a former Garrison Church, Remembrance Sunday is always an important day in our calendar, and this year is marked on 12th November. Please note that our Service of Remembrance will begin ten minutes earlier than our regular service time at 10:50am to allow for the silence at 11am.

On Sunday 3rd December, we have our annual Christingle Service at 9:30am. This is followed by a special Ecumenical Service at 11am to mark St Eligius Day, both our patron saint, and patron saint

of the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

Alongside the special events we continue our popular Wednesday Lunchtime Concerts on 18th October, 8th November and 6th December at 12:30pm.

We have a weekly service at 11am, which is a Holy Communion except for the second Sunday of the month when we hold an ecumenical service of the word. We also hold a monthly 9:30am Family Service which is an informal service when families and friends can sing songs, listen to stories, pray, and enjoy one another's company. Upcoming themes are:

October 1st: Harvest Festival
November 5th: Service of Light
December 3rd: Christingle Service

For further information please phone the Church Office on 0118 9730133 or email office@steligius.church - find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/steligiuschurch/>

Lunch-time Music at St Eligius Church, Arborfield Green

Bringing music to you!

A New Series of Concerts in 2017!

All Concerts are on a Wednesday and start at 12.30 pm

27 September	The Blackwater Valley Wind Quintet
18 October	The Cameo Singers, Wokingham's Chamber Choir
8 November	Charlotte Baker, Soprano Myra Baker, Piano
6 December	Students, The Sixth Form College, Farnborough

Admission free, to include Buffet Lunch

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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**



'A Monk's Tale' The Fringe comes to Wokingham!

Fancy enjoying a bit of the Fringe without having to go all the way to Edinburgh? We have good news! One of this year's top five shows (according to The Guardian), A Monk's Tale is coming to Wokingham on Thursday 19 October. 'A great deal of silliness makes for a hugely entertaining hour that revels in the absurdities of one of the biggest arguments in religious history', says The Times.

The show is about Martin Luther. And it's for people who aren't quite sure which Luther we're talking about. With a feeling of *Horrible Histories* and *Monty Python*, A Monk's Tale helps the audience understand the unfamiliar medieval mindset, and exactly what Luther was trying to do with his 95 Theses, which sparked one of the most significant movements in history: the Reformation.

The show is light, accessible and funny, using sketches, and songs to explain the specifics of the story: the indulgences, purgatory, the sacraments and theological disputes of the period. As the play unfolds, the audience will be informed and challenged as well as entertained and amused.

Suitable for all ages and all faiths, as well as skeptics, the show is written and directed by James Cary, an award-winning sitcom

By James Cary
Miranda, Bluestone 42

From the producers of
The God Particle play

"Quite simply a show that just works, perfect for the Fringe and well worth the price tag. Go see it."
Three Weeks
 * * * *

A Monk's Tale

Relics, Revolt & Reformation

**95 Theses in
59 Minutes!**



More info at amonkstaletale.net

writer for BBC TV and Radio. He worked on the first two series of *Miranda* and co-wrote *Miranda Hart's Joke Shop* for BBC Radio 2. He co-created *Bluestone 42* for BBC3 which ran for three series and has also written episodes of *My Family*, *My Hero* and *Citizen Khan*. His radio credits include *Another Case of Milton Jones*, *Hut 33*, *Recorded for Training Purposes*, *Concrete Cow* and *Think the Unthinkable*. His stage show, *Infinite Number of Monkeys*, was nominated for Perrier Best Newcomer at the Edinburgh Fringe.

8pm at The Whitty Theatre at Luckley House School on Thursday 19 October. Doors open from 7:30pm. Tickets cost £8 in advance, or £10 on the door (if there are any still left by then). If you'd like to come along, please book via our churches' website, at <http://www.abch.org.uk>. For more information, contact the Church Office on 0118 976 0285. We'd love to see you there.

David Horrocks

Barkham Diary

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
23/10/17	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	7.30pm
24/10/17	Parish Council Planning Review	BVH	7.30pm
01/11/17	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
08/11/17	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
09/11/17	BVRA AGM	BVH	8.00pm
10/11/17	Copy deadline for Winter Newsletter		
14/11/17	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
14/11/17	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
17/11/17	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	7.30pm
25/11/17	BVRA Quiz Night	BVH	7.30pm
28/11/17	Parish Council Planning Review	BVH	7.30pm
06/12/17	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
06/12/17	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
11/12/17	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	7.30pm
12/12/17	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
12/12/17	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
13/12/17	Bonsai Club	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

Wokingham Choral Society

Dates for your Diary!

Come and join us for a Remembrance Concert on **Saturday 11 November** at 7.30pm at All Saints Church, Wokingham. The choir will be singing some truly beautiful pieces - The Choral Suite from Karl Jenkins's Armed Man, Allegri's Miserere, Faure's In Paradisum to name but a few.

On **Saturday 16 December** WCS will be performing Bach's Christmas Oratorio at the Great Hall, University of Reading. What a great way to start off the festive season!

Details can be found on www.wokingham-choral-society.org.uk. We look forward to seeing you.

Alison Sears

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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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citizens advice Wokingham

Extra help for clients with mental health issues

From the beginning of September 2017 Citizens Advice Wokingham is running a new project to provide extra help for people with mental health issues in Wokingham Borough. Using funding supplied by the Berkshire Community Foundation we are providing an extra 4 hours a week of specialist help in debt and welfare benefits. The funding will allow the project to run for 8 months until April 2018.

John Ferguson (Chief Officer of Citizens Advice Wokingham) said "We are grateful to the Berk-

shire Community Foundation for this funding. We see quite a few people with mental health issues and this funding will allow us to have extra time with them to help them solve their problems with debt and benefits, without impacting the time available for other clients."

Do you use Social Media? We have a Facebook Page that we try and populate with useful and topical articles and information at least 3 or 4 times a week. Go to Facebook and search on '@wokinghamcab'. Don't forget to 'like' us!

We also have a Twitter feed. If you use Twitter you can find us by searching on '@CitAWokingham'.

We are still running our 100Club, with monthly results reported in

The Wokingham Paper. If you are interested in joining email us at 100club@citizensadvicewokingham.org.uk.

For more information please see our website bit.ly/wokhome. 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

- The Quiz - Answers*
1. 1086
 2. Blacksmith (smithy)
 3. 1980s (1982)
 4. Church Cottages. The current church building dates from 1860-61 but the cottages are late 15th century.
 5. 1980s
 6. The Woodlands, Somerville Close, Thorne Close. I've taken "The Vines" as being near enough a tree!
 7. Barkham Brook/Lodden
 8. Barkham Manor (rebuilt in the late 18th century) and Barkham Square (built in the 1740s).
 9. Ludgrove
 10. Nicholas Hoult

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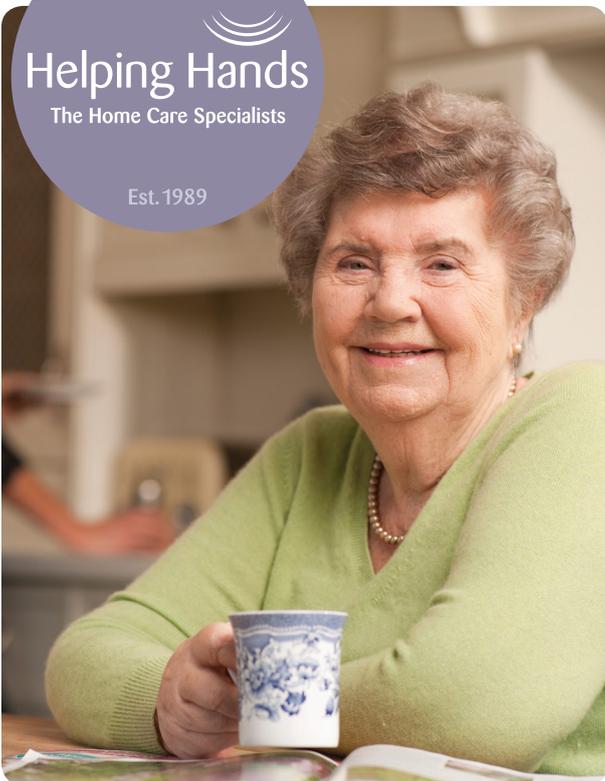
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