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# Barkham Newsletter

Issue 124 Summer 2018

from the Barkham Village Residents Association

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

Twitter: @BarkhamVRA Facebook: <http://gid.uk/BVRAF>

**Latest news on the threat of 1000 new houses at Barkham Square  
See page 6**

**Public exhibition on 23 June to launch the Neighbourhood Plan  
consultation – see pages 4-5**

### Have you paid your 2018 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

### Next Social Event Barn Dance 22 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 12 for ticket info.

**To conform with the new data protection regulations,  
we have a revised data protection policy – please see page 8**

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If you haven't attended a BVRA event yet, please be assured a warm welcome will await you.

Fun for all the family? Come to the Barn Dance in Barkham Village Hall on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September - licenced bar and supper is provided, just bring your dancing feet. The ever-popular Quiz Night then takes place in November.

I encourage you to visit our website at <https://www.barkham.org.uk> where you will find details of all our future events, plus other local useful information.

What does the BVRA mean to you? I invite you to tell me what works and what doesn't work for you, you can email me at [chairman@barkham.org.uk](mailto:chairman@barkham.org.uk).

Hopefully we can expect ongoing warm weather, so sit back, relax and read your village newsletter.

Richard Roberts

## Chairman's Message

Welcome to the Summer edition of our newsletter. Yes, I know I said "Summer". I am sure it isn't only me who wondered when we would feel the warmth of the sun after the ongoing cold and wet weather we have recently experienced.

We began our annual social calendar with a Skittles Evening and the annual Easter Egg Hunt, which was attended by more children than ever this year.

## The Quiz

The theme this time is "Islands". Simple!

1. Which folk rock group, founded in 1968 but still performing today, took their name from an English island?
2. Which is the largest of the Scilly Isles?
3. Which classic TV comedy series was set on Craggy Island?
4. Stewart Island is off the southern tip of which country?
5. Who duetted with Kenny Rogers in the 1980s worldwide hit "Islands in the Stream"?
6. Douglas Henshall starts as Detective Inspector Jimmy Perez in which TV series based on the books of Ann Cleves?
7. Which island in Poole Harbour was the site of one of the first Scout camps in 1907?
8. Who wrote "The Island of Doctor Moreau"?
9. What is the name of the island in the Thames at Twickenham which is named after a dish which was served by the island's inn in the 19<sup>th</sup> century?
10. And finally.....which life-saving organisation was(is?) based at Tracy Island?

Answers on page 23

## Farley Hill Bowls Club News

We have been enjoying our monthly Winter Social Evenings in our Clubhouse, which is the Victory Hall, Church Road, Farley Hill RG7 1TR. If you are interested in trying your hand at lawn bowls, please come along one day or evening when we are playing at home and we will arrange a trial session for you. You will find details of all our fixtures and much more information about our club on our website: [www.farleyhillbowlsclub.org.uk](http://www.farleyhillbowlsclub.org.uk)

Our green opened on 18th April, but our first five matches are away this year.

For further information please contact Bill Dowling, Club Secretary on 01344 772130 or E-mail: [secretary@farleyhill-bowlsclub.org.uk](mailto:secretary@farleyhill-bowlsclub.org.uk)

## BVRA 2017/18 GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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## Advertising and Newsletter Contributions

Newsletter articles / contributions for the Autumn edition should be in by 1 September 2018. It helps if these can be submitted in electronic form by email to [newsletter@barkham.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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 mid-late September.



## Editorial

Welcome to the summer edition of the Barkham Newsletter! Can I start by asking any residents who haven't paid their 2018 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 (Holiday Bible Club), gardening, music and various societies. Laurence Heath provides one his regular updates, including news of a public exhibition on Saturday 23rd June at the Arborfield Green Community Centre, Sheerlands Road to launch a consultation on the Arborfield and Barkham Neighbourhood Plan. He encourages as many residents as possible to attend and give their views.

Also, the major development threat that is Barkham Square (possibly 1000 new houses) is covered, particularly in Chris Heyliger's article on pages 4-5. The Masterplanners report on the feasibility of a development of Barkham Square is likely to be considered by Wokingham Bor-

ough Council in the near future (date tbc). I think most residents will agree that it is a totally unsuitable proposal and will want to mobilise to resist it.

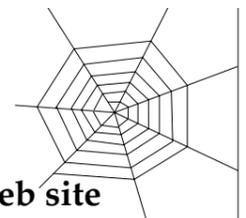
The Social section (pp12-13) this time includes reports on the successful Skittles evening and the annual Easter Egg Hunt, plus news of the next events.

The quiz features "islands", both real and fictional. Hopefully a good mix of questions to try without resorting to Google!

Residents may well be aware of the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which takes effect from 25 May. Accordingly, the BVRA has updated its Privacy Policy and this is reproduced on page 8.

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](mailto:newsletter@barkham.org.uk).

Stewart Richardson  
Editor



## Barkham web site

I hope you like our website [www.barkham.org.uk](http://www.barkham.org.uk)

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

## More photos please!

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

Dave Clements



## News from your Parish Council

### Planning applications

The Parish Council continues to fight against more development in the area. Just recently we have opposed a large development on land North and South of School Road. A leaflet drop to residents close by was undertaken to raise awareness of this application which, if approved, would have a huge impact on traffic along School Road and the area in general. You can keep you up to date via the BVRA Development Watch (see BVRA website, barkham.org.uk).

Our other major concern is possible development at Barkham Square, this site joins on to the development at Arborfield Green, stretching from Commonfield Lane to Langley Common Road. WBC have highlighted this area as a possible site for more development

### Vacancy for a Councillor

The Parish Council still have a vacancy for a new councillor. 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. There are many changes coming to Barkham and this is your opportunity to become more involved.

### Parish Clean Up Day

The Parish Clean Up Day on the 25<sup>th</sup> March was again very successful this year, with lots of residents turning up to help clear the parish of litter. A total of 90 bags of rubbish and recycling were collected from around the Parish and several large items were also collected.



### Arborfield and Barkham Neighbourhood Plan

First of all, I would like to draw to your attention that there will be a public exhibition on **Saturday 23rd June, from 10am to 1pm at the Arborfield Green Community Centre, Sheerlands Road** to launch a six week consultation on the Arborfield and Barkham Neighbourhood Plan.

Members of the Steering Group, who have put the Draft Plan together, will be available to discuss the proposals and to answer questions. There will be some exhibition material outlining the proposed policies, to explain how the plan evolved and to map out the remainder of the process.

The new Neighbourhood Plan as drafted has used information from a number of sources:

- The Residents' Survey carried out in late 2016 and results from the earlier public consultation
- Work done by a number focus groups comprising local residents
- Contributions from other organisations, including other Neighbourhood Plan groups
- Landscape views submitted recently by many local people

- A variety of studies prepared by members of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and from other sources.

Sustainability is the "Golden Thread" which runs through planning, according to the government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The NPPF goes on to suggest this should be achieved through a range of themes including a prosperous rural economy, sustainable transport, a wide choice of quality homes, conserving and enhancing the natural and historic environment. All these themes are relevant to Arborfield and Barkham. It is the intention of the Neighbourhood Plan that these sustainability concepts are treated seriously, not just used as a fig leaf for what happens to be expedient.

The policies themselves are built around four main themes:

- Identity and rural setting, in particular to preserve open spaces between the various settlements within the two parishes
- Thriving Communities, ensuring that the proposed community assets promised as part of the Arborfield Green development are actually delivered
- Appropriate housing, determining that new housing must be contained within existing settlement boundaries or on brownfield sites. Generous provision of open space and landscaping is also required.
- Getting Around: new development must not increase traffic on unsuitable roads and a local network of green routes for non-motorised users should be created.

Once the consultation period is completed, it is anticipated that there will be some adjustments to the plan to take account of comments received. It will then have to be submitted to Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) for their comments, specifically so they can check that it is compatible with their own planning policies. This will allow the plan to be finalised, ready for an examination to be carried out by a planning inspector. Subject to the inspector being satisfied, the plan will finally go to a public referendum

When it has been adopted, the Neighbourhood Plan must be taken into account in the determination of all planning applications in Arborfield and Barkham. It will immediately become an important consideration in the planning process.

The Steering Group hope to see you on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. If as many residents as possible respond to the consultation, then the Plan can be completed and submitted, strongly supported as a plan "for the community, by the community".

### Barkham Square

The elephant in the room is the proposal to site up to 1,000 additional homes at Barkham Square. Here is a good example of sustainability being sacrificed for the sake of expediency. WBC are desperate to identify more housing land so that they can meet the government's targets. Barkham Square has been identified as a possible site, in spite of the site having access only via the existing local road network - the juxtaposition of likely access points will mean that the proposed Arborfield Cross Relief Road and Nine Mile Ride Extension will serve no useful purpose

in serving Barkham Square. Besides the loss of open countryside, it will be a big step towards engulfing Barkham in a westward urban sprawl, all the way from Wokingham to Arborfield.

Chris Heyliger and John Kaiser have written elsewhere in the BVRA Newsletter about Barkham Square. It is essential that local residents make their feelings known to WBC, otherwise we will be ignored and treated as a soft option. It is proposed that a petition be arranged and when a public consultation takes place, as many people as possible should respond.

Laurence Heath  
Planning Chair  
Barkham Parish Council

### Barkham Village Hall

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

From as little as £23/hr for both halls. £26.50/hr after 6.00 p.m. on Saturday.

Can accommodate 175 guests and now has a new fully equipped kitchen. Plus with the benefit of Lottery Funding a new ceiling and lighting have been installed which can be fully dimmable for evening celebrations.

If you are a group who needs somewhere to meet on a regular basis why not use your local village hall, we have plenty of tables and chairs and spacious car park and grounds for use during the summer. We offer very competitive rates for regular users.

Further information can be obtained from the parish council web site with photographs of the hall plus a calendar with availability. Please contact Judith Neuhofer on 979 0296 or email [judith.neuhofer@btinternet.com](mailto:judith.neuhofer@btinternet.com)

## Up to 1000 more houses targeted at Barkham

Construction of the 3,500 homes planned for the SDL covering Barkham, Arborfield, Finchampstead and Swallowfield is already underway. But now Barkham is being targeted for up to 1000 more houses at Barkham Square adjacent to Arborfield Green.

Your opinion on further housing and traffic in the area counts and Barkham Parish Council will over the coming weeks develop a petition.

Barkham Square is a Green Field site bordered by Langley Common Road, Barkham Street, Commonfield Lane and the temporary film studios at Arborfield Green.

Over 200 plus sites across Wokingham were put forward by landowners for the next local plan and Barkham Square was one of only three sites selected for a Master Planning exercise commissioned by Wokingham Borough Council. Whereas developers will see this as convenient tack on to Arborfield Green (Development Creep), Barkham Parish Council believes that any further development of this scale in Barkham is not sustainable and this site is not suitable for such development because:

The site is outside the settlement area in a Countryside location. It is land locked with access only on to rural country roads and lanes.

It is outside the 'redline' green separation area specified for Arborfield Green to create a buffer between Barkham and Arborfield Green.

It is amidst historic farmland adjacent to an area of special char-

acter near the medieval centre of Barkham and listed buildings like Barkham Manor, The Bull etc.

It would inevitably lead to a loss of veteran trees and affect the local wildlife.

It is in an area prone to flooding; the main drainage channel from Arborfield Green flows across the site.

Above all, it will lead to even more congestion on Barkham Road, Barkham Street, Bearwood Road and other country roads and lanes. Residents will be all too aware of the problems in the area caused simply by roadworks.

If the Masterplanners report which was designed to establish the viability of the schemes 'without prejudging planning approval' is approved by Wokingham Borough Executive a Public Consultation will follow.

We will keep you updated and advise you further how you can express your views directly and/or via a petition.

There will need to be 1500+ objections in order to secure a debate by the full Wokingham Borough Council to help defeat this project.

In the meantime, you can also sign up to the independent BVRA Development Watch Group at [www.barkham.org.uk](http://www.barkham.org.uk) (see p21) by registering your email address and be kept advised of any further housing developments in the area.

Chris Heyliger  
Barkham Parish Council



Our quiz, on 17th March at Barkham Village Hall, was very well attended and it was especially pleasing to see so many local residents attending and supporting their local Citizens Advice. We made £875 from the evening and it will all go towards helping, advising and supporting the people of Wokingham Borough with their problems.

Our 100Club year starts again on 1st May, with monthly results reported in The Wokingham Paper. In order to comply with the Gambling Commission rules subscribers to the 100Club have to either work for or volunteer with Citizens Advice Wokingham or be a member of 'Friends of Citizens Advice Wokingham'. Membership is free, but you do need to register with us. As a 'Friend' you will be able to purchase 100Club tickets, receive an update bulletin twice a year, receive a copy of our Annual Review and get an invitation to our Annual General Meeting. If you are not already a 'Friend' you can join by emailing us on [friends@citizensadvice-wokingham.org.uk](mailto:friends@citizensadvice-wokingham.org.uk)

You can contact us with problem issues as below:

**WOKINGHAM**  
2nd floor, Waterford House,  
Erfstadt Court RG40 1AP  
[public@citizensadvicewokingham.org.uk](mailto:public@citizensadvicewokingham.org.uk)  
[www.citizensadvicewokingham.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvicewokingham.org.uk)

**Hours:**  
Mon - Thu: 9.00am - 3.00pm  
Fri: 9.00am - 1.00pm

Telephone: 0300 330 1189



### Town centre regeneration



I wanted to talk about the plans to regenerate Wokingham Town centre even though it is not in Barkham it has an effect on all of us who use the town centre on a regular basis. I have included an illustration which shows the planned outcome for Elms Field, which is designed to make it an area of the town which can be enjoyed by residents. The plans are to build a market place with facilities for both day and night time events and activities, to extend the cultural and social opportunities which will include a new cinema and a 400-seat concert hall facility at the new Carnival pool complex and to deliver a new town park with 21st century equipment for outdoor concerts and cultural events in addition to a new play area for children and young people at Elms Field.

The problem with this means there will be disruption as the work is carried out and this affects everyone, and I would like to apologise on behalf of the council for the inconvenience while the work is progressed. The council has been accused of destroying a large number of trees to enable the work to be carried out and this is true but the council are committed to replacing as many trees as possible, I did hear a figure the other the day that the council has planted over 30,000 trees around the borough so we can hardly be

accused of being anti-trees and I believe trees are such an important part of the landscape and bring such joy I have successfully fought to get blanket tree preservation orders where there was a danger of losing trees near or on developments.

### Development

We continue to press the government to change planning rules so that the more than 9,000 permissions granted by the Council are considered during planning appeals. In the first 8 months of 2017/18, 1183 new homes were built, and we have identified a further 1,467 homes currently under construction. This improved delivery trend has allowed us to recalculate our 5-year land supply as now standing at 6.8 years.

This will assist the council in defending against inappropriate sites put forward by speculative developers.

There is also the update of the local plan which continues as although the council has a 6.8 year land supply for delivering housing we are required to have a rolling land supply and as developers are delivering in the region of 150 houses a month each one them must be replaced with an additional approved house to maintain the land supply as required by the government. One of the possible sites put forward for assessment by developers is Barkham Square with a suggestion of a development of up to 1000 houses, I, along with the parish council are against this proposal as its location and road network is not suitable for a development of such a scale and even though it is still currently merely a proposal I will be fighting to ensure that this site is removed from the local plan update. The council are on track to deliver its new bridge at Barkham. Preliminary engineering work continues and delivery is planned for 18 months' time and I am sure it has not gone unnoticed that there has been a major upgrade of services around the Bull. This is an area where we constantly have seen flooding in the past hopefully the works will help solve this historic problem.

Have a good Summer and please remember you can contact me by email or phone to discuss any problems or issues you have with the borough council

John Kaiser  
Borough Councillor for Barkham  
[John.kaiser@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:John.kaiser@wokingham.gov.uk)  
077141923532

On May 25<sup>th</sup> the United Kingdom along with the other member states of the European Union will introduce enhanced data protection for citizens. These regulations are known as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

As a result of this regulation the Barkham Village Residents Association (BVRA) has thoroughly reviewed its processes and handling of data. The principle change has been to enhance the privacy policy, which previously covered the website and email sending, to also cover all aspects of membership. The revised privacy policy is shown below and has also been published on our website.

Current subscribers to any of our email lists will get a separate notification of this policy via email.

## BVRA PRIVACY NOTICE COVERING MEMBERSHIP AND USE OF THE WEBSITE

This privacy policy sets out how Barkham Village Residents Association (BVRA) uses and protects any information that you give BVRA as both a member of the association and when you use the association website (<https://barkham.org.uk>).

BVRA is committed to ensuring that your privacy is protected. Should we ask you to provide certain information by which you can be identified, then you can be assured that it will only be used in accordance with this privacy statement.

BVRA may change this policy from time to time by updating this notice. Any changes will be notified in the Barkham Newsletter published by the BVRA and can also be viewed on the BVRA website at <https://www.barkham.org.uk/index.php/2-uncategorised/73-privacy>.

This policy is effective from 01/05/2018 and is reviewed on a regular basis.

### What we collect:

We collect the following information:

- Name used for website mailing lists you subscribe to
- Email address used for website mailing lists you subscribe to
- Address used for membership records

We also hold, with the individual's permission, the names and addresses of our committee members and volunteers such as distributors.

### What we do with the information we gather

We require this information for:

- The maintaining of BVRA membership records
- The maintaining of electronic mailing lists that you have subscribed to
- We may use the information to improve our services.

From time to time, we may also use your information to contact you on matters of local interest.

### Security

We are committed to ensuring that your information is secure. In order to prevent unauthorised access or disclosure, we have put in place suitable physical, electronic and managerial procedures to safeguard and secure the information we collect.

The website uses cookies and preventing their use may stop you from using all of the site's functionality. Our cookie usage consists of a session cookie, containing no personal information to allow us to track website usage.

For more information about our use of cookies please read <https://www.barkham.org.uk/index.php/2-uncategorised/74-cookies>

### Links to other websites

Our website may contain links to other websites of interest. However, once you have used these links to leave our site, you should note that we do not have any control over the other website. Therefore, we cannot be responsible for the protection and privacy of any information which you provide whilst visiting such sites and such sites are not governed by this privacy statement. You should exercise caution and look at the privacy statement applicable to the website in question.

### Controlling your personal information

We will not sell, distribute or lease your personal information to third parties unless we have your permission or are required by law to do so. We may use your personal information to send you promotional information about third parties which we think you may find interesting. For subscribed users you may choose to stop the receipt of email information by amending your mailing preferences by going to the home page of the website.

You may request details of personal information which we hold about you under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). If you would like a copy of the information held on you please use the contact us form on the website or alternatively contact the membership secretary ([membership@barkham.org.uk](mailto:membership@barkham.org.uk)) or the website administrator ([webmaster@barkham.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@barkham.org.uk)). If any data is incorrect please advise the above email addresses and it will be corrected

**Coombes Fest**

**SATURDAY 7TH JULY 2018**

**GATES OPEN AT 3 PM**

**LIVE MUSIC FROM:**

**Hubba Bubba • Ali Powell • The Deltas  
The Filthy Llamas • Wise Monkeys  
Matthew Quilliam Ukulele**

**FREE CHILDREN'S CRAFTS**

**BAR, BBQ & HOG ROAST**

**PLUS PIMMS & FIZZ INFLATABLES NERF BATTLES RETAIL STALLS SOFT PLAY**

**TICKETS & MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT [www.coombesfest.com](http://www.coombesfest.com)**

**underwraps**  
EVENT PHOTOGRAPHY

**SIREN CRAFT BREW**

**SPECIAL THANKS TO UNDERWRAPS, SIREN CRAFT BREW, ARBORFIELD BOUNCY CASTLES & COMBAT KIDS PARTIES**



**'Out of this world!'**

It's that time again – when the life of our churches begins to be dominated by preparations for our annual Holiday Bible Club...

It's a massive effort – involving well over 100 (safely recruited) people who serve as leaders and helpers, plus the generous help of the Coombes School, who allow us to take over their playing field and other bits of the school too. But we think it's definitely worth it!

For those who are new to HBC, it's a five-day club for local children aged 0-14, run by Arborfield and Barkham Churches, including Christchurch Wokingham (which meets at St Crispin's School) and Church at the Green. HBC has been running for well over 50 years and has become a highly appreciated part of local community life. Every year, children tell us it was the best week of their



summer holiday, and parents leave asking why we can't run it for six weeks in a row!

HBC this year will run from Monday 30 July-Friday 3 August. Our theme will be space and our title 'Out of this world.' Why not sign your children up to join the c250 others who will come along to enjoy crafts, sports, music, games, inflatable, water sports, face-painting, watching leaders getting flanned and gunged, the chance to make new friends, and talks and group times focused on finding out more about Jesus?

The under 5s programme runs only in the mornings and draws in

around children and their parents or carers for singing, a talk, crafts, and plenty of tea and cake.

Booking this year opened in mid-May. We'll do our very best to make sure there are places for children from the local area, but, if you would like to be sure of coming along, it really would really help if you could book sooner rather than later. If you would like more information, or a booking form, please visit [www.abch.org.uk](http://www.abch.org.uk) or call the Church Office on 0118 976 0285. We'd love to see you and your children there!

David Horrocks



**Lunch-time Music at St Eligius Community Church Arborfield Green**

**Bringing music to you!**

**Concerts in 2018!**

**Starting at 12.30 pm**

N.B. The monthly Concerts are changing to a quarterly basis and will be held on the first Thursday of the month.

<b>Thursday, 2 August</b>	<b>Jessica Gale Piano</b>
<b>Thursday, 1 November</b>	<b>Thomas Balch, Violin Fiona Bechmann, Piano Natalie Bechmann, Piano</b>

**Admission free, to include Buffet Lunch**

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

To book your Lunch, please, contact Rita Le Var (Tel. 01252 372320, E-mail: [rita\\_le\\_var@ntlworld.com](mailto:rita_le_var@ntlworld.com))

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

The Sixth Form College, Farnborough who performed for our April concert





was the usual exciting and very speedy event as the children all tried to find the hidden tokens to exchange for little chocolate eggs. The winner of the Giant Lindt Easter Egg was a delighted Poppy (pictured) - so I hope she enjoyed eating that!

In August there is a planned BBQ for the Newsletter Distributors' Party when the BVRA thank the distributors for the work they do.

The next Social Event will be a Barn Dance on Saturday September 22nd. This is again in the Village Hall and will have a 'live caller' and includes a supper and a bar. Tickets will be available nearer the time from Gill Powell, preferably by email - social@barkham.org.uk or by telephone, 978 3373. Do put this date in your diaries and look out for the posters displayed around the village nearer the time.

By popular request a Quiz Night will again take place on Saturday November 24th. This will be in the Village Hall and includes a supper and a bar. More information and posters will follow.

I hope many of you will join in the planned events - they are always enjoyable and a great way to meet new people in the Village. I shall look forward to seeing you there.

Shirley Warner  
Social Committee Member

## Social Matters

As I write this report Spring has finally arrived after a very disappointing start and hopefully the weather will warm up soon. Everywhere is looking good with all the flowering shrubs and the new flush of green leaves.

We have had two social events since the last newsletter. The first one was the Family Skittles Evening on March 10th when over 50 people attended, including some children, and all had a fun time. The ploughman's supper halfway through the evening was as tasty and colourful as ever and received some lovely comments. Bruce, the MC for the evening, did a wonderful job and the very competitive event resulted in the winning team being the 'Famous Five' comprising Louise, Karen, Jim, Jackie and Mac. Graham Powell was the winner of the 'Killer Game', but as the players were sadly knocked out they were treated to choc ices as some consolation, so were not too disappointed I hope!

The second event was the Annual Children's Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday, 1st April. This year over 70 children took part, considerably more than last year, with many more people also pleased to be outside on what was the first fine dry day for many days! It





Alan's Patch

What a crazy spring we have had, no wonder we love to talk about the weather! We had a couple of days of nice weather and then twice in March we had a really cold spell complete with a decent amount of snow. This was followed by a heat wave for two days in April followed by more cool days with plenty more rain. Now, as I write, we have another spell of hot weather in early May. This late and strange spring has had some unusual effects in my patch.

There has been amazing cherry blossom, followed by spectacular apple blossom, as my main photo shows. The bluebells were fantastic this year and the wisteria is at its peak just now with a strong and beautiful fragrance wafting into the house.

It has been so cold and wet that I sowed my seed potatoes a month later than normal, so new potatoes will be later than normal. However the new potatoes are just poking through the soil today, less than two weeks after sowing, so they are wasting no time.

I've had a real flurry of activity over the past couple of weeks catching up, once the soil was warm enough. In addition to the potatoes I've sown carrots, parsnips, spinach, more broad beans, peas, leeks and shallots.



In the greenhouse the tomatoes and aubergines are doing really well and the cucumber is following on behind because I forgot to sow the seeds!

Butternut squash, sweet corn, French and runner beans are germinating.

Finally I've pretty much caught up with what I would have expected to have done by now. I now have time to look a little more carefully at the fine details, like checking the fruit trees to see if the fruit has set, looks like plenty of pears, and keeping an eye out for the gooseberry sawfly which can devastate the foliage if it remains undetected.

Of last year's crops we are still eating carrots and parsnips in the fridge and some has been converted into soup stored in the freezer. The spinach has started to re-grow and is producing some succulent leaves. Also the rhubarb has shot into action and is the best I've had, unfortunately Pam has recently found out that she is intolerant of it!

It's fun watching the birds on the feeders. Goldfinches are so colourful. To keep the squirrels off

Pam has found an electric spinner that rotates when a squirrel lands on it and throws them off! Quite entertaining! The roe deer have been away for a couple of weeks, perhaps they have new fawns. The grass has been growing very rapidly this past 2-3 weeks meaning regular lawn mowing. That reminds me, I need to book the tractor and mower to cut the field in a few weeks.

My other photograph below was taken in the village somewhere but where and on which date? Find out with the quiz answers on page 23.



## Finchampstead Flower Club

Meetings are held at the California RatePayers Hall Finchampstead 7.45 pm. The next few meetings are as follows:

June 25th. "Orient Hana Express." Sachiko Pearce. Club comp - "Sporting Favourite"

July 23rd. "An Artist's Palette" Alison Mount Club comp - "A basket case (petite)"

August 20th. Summer workshop

September 24th. "Bang on Trend". Sue. Tausing. Club comp - "Good enough to eat"

The photos are of exhibits from club members in the March competition "Take Five Flowers"

The club welcomes visitors or new members. Further information from Elizabeth Barret 0118 989 2092 Chairman.





## Arborfield Gardening Association



Hello Everyone!

Saturday 5th May was National Naked Gardening Day – hope you all had fun!

Have you all seen the green wall at the heart of the transformed town centre in Bracknell? It's one of the largest in Europe and contains about 10,000 plants. It stretches for half a mile along the Lexicon shopping centre.

Our March meeting took place on World Water Day

Today, 2.1 billion people live without safe drinking water at home; affecting their health, education and livelihoods.

“Sustainable Development Goal 6” commits the world to ensuring that everyone has access to safe water by 2030, and includes targets on protecting the natural environment and reducing pollution.

..... but it also includes suggestions about how we can help in our own homes and gardens.

Members enjoyed a very enthusiastic talk by Jonathan Hogarth on Hogarth Hostas. He holds the National Collection of Small and Miniature Hostas. In 2016, at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show, he was presented with a Silver-Gilt Medal and at the RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show, a Gold Medal and the “Best Plant Heritage Exhibit” award for his collection of Hostas. In 2017 he was presented with a Silver Medal for his beautiful display of miniature and small Hostas at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show.

Jonathan began his very successful love affair with Hostas when he bought a house here in Melrose Gardens which came with one Hosta! From there, ten years and two children later, he went to visit some friends and saw some different Hostas there. Previously he had thought there was only a green Hosta! So he acquired a yellow one, then a blue one, and then he found the variegated ones, so he came away with twelve different Hostas. He knew how to grow Hostas by then, as for 10 years he'd successfully looked after his plant - he'd put a few slug pellets around and it almost looked after itself. Previously writing about the Hostas he had successfully grown, Jonathan now thinks the slugs read his articles!

Then Jonathan found a specialist Hosta nursery, and joined the **British Hosta and Hemerocallis Society**, of which he has recently been appointed as Chairman! In 2005 he went to the American Hosta Association's convention and he's never looked back and in fact goes there every year since. One can find the newest plants in America.

Jonathan spoke about his experiences at the world famous gardening shows, where, as a newcomer, he has had such incredible success. He amused us with several funny anecdotes and advised on various ways of exhibiting plants. With his unstoppable passion for this particular plant genus, this was a very stimulating talk.

Jonathan's talk also included a description of the success he has had with the X-Stream Aeroponic Propagator system, which is made only in Britain. This system produces viable plants from 80% of his Hosta cuttings - he says it works with everything else, including roses, geraniums & fuschias.

Cuttings are placed straight into the propagator - with no rockwool blocks or cubes. Plants are fed with a fine nutrient and water spray. As they grow, bare roots are exposed so nutrients go straight to the roots. Plants will therefore absorb far more nutrients and you'll see surges in growth! Expect rapid rooting, too as root growth is unrestricted by growing media and roots get a constant supply of oxygen, producing huge roots in record time

Jonathan recommends the 20 Plant (Unheated) version which costs around £65

In April, Angela O'Connell spoke to us on the National Garden Scheme, which since 1927 has been inviting garden owners to open their exceptional gardens to the public for good causes, giving people unique access to some of Britain's most beautiful, memorable gardens for around the same cost of a cup of tea and a slice of cake. Over the last 90 years, they have donated £50 million to charities across the UK.

Copies of the “2018 Berks and Bucks Gardens to Visit Guide” showing beautiful gardens in our area and, if you are interested, how you can open your own garden, are available at various locations, e.g. Henry Street Garden Centre,

### Forthcoming Events

**Saturday 9th June** Margaret Edwards is holding her charity coffee morning in aid of DASH (Domestic Abuse Stops Here), between 10am and 1pm, in her beautiful garden - Ridgefield Farm, Reading Rd, Arborfield, RG2 9HN. Proceeds will go specifically to giving activities during the summer holidays to children in the refuge centre.

**Thursday 28th June** A special attraction will be AGA's Summer Show, which will be judged this year by Ray Norton from Pudding Lane - you can find schedules for this relaxed event at Henry Street and in the Village Shop. Relaxed especially because we will be serving Ploughman's and Pimms!

**Thursday 12th July** Coinciding with the RHS London Plant and Art Fair (11th – 12th July), a seminar exploring the history and practice of botanical art, hosted by the RHS Lindley Library. £55 for members, £60 non-members, to include an evening drinks reception.

**Thursday 26 July** We will be visiting another NGS garden, “The Priory” in Beech Hill at 2pm. It has extensive gardens in the grounds of a former C12 French Priory (not open), rebuilt 1648. The mature gardens are in a very attractive setting beside the River Loddon. There is a large formal walled garden with espalier fruit trees, lawns, mixed and

replanted herbaceous borders, vegetables and roses, woodland, fine trees, lake and Italian style water garden for you to enjoy.

**Sunday 26th and Monday 27th August** Swallowfield Horticultural Society – a two-day show in Swallowfield Park - closing date for entries 22nd August

NB: Gardening can be a risky business – in 2002 the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents counted 87,000 people with garden-related injuries. Lawnmowers are most likely to put you in hospital, followed closely by flower pots. More than 80 enterprising folk managed to injure themselves with a seed tray! Now that takes some doing! Rose thorns are particularly notorious for causing blood poisoning, which can be a killer – so please be careful out there!

You are very welcome to join us at any of our events. Let's hope for some good gardening weather to come.....!

Catherine Breen, Chair

**A new report** reveals Britain has lost half its hedgehogs in less than two decades. Habitat loss is devastating the population of our prickly pals.

Hedgehogs, *Erinaceus europaeus*, are a woodland edge species that also make use of hedgerows and suburban gardens. The State of Britain's Hedgehogs 2018 report says Britain has lost half its hedgehogs in less than two decades. The main causes are habitat loss and lack of landscape-scale connectivity.

Woodland edge and hedgerow destruction and poor management are major contributing factors in hedgehog decline, causing habitat loss and reducing macroinvertebrates available for food. The use of pesticides on farmland and garden plots can have detrimental impacts on hedgehogs and their food supply. In urban areas the use of impermeable fencing, loss of compost heaps and increasing development are other major issues.

### Supporting hedgehog survival

Compost heaps are a favourite home for hedgehogs and providing holes or gaps in fences and hedges will allow them access to your land.

A [range of hedgehog products are available in garden centres and shops](#), including hedgehog houses which offer shelter for our prickly guests. You can also provide food in your garden, but not bread and milk as they are bad for their stomachs. A constant supply of drinking water is essential, especially during times of frost and drought, while hedgehog food, dog food, minced meat or cat biscuits are ideal.

We were very proud to achieve the top award, Platinum, in the finals of the National Concert Band Festival at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester in April. Trinity were the only British band in the 'Community Wind Band' category to receive this top accolade. Under the direction of Paul Speed the band played three pieces - "Exultate" by Samuel Hazo, Nigel Hess' "Dark Lochnagar" and John Barnes Chance's "Variations on a

Korean Folk Song". The two adjudicators closing comments were "A very musical performance with lots of colour, variety and clarity. Very balanced in style, and plenty of contrasts and vitality. Thank you very much for your performance today; very enjoyable and delivered with a real sense of occasion. Congratulations!"

Formed only 17 years ago and the youngest band in their category, TCB has been privileged to be invited to these finals three times, each time improving, from a Silver award, then Gold, to this year's Platinum.

Band Chairman Phil Graham (pictured receiving the award) said "We pulled out all the stops on Sunday and our band members can be justly proud of their achievement. We must, of course, thank Paul Speed for his tireless efforts in developing Trinity Concert Band over recent years."



TCB is a regular performer in Wokingham. Their recent St Patrick's Day concert in All Saints Church was a huge success. The band can be heard again in Wokingham's Market Place on 4th August, and in All Saints Church on 10th November for their concert "Lest We Forget", an Armistice commemoration as part of the town's programme of events remembering the end of the Great War."

**Summer Engagements:**

- 15th July - Forbury Gardens Bandstand - Reading - 15:00-16:30
- 22nd July - Alexandra Gardens Bandstand - Windsor - 14:00-16:00
- 4th August - Wokingham Sunny Saturdays - Wokingham Market Place - 11:00-13:00

Joanne Neale  
Publicity Officer  
Trinity Concert Band

TRINITY CONCERT BAND'S

**FILM MUSIC GALA**

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# CROWTHORNE Symphony ORCHESTRA

It has been a long gap since our last concert, but in addition to a String Workshop in May, a lot of work has been going on behind the scenes for our Summer Concert which is on **Saturday 30th June at The Old Gym, Wellington College, Crowthorne at 7.30pm.**

The programme has a distinctly Russian flavour, opening with Kabalevsky's lively overture "Colas Breugnon". Kabalevsky wrote his opera in 1934, based on a novel by French author Romain Rolland telling the story of a 16th century master craftsman whose incurable optimism is a major theme. The opera was not very successful, but the overture has become probably the most popular of Kabalevsky's compositions and deserves to be heard more often. It is an exuberant piece full of exciting rhythms and memorable tunes with a marvellous variety of emotions orchestrated in a wonderfully imaginative way.

Rachmaninov is of course a better known Russian composer. His 3rd Piano Concerto was composed in

1909 with the composer himself soloist in the first performance the same year. Considered to be one of the most technically difficult concertos in the repertoire, it has become almost as popular with audiences as his 2nd concerto and featured in the 1996 film 'Shine', based on the life of pianist David Helfgott. We are especially fortunate to have as our soloist internationally acclaimed pianist Marco Fatichenti, who amongst other commitments, teaches at Wellington College where some of his highly regarded recordings were made.

Our third Russian composer, Stravinsky, wrote his "Petrouchka" Ballet Suite in 1911 for Diaghilev, with Nijinsky in the title role as the love struck puppet. Stravinsky revised the work in 1947. The setting for the story is the Shrovetide Fair in St Petersburg in the 1830s telling the story of the loves and jealousies of three puppets brought to life by the Charlatan. The sad-faced clown Petrushka loves the ballerina, who prefers the third puppet, an arrogant Moor. The 4 scenes depict a variety of characters in

the fairground culminating in the 'death' of Petrushka. The music is full of exciting and complex rhythms as well as some well-known tunes.

Tickets for the concert are on sale at Decor Interiors in Crowthorne High Street, and The Information Centre, Wokingham Town Hall, £13 in advance (£15 on the door). Online purchases can be made via our website.

The orchestra welcomes new members subject to vacancies - if you are interested and are a competent player, even if you have taken a break from playing, please get in touch. Our regular membership is now over sixty players and we have a reputation as a friendly bunch with members of all ages. 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](http://www.crowthorneorchestra.com)

Chris Gadsby



wfs

## Wokingham Choral Society

### Summer Concert

An evening of Gilbert & Sullivan Choruses  
plus John Rutter's ~ Feel the Spirit

Saturday ~ 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2018 ~ 7.30 pm  
All Saints Church ~ Wokingham ~ RG40 1UE

Musical Director ~ Patrick Allies  
Accompanist ~ Ben Lewis - Smith

Tickets: £12.50 each ~ Under 18 & Students £5.00  
Available from Town Outlets or On-Line ~ See website for details  
[www.wokingham-choral-society.org.uk](http://www.wokingham-choral-society.org.uk) - Registered Charity No. 274853

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### Barkham Development Watch

Helping to protect Barkham's distinctive character

This email list is only used to send out periodic email alerts if we wish to bring any development plans to the notice of Barkham residents.

Often the time allowed by Wokingham Borough Council for comments on a specific planning application or more general plan will expire before the next Barkham Newsletter is published so these alerts give residents a timely chance to comment on issues that may concern them. We currently have over 150 Barkham households on the list.

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

Also, if you have previously registered for these alerts but have changed your email address, please don't forget to resubscribe via the website.

## Keeping Barkham Clean and Tidy

In March the Parish Council and local resident volunteers spent time giving Barkham a thorough spring clean by litter picking. Each year the litter pick throws up some interesting objects which have been discarded, this year we could almost have rebuilt the front end of a car with the different car parts we found in Bearwood Road and a huge number of cigarette ends. Anyway, it was a nice morning, not too cold and we enjoyed being out and about.

Barkham's roads look lovely for a short time and then the litter magically appears once again, in fact we had only been away from Bearwood Road for a couple of hours after the litter pick when a Costa coffee cup and lid appeared at the junction with Barkham Road. I just don't understand the mentality of some people - they obviously don't live in Barkham.

So, I started to think about how we might be able to keep Barkham looking lovely all year round. I try to walk each day, apparently it will make me live longer. It makes me feel good and I can think about all sorts of things as I enjoy walking through the different seasons. As I walk along Bearwood Road, through The Lilacs, Sandy Lane and Barkham Road and home again, I note litter which has been abandoned. If I walk on a Monday, then I pick up plastic or can litter and place them back in to an empty black bin which I hope gets recycled again the following week.

I suspect you will think I am a busy body or a goody two-shoes but it just offends me to see so

much litter which has literally been dumped on our roads.

Each of us place our rubbish and recycling outside our properties each week so perhaps we could take a small amount of time to check the area directly outside our own property for any additional litter which has been discarded and because it won't take long add it to either the blue rubbish bag or the recycling box, then when you collect your black box the following morning check again to make sure that nothing has been left behind and if it has then recycle it or add it to the rubbish next week.

I meet lots of residents walking their dogs so perhaps as a dog walker you could not only take your pooper scooper bags home with your dog waste but also take a separate bag and pick up any additional litter you see on your normal routes. This is not supposed to be a lecture just an observation with an easy solution. I hope that you feel the same way as I do and will feel able to help keep Barkham clean not just for a short time in March but for the rest of the year.

Thank you  
Julia Tredwell

*Editor's Note: Since Julia wrote this article you may have seen in the media the idea of 'Plogging' which apparently originated in Scandinavia. It involves going out for a jog and picking up litter at the same time. If you haven't heard of it just do a Google search. Seems like a good idea!*



Our meeting in March was a talk about an Edwardian murder mystery. Our speaker David Bullock was writing a book about an unsolved murder. He kept us completely enthralled but could not tell us the ending of the story as he is still writing it! He told us about all the research that he does - and really that is his passion. He will contact the club when he has finished the book and found a publisher to take it on. We can then buy a copy and read the ending. His last book was on "Jack the Ripper" and he managed to get that one published.

The meeting on April 4th was a talk by Graham Hom about how you train to be a Blue Badge Guide. It is quite a commitment in time and energy. He now guides groups at Windsor Castle. Did you realise that it takes 45 minutes for a coach party to leave the coach, climb the hill to the castle, queue to go through security and actually arrive inside the walls? So when a group want to do Windsor Castle, Stonehenge and Bath in one day it is quite an undertaking for him not to leave anyone behind.

The May meeting was our fish and chip supper after which we played Bingo! This was a lot of fun and we all admired the newly decorated hall.

Our meeting on June 6th is about "Thrive" which is a charity using gardening to change the lives of

disabled people. The July 4th meeting is entitled "Bishops, Sex and Money".

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.

## Barkham Diary

06/06/18	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
12/06/18	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
12/06/18	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
13/06/18	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
25/06/18	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	7.30pm
26/06/18	Parish Council Planning Review	BVH	7.30pm
04/07/18	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
10/07/18	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
10/07/18	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
11/07/18	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
23/07/18	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	7.30pm
24/07/18	Parish Council Planning Review	BVH	7.30pm
08/08/18	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
14/08/18	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
20/08/18	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	7.30pm
01/09/17	Copy deadline for Autumn Newsletter		
05/09/18	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
11/09/18	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
11/09/18	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
12/09/18	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
22/09/18	BVRA Barn Dance	BVH	7.30pm
24/09/18	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	7.30pm
25/09/18	Parish Council Planning Review	BVH	7.30pm
03/10/18	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
09/10/18	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
09/10/18	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
10/10/18	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
22/10/18	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	7.30pm
08/11/18	BVRA AGM	BVH	8.00pm
24/11/18	BVRA Quiz Night	BVH	7.30pm
Weekly Events			
Mondays	Pilates Class	BVH	11.30am
Mondays	Dog Training	BVH	6.30pm
Tues-Fri	Barkham Pre-School	BVH	9.00am
Thursdays	Pilates Class	BVH	6.15pm

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



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**The Quiz answers**

1. Lindisfarne
2. St Mary's
3. Father Ted
4. New Zealand
5. Dolly Parton
6. Shetland
7. Brownsea Island
8. HG Wells
9. Eel Pie Island
10. International Rescue (in Thunderbirds)

Alan's Patch (page 14)  
Answer to "where is this signpost?" in  
The location of the second photograph is  
just behind the church on the footpath to  
Edney's Hill, SU 784664, and was taken  
on 18th March during the final snowfall of  
the winter.



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